

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the research background, the question of research, the purpose of the study, the significance of the research, the research framework, and the previous research.

A. Background

Language is uniquely human. No other animal can communicate with anything like the complexity that humans do. The size and complexity of the brain is also major distinguishing feature of human beings (Eghlidi, 2017). Language cannot be separated from human life because it takes up almost all the part-human life, one of the languages which are often used in communication globally in English. The English language is officially a big business (Maxom, 2009). There could be as many as a billion students learning English around the world, it is a very interesting and useful language that has many advantages from knowing it.

English as a foreign language in Indonesia was taught from primary school up to the university level. Despite the fact, some students in Indonesia do not aware that English is an important subject that should be learned and they were not interested in English because they were taught that English is hard to learn. One of the important aspects of learning any language is mastering vocabulary, if foreigners learn a new language without mastering the vocabulary of the language they will be difficult to understand that language.

Vocabulary is the prior element in English that the students need to comprehend without vocabulary and cannot understand each other. Nation (2009) has mentioned that vocabulary is about words and word meaning. Vocabulary is fundamental competence like reading, writing, speaking, and listening. On the other language skills cannot be separated from the vocabulary.

Nowadays, people have been living in the globalization era, in which the development of technology grows rapidly. Eventually, they try to find information by using the internet. They can browser much information d news through the internet. The growth of technology is related to the development of English. Technology can change the method by which people work, learn, interact, and spend their time. Along with the development of the period smartphone technology continues to grow, in which smartphones are primer necessary for everyone, especially for students. As well as technology also has a crucial role in the process of education and learning in almost the whole world.

Hamalik (2018) technology in education includes all of the tools that can be used to present information, especially related to education and assessment, such as television, language laboratory, and some of the media are projectors and computers. It can be said that everything covered as audio-visual aids is classified as the technology in education projected and computers. It can be said that everything covered as audio-visual aids is classified as technology in education.

To communicate well, the students need to have adequate vocabulary. It is difficult to master the other competencies without mastering and understanding the vocabulary well. In learning English the students should know about vocabulary because by knowing the words, they will try how to use them to express their ideas and communicate. Realizing the importance of vocabulary in learning to teach, a teacher should be able to create teaching strategies. The aims of using various ways and teaching strategies are to make the learners understand the lesson easily, and so that in the teaching-learning process, they will not get bored.

The use of learning media which uses technology in the form of an android application provides the student with an easier understanding of vocabulary and also makes the learning will be fun. Therefore, the researcher would like to conduct research by using one of the android plurals that is easy to use by the students to learn especially in English.

Fauzan & Kasim (2020) mentioned that Duolingo is a free gamified e-learning tool that allows users who are looking to learn how to speak any of the following languages, such as English, French Japanese, and so on. Duolingo itself is often downloaded on the phone or registered on the computer, so the users can practice it anytime and anywhere. According to (Guiliani, 2016) practicing speaking using the Duolingo app can develop a vocabulary where the words learned can be practiced and the application provides written lessons and dictation.

It can be seen that the technology provided learners with an instrument of learning. Applications such as games set aside the new facilitation for the significant learning process and it increases the basic duty of the teacher in giving the simulation and the motivation to the students to comprehend the second language by using a fun learning process effectively. The role of the teacher when using this method is as the mediator.

There are several regarding improving vocabulary by using the Duolingo application. the *first* is a research by (Aulia, 2020) this study examines the effect of the Duolingo application on students' mastery of English vocabulary". The participants in this study were class VIII students with the experimental method. In this study, the experimental group received treatment using the Duolingo application; while the control group taught as usual with flashcard media.

The second is research by (Ahmed, 2016) in his research entitled "Duolingo as a Bilingual Learning App: a case study" which was conducted on male students aged 12 years in Riyadh, Saudia Arabia. Researcher focus on using the Duolingo application to learn English and Spanyol simultaneously. This study follows a mixed-methods approach, which contains qualitative and

quantitative data collection. Researchers only show that the Duolingo application can help learn foreign languages easily. The result shows that the Duolingo app can promote simultaneous use of two languages for beginners.

The third is research by (Munday, 2015) in his research entitled “The Case for Using Duolingo as Part of the Language Classroom Experience”. Previous research has been carried out from study programs at two Spanish universities, one a beginner’s Spanish course (A1) and the other one an advanced intermediate course (B2), which focused on the usefulness of the Duolingo as part language course class experience. The result of his research shows that the Duolingo app is a useful and potential application that is easy to use. Although the main lesson is not based on communicative competence. This research is different from the current research in the way that this research explains the theoretical only.

Based on previous research that has been done before, it is known that Duolingo is effective in terms of improving students' language skills as a medium of learning in schools. Therefore, the researcher wants to do a re-examination of Duolingo in improving students' ability in English vocabulary.

B. Research Questions

From the research background, the problem is formulated into the three following questions:

1. What is the implementation of Duolingo for learning English vocabulary?
2. What is the teacher’s perspective on using Duolingo for teaching English vocabulary?
3. How do the students respond to learning English vocabulary using Duolingo?

C. Research Purposes

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To describe the implementation of Duolingo for learning English vocabulary.
2. To identify the teacher's perspective on using Duolingo for teaching English vocabulary.
3. To describe the students' response to learning English vocabulary using Duolingo.

D. Research Significances

The results of this research are expected useful for

1. The teachers

Based on this research, the writer expected Duolingo can be one of the media that will be used by the teachers in terms of teaching English vocabulary and to solve the problem of students' difficulties in memorizing the meaning of vocabulary then it will make the learning process in classroom more interest and activities for students, especially at the eighth-grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Bandung.

2. School Managers

For students, this research is expected to help them master provide mastering the English lesson by using the Duolingo application. Then, are also expected to solve their problems in understanding the meaning of words in the sentence because the teachers use suitable media in teaching them.

Theoretically, this research is expected to give new knowledge to the reader and to become a reference for the further researcher to do better research on teaching and learning cases and to solve the students' vocabulary problems with something new, and also for the teachers who that have plural a similar problem with the topic of this research.

E. Research Framework

Duolingo is a free application created by Luis Von Ahn and Severin Hacker in November 2011. Its slogan is “Free language education for the world.” According to its website, it has more than 30 million registered users. It offers several languages for English speakers as well as others for non-English speakers (Pillar, 2016). As one of the language learning applications, Duolingo can help someone to develop their vocabulary knowledge in communication.

Through the process of the Duolingo application, the students gain new words easily based on their own will. Moreover, Duolingo provided vocabulary practice and gave opportunities for students to evaluate their knowledge and identify the need to continue improving (Guaquet, Cesar & Castro, 2018). It means that Duolingo is presented as an educational tool that can be integrated into the classrooms to provide a new learning experience for the student, and it is based on content quality, feedback, and motivation. Thus, the Duolingo application is important for the students to learn a language to increase their motivation and make this application more enjoyable.

Using Duolingo in learning English can gain positive feedback from both students and teachers. In addition, the students who need to develop their vocabulary may use the Duolingo application as useful and interesting to use. Jumariati (2010) says that vocabulary learning is an important aspect of learning a foreign language. Students will improve much if they learn more words and expressions. Even if students' grammar is excellent, they are still having difficulties communicating in English without a wide vocabulary. Since English is not Indonesian's native language, it is not easy to master the vocabulary. Learning a new language cannot be separated from vocabulary. It means that in learning a new language people have to know its vocabulary.

Vocabulary can be defined in various ways. Experts have proposed some terms for vocabulary. According to Richards and Schmidt (2012) vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis for how learners speak, listen, read and write. Hatch & Brown (1995) say that vocabulary refers to a list or set of words for a particular language or a list or set

of words that an individual speaker of a language might use. Vocabulary is crucial to be mastered by the learner to understand the language.

From the definition, mastery means complete knowledge or skill that makes someone a master in a certain subject. Vocabulary mastery plays an important role in the four skills and it has considering vocabulary mastery is of the needed components of language (Susanto (2017). Laila (2015) states the use of technology and the media in learning can help improve the quality of learning itself. Mobile learning is a part of electronics learning (e-learning) which provides wider opportunities for the ability to move and more for students learning.

This learning can be defined differently from e-learning in terms of students' mobility as learning. Many learning media around us can be used to support learning activities, with the advancement of information and technology nowadays, for example, observing, recording, playing, and other learning activities. This is similar to that delivered by Sudjana and Riva in Kustandi and Sutjipto (2018) that the benefits of teaching media in the learning process of students are very large, among the others, learning will be more interesting for students, learning materials will be more various and clear in meaning, moreover, students can do more learning activities.

F. Previous Studies

This study focuses on the use of technology to promote language learning. Duolingo is one of the modern applications that facilitate acquiring a second language. Several previous studies focusing on improving the students' vocabulary by using the Duolingo application, it is shown that such a strategy was effective.

The first is research by (Manan, 2017) in his research entitled “The Implementation of Duolingo as Media to Improve Students' English Language Skill at IAIN Langsa”. It is also a case study that involves 26 participants they are female and male college students aged 19 to 25 years old. The study that was

done in confirming the effectiveness of Duolingo which helps students when learning English was survey research including a questionnaire.

The second, research by (Ahmed, 2016) in his research entitled “Duolingo as a Bilingual Learning App: a case study” was conducted on male students aged 12 years in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Researcher focus on using the Duolingo application to learn English and Spanyol simultaneously. This study follows a mixed-methods approach, which contains qualitative and quantitative data collection. Researchers only show that the Duolingo application can help learn foreign languages easily. The result shows that the Duolingo app can promote the simultaneous use of two languages for beginners.

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