

Flashcards for improving students' vocabulary mastery

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper was to investigate how the existing literature discusses the influence of importance the improving of teaching vocabulary by flashcards for students. This research was a library research method. The library research method is known as the data collection method. Based on the findings and discussion of the research, it can be simply said that the used of flashcard can significantly improve students' vocabulary mastery. This can be proven from the results obtained by several researchers in previous studies. Using flashcard are very helpful for improving vocabulary mastery. In summary, that teaching English vocabulary by using flashcards as media does improve the students' vocabulary mastery. In shortly, the of implies that English teachers need to choose the appropriate media in teaching vocabulary one of them is flashcards.

Keywords: *Flashcards, Students Ability, Vocabulary Mastery*

I. INTRODUCTION

Many countries, including Indonesia, speak English as a second language. In today's Indonesian curriculum, English is also referred to as the target language that must be taught in schools. Language could be a tool to communicate with alternatives. English is a foreign language for students in Indonesia. There are 4 skills that should be mastered by the students, namely speaking, writing, listening, and reading. To master English, students got to study vocabulary then they will perceive English what they read or they write. Based on (Nurdiani, 2016) vocabulary is extremely large and also varied. Nobody ever learns all of the words in any language, but they can enlarge the number of words they have. It is hard to master a foreign language without mastering a certain vocabulary. Without understanding the vocabulary, the students can get trouble listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Vocabulary is a crucial aspect of teaching English among four English skills reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

According to Hatch and Brown, as cited by (Nugroho, 2012), they say that "Vocabulary is the foundation to develop languages, which has a role as a basis in communication". Necessary to understand vocabulary because vocabulary is a basic competency that must be achieved by students to master other competencies in English such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The researchers found several problems with mastery of student vocabularies such as difficulty in understanding the meaning of words, difficulty in pronouncing words correctly, student's unable to spell words correctly, and student's unable to use and understand references properly. The students also has less motivated in participating in the teaching-learning activities. These problems are that some students are busy talking with their friends when the learning activities take place, some students are busy doing other tasks, students are less effective in the teaching and learning activities, they are more passive, and some students ignore the teacher's instructions. Besides the student problems, the researchers found that the problem also came from the teacher. The teacher only teaches students by giving assignments to students, therefore the students did not have sufficient knowledge in learning vocabulary. This makes students less motivated and interested in learning English.

The researchers argue that the teacher must have a creative idea in choosing the media to be used in teaching vocabulary. One of the media that can be used in teaching vocabulary is a

picture. According to Apsari (2017), classifies pictures into three types they are composite picture, picture series and individual picture. Based on these problems, researchers decided to apply flashcards as learning media.

Based on these problems, researchers decided to apply flashcards as learning media. According to Cross (1991), flashcards is a simple pictures on the piece of card or paper, and usually, this media always used as an education tools. The wider the context in which students can make connections, the more meaningful content will apply to them. So, most of the teacher's work is to provide context. The more students can connect their academic lessons to this context, the more meaning they will gain from the lesson. To find meaning in knowledge and skills that leads to the authorization of knowledge and skills.

According to Haycraft as cited by Widiastuti (2014), flashcards are cards that contain words and or pictures are printed and drawn. They must be clearly seen by every student in the class. He further said that flashcards can be used to consolidate vocabulary, practice structure, word commands, or various games. Based on the explanation above, the researchers are interested in conducting research entitled "Flashcards for Improving Student's Vocabulary Mastery".

Some experts have given a variety of vocabulary meanings. Before considering vocabulary mastery, it is critical to understand what vocabulary is. Vocabulary is the most important aspect of language proficiency since it determines how well pupils talk, listen, read, and write Johnson (2017). The flesh is vocabulary, which means both are equally vital and autonomous.

Susanto (2017) distinguishes between two types of vocabulary: receptive and productive.

- Receptive vocabulary is made up of words that learners recognize and understand in context but are unable to produce correctly. Learners identify vocabulary when they see it in a reading context but do not utilize it in speaking or writing. Because the learner only absorbs thoughts from others, receptive vocabulary is also known as a passive process.

- Learners' productive vocabulary consists of words that they comprehend, can pronounce correctly, and can employ in speech and writing. It includes receptive vocabulary as well as the ability to talk or write at the appropriate time.

The students must memorize them thoroughly and employ them in real-life situations while minimizing their use in the classroom. A flashcard is a small piece of paper with information written on it. The size of a business card, with a new word in a language you're learning on one side and a term in your mother tongue on the other (Chen & Chan, 2019; Lisa, 2019; Samad, 2021). A flashcard is a set of cards with words and/or pictures printed or drawn on them. To be viewed from the back of the room, the flashcard must always be brief, large, tidy, and clear. Because capital letters are easier to read at a distance, they should be utilized (Chen & Chan, 2019; Yüksel et al., 2020).

Based on the explanation above, the researchers are interested in conducting research entitled "FLASHCARDS FOR IMPROVING STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY"

II. METHODS

This research was a library research method. A library research method is known as a method of collecting the data from some articles, journals, or even books to develop a certain study. Library research refers to a method that combines some data from articles, journals, and books as a data source that is used as a reference. Library research is used as a method to make the researcher easier in collect the data without directly going to the fields. Then the data were used as references to support the recent study, which is about the use of flashcard media in improving students' vocabulary mastery. In collecting the data, there are several steps that the researcher should be done. Those steps are finding the related sources, reading the source, classifying the supporting point, and analyzing the data based on the purpose of the research descriptively. After looking at some journals, the writer decided to analyze each journal and find the differences or to find out whether flashcards can affect students' vocabulary mastery.

Researchers took journals published in the last 10 years.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

It can be stated that pupils' vocabulary achievement improved when they used flashcards. In previous research, the researchers also found that students had more vocabulary from the aspect of word use motivation of students after taking lessons using flash cards also increases. By using flashcards in teaching English, the students looked so happy when the teacher entered the class. They were very curious about the flashcards that the teacher brought. They also enjoyed the lesson, they became so active, enthusiastic, and full of participation when the teacher asked them to guess and answer the question. Based on the information, we can sum up that the implementation of flashcards in teaching vocabulary can improve the students' motivation. It can be shown by increasing the score of the students on the individual test. Furthermore, the outcomes of this study were who found that flashcards are effective in enhancing students' vocabulary achievement. As a result, the use of Flashcards enhanced the pupils' vocabulary achievement dramatically.

The implementation of using flashcards as the media helped the students in improving their vocabulary. The researchers found several problems with mastery of student vocabularies such as difficulty in understanding the meaning of words, difficulty in pronouncing words correctly, student's unable to spell words correctly, and student's unable to use and understand references properly. The students also has less motivated in participating in the teaching-learning activities. It can be solved by employing flashcards because this method can make pupils more active and based on their individual needs. Flashcards can be used to teach vocabulary and reading skills (Li & Tong, 2019).

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion using flashcards to improve student's vocabulary mastery as teaching is They can see, read, and touch the object. The increasing attention, motivation, and existence of flashcards improve the student's achievement in mastering vocabulary. It can be said that the existence of flashcards makes the students familiar with certain words. Through the use of flashcards in each activity, there was an improvement in the student's motivations for learning.

Based on the research findings, the researcher proposes some suggestions for the students and for the English teacher. the researcher would like to propose some suggestions which are mentioned as follows; first, the researcher suggest for the teacher to create interactive and effective teaching strategies. For the English teacher, they should enhance their ability in teaching English especially teaching vocabulary. The teacher should have suitable technique to teach vocabulary. English teacher can also use media to teach vocabulary. One of the media that can be used to teach vocabulary is flash cards. Second, the researcher suggests for the students. For the students should be more creative to look for the way to learn English easier and have a good motivation in learning. For the students should be more serious and never be afraid to make a mistake in learning English.

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