

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

In today's era of globalization, English language skills are very important for a student. English is not only a subject in schools, but also an international language used in various fields, one of which is the field of Education. Atin Colidiyah (2018) Stated that having good English language skills is a must. It is the world's language that everyone uses to communicate. Novianti, Pahanzam & Rima (2018). Also stated that many students need English as the language of international communication to convey thoughts and interact in various situations. Based on this statement, English can be considered a global communication tool. In the world of education, both in Indonesia and in other foreign countries, English is taught in an education system that spans from elementary school to college. So, it can be concluded that English language skills are a very valuable investment for a student. Mursid (2021) stated by mastering English, students can reap many benefits, both academically and career-wise. Therefore, learners need to continue learning and improving their English language skills.

Vocabulary mastery is a fundamental aspect of building students' language competence. A broad vocabulary allows students to express ideas more effectively, both verbally and in writing. This means that vocabulary mastery is an important foundation in learning English. A rich vocabulary allows students to better understand and express ideas, both in oral and

written form. According to Richards and Renandya (2002:255), vocabulary is a person's ability to learn a language and the basis for knowing how good a person is at speaking, listening, writing, and reading (Nur Rahmah, 2023). From some of the statements above, it can be concluded that vocabulary has a very important role in English skills. If students cannot master vocabulary, then it will be difficult for them to understand the language, especially in understanding and using vocabulary in learning English. This means that in learning English, students need vocabulary as a basis for learning, to make it easier for them to communicate. However, the current educational reality shows that many students have difficulties in enriching their vocabulary due to less interesting and monotonous learning methods, low interest in reading, and limited use of innovative learning strategies, further worsening this situation.

Based on initial observations at SMP Negeri 1 Amanatun Selatan on 25 January 2025, it was found that most seventh-grade students had limitations in mastering English vocabulary. One of the main causes is the teaching method, which is still dominated by lectures and practice questions without adequate variety. This strategy is less able to attract students' attention and does not provide a meaningful learning experience. As a result, students tend to have difficulty understanding and remembering new vocabulary in a broader context. This condition has an impact on their low communication skills, both verbal and written. Monotonous conventional learning methods are often less attractive,

making students feel bored and have difficulty understanding new words in meaningful contexts. Also, the students' assignments and tests are very low (Faisal Huda Aman Tantra, 2016). This is supported by the statement of Khotimah (2022) that the use of appropriate learning media can affect the ability of students to receive the learning materials presented and can improve the understanding of each student. This means that learning will look interesting and successful when the learning media used are appropriate. In response to these challenges, the use of innovative learning media has become very important. One of the effective media to improve students' vocabulary mastery is pop-up books. Pop-up books are books with three-dimensional illustrations that can move, providing a more interesting and interactive learning experience. According to Arifin (2019), pop-up books have visual aids that can attract students' attention to read easily and interestingly. This media not only helps students understand the meaning of words better through visualization but also increases their motivation to learn. With three-dimensional and interactive elements, pop-up book media attract students' attention and make learning more interesting and fun. So, the media is considered very suitable for use.

SMP Negeri 1 Amanatun Selatan located in Oinlasi, Timor Tengah Selatan, my hometown. Based on the teacher class stories on the school, the situation in English class was unconsistant. Sometimes noisy, busy and silent. The teacher talking that she is talking dominated the class and the students felt boring.

Considering the aforementioned issues, the researcher aims to conduct a study entitled *“The Effect of Pop-Up Book Media in Improving the Students’ Vocabulary Mastery of Seventh-Grade Students at Smp Negeri 1 Amanatun Selatan.* The results of this research are expected to provide insight for educators in choosing and developing more interesting and effective learning media. In addition, this research is expected to contribute to designing more optimal visual-based teaching strategies to improve students' comprehension and vocabulary mastery at the junior high school level.

1.2. Research Problem

Based on the background of the above problems, the research problem can be formulated as follows: “Does the use of Pop-Up Book Media have an effect in improving vocabulary mastery of seventh-grade students at SMP Negeri 1 Amanatun Selatan?”

1.3. Aim of Study

This study aims to determine whether the use of Pop-Up Book Media has an effect in improving vocabulary mastery of seventh-grade students at SMP Negeri 1 Amanatun Selatan.

1.4. Significance of the Study

1.4.1. Implication

This research is expected to support the theory about the influence of the use of pop-up book media on improving students'

vocabulary. Novianti et al., 2018 stated that Pop-Up Books, as one of the alternative media in the vocabulary teaching and learning process, can improve students' vocabulary mastery because Pop-Up Books have uplifting, colorful, and interesting images.

1.4.2. Application

This study will be a valuable contribution towards:

1. For students, to improve students' vocabulary mastery by applying Pop Up-Book Media and students' understanding of a topic of discussion.
2. For teachers, especially English teachers, the Pop-Up-Book Media is a learning model that can improve classroom learning and help create more interesting learning activities.
3. For schools, they can evaluate Pop-Up Book Media to improve students' understanding of a concept in vocabulary learning and better recognize students' moods during teaching and learning activities.
4. For future researchers, this study can serve as a reference to further investigate the effectiveness of Pop-Up Book Media on improving students' vocabulary mastery.