

AN ANALYSYS OF VOCABULARY MASTERY EFFECTS ON STUDENTS' SPEAKING ABILITY IN SMA YPK PEMATANGSIANTAR

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ABSTRACT

This research explores the relationship between vocabulary mastery and speaking ability among 10th-grade students at SMA YPK Pematangsiantar during the 2022/2023 academic year. The study aims to address the challenges students face in language learning by investigating the impact of vocabulary on speaking skills. The research employs qualitative methodology, utilizing interviews and questionnaires for data collection. The findings reveal that while vocabulary is recognized as essential for communication, many students struggle with mastering it due to complexities, pronunciation difficulties, and concerns about making mistakes. The study concludes that vocabulary plays a crucial role in language acquisition, influencing students' self-confidence and proficiency in speaking English. The research emphasizes the significance of vocabulary in effective communication and highlights the need for improved teaching strategies to enhance students' vocabulary mastery and speaking abilities.

Keywords: Vocabulary Mastery, Speaking Ability, SMA

I. INTRODUCTION

The Background of Research

Language is an integral tool for human communication, with its significance underscored by its role in expressing ideas, emotions, and desires. Brown (2005) emphasizes language's significance in facilitating communication, while Sapir, Wibowo, and others define language as a system of meaningful symbols for conveying ideas and emotions (Purba & Cindy, 2022). Language is vital for expressing feelings, sharing information, and building relationships. It is central to education, culture, and cross-cultural interactions. The introduction also emphasizes the importance of vocabulary for effective communication, particularly in language learning. The research focuses on the relationship between vocabulary mastery and speaking ability in students, aiming to address challenges observed during teaching practical sessions. The goal is to investigate how vocabulary influences speaking skills and student performance.

The Problem of Research

The Problem of this Research is “How important is the vocabulary mastery effecting on students' speaking ability in the classroom at Xth grade in SMA YPK Pematangsiantar?”

The Objective of Research

Based on the problem of the research above, the researcher having notion that this research purposed f to analyze the importance of vocabulary mastery effecting on students' speaking ability in the classroom at Xth grade in SMA YPK Pematangsiantar.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Speaking Ability

The concept of speaking, emphasizing its role in communication. According to the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (2000), speaking involves being polite or friendly, especially after an argument. It's an interactive process where messages are conveyed from speaker to listener, allowing the sharing of opinions, emotions, and ideas. (Rhodry, 1989) underscores the importance of effective communication through speech, not only in content but also in how it's delivered.

Speaking is a productive skill, part of language teaching, involving verbal communication. (Nunan, 2003) defines it as conveying meaning through verbal utterances, requiring effective planning



and feedback. The process involves various aspects like pronunciation, fluency, tone, stress, and body language.

The Nature of Vocabulary

a. Definition of Vocabulary

In today's world, English is a crucial international language facilitating communication and interaction among people from diverse countries. It enables conveying wishes, ideas, and suggestions. Vocabulary is fundamental for language learning, serving as the key to understanding spoken and written content. This holds special importance for students aiming to communicate effectively. Vocabulary constitutes the entire set of words in a language, and mastering it is the initial step to connect the four language skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Without comprehensive vocabulary, students struggle to express themselves and understand language nuances.

(Richards & Renandya, 2002) emphasize that lacking extensive vocabulary and strategies for acquiring new words can hinder learners from reaching their full potential. (Hornby, 1987) defines vocabulary as the total number of words that compose a language. (Hatch et al., 1995) view it as a collection of words known and used by individuals. Vocabulary is a cornerstone of language and facilitates communication and comprehension.

Ultimately, vocabulary mastery is vital for effective language learning. It supports language abilities, conversation, and communication, enhancing relationships with people around us. In summary, vocabulary is the collection of words used in language, underpinning effective communication and facilitating the exchange of thoughts, feelings, and ideas.

b. The Nature of Vocabulary Mastery

Vocabulary mastery involves a strong ability to handle language words effectively. According to (Syarifudin, 2017), it's a key factor in mastering English as a foreign language. This proficiency encompasses understanding vocabulary in both speaking and writing. Mastery, as defined by (Hornby, 1987), represents complete control and superiority in skill or knowledge. In this context, vocabulary mastery enables students to express their thoughts, opinions, and ideas proficiently.

It's an individualized and diagnostic approach, allowing students to progress at their pace to attain a predefined level of proficiency. Vocabulary mastery significantly aids learning language skills like listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This proficiency emerges through teaching and learning processes, defined by (Zulfahri, 2016) as a vital aspect of communication, requiring appropriate techniques. Vocabulary mastery isn't spontaneous; it starts from infancy when a child acquires their mother tongue. English vocabulary learning hinges on language ability and skills, both critical for effective teaching and learning.

c. Difficulties in Vocabulary Mastery

In the process of learning vocabulary, students encounter various challenges. Thornbury (2002) outlines factors contributing to word difficulty:

1. Pronunciation: Words challenging to pronounce are typically harder to learn.
2. Spelling: Mismatch between sounds and spellings can lead to pronunciation and spelling errors, especially with silent letters.
3. Length and Complexity: Longer words aren't necessarily harder to learn; high-frequency, shorter words are more common and easier to learn due to frequency of encounter.
4. Grammar: The associated grammar can complicate learning, especially when it differs from the learner's native language.
5. Meaning: Overlapping meanings between words can confuse learners, such as with "make" and "do."
6. Range, Connotation, and Idiomaticity: Words with broader applicability are often perceived as easier. Connotations and idiomatic expressions can also create difficulties.

These factors contribute to difficulties in vocabulary learning, including spelling errors, challenging pronunciation, and confusions arising from overlapping meanings.

III. RESEARCH METODOLOGY

The Research Design

(Cresswell, 2014) explains that research design involves procedures for data collection, analysis, and reporting, encompassing quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches. Quantitative



research deals with trends and explanations, while mixed methods integrate philosophical assumptions and inquiry. (Saryono, 2010) defines qualitative research as exploring non - quantifiable social influences. In this study, qualitative methodology is chosen to analyze the impact of students' vocabulary mastery on speaking proficiency via interviews and questionnaires, using a descriptive design to address what, who, when, where, and how questions. (Creswell, 2014) emphasizes research design as a blueprint for different study types. The chosen qualitative (descriptive) design corresponds to the study's title, enabling analysis of vocabulary's impact on speaking ability, investigating this relationship among students at SMA YPK Pematangsiantar in the 2022/2023 academic year.

The Location of the Research

In conducting a research the researcher will need a place to do the research. So, the location which is chosen by the researcher to get the data is the Xth grade in SMA YPK Pematangsiantar academic year 2022/2023.

Population and Sample

The research project that focuses on the 10th - grade students at SMA YPK Pematangsiantar during the academic year 2022/2023. The population is defined as a group of objects or subjects with specific qualities and characteristics chosen by the researcher for the study. The entire 10th-grade student body at SMA YPK Pematangsiantar was eligible to be part of the research population, which was divided into three classes. The sample is a portion of the population and consists of individual members chosen to represent the entire group. Purposive sampling was used to select 10 students from X IPS 2 of SMA YPK Pematangsiantar based on specific criteria for the interview and speaking test.

The Data and Source of Data in Research

Data is important for research and can be collected through interviews or questionnaires. This research focuses on students' speaking abilities and uses primary sources (students) as data sources. In total, data is collected from 30 students in class X IPS2 SMA YPK Pematangsiantar academic year 2022/2023.

The Technique of Collecting Data

In research, instruments are tools used to gather data and are divided into test and non-test types. This study uses a questionnaire to measure students' understanding of vocabulary and an interview as a spoken test to assess vocabulary usage. Respondents answer questions in the questionnaire, and the interview assesses speaking ability. These instruments help the researcher examine how vocabulary mastery affects speaking ability.

The Technique of Analyzing Data

Data analysis involves organizing interview transcripts, field-notes, and materials to enhance understanding and present findings. It includes interactive qualitative data analysis, which involves data reduction, display, and conclusion drawing (Sugiyono, 2013). Data reduction is summarizing and focusing on key aspects, identifying themes, and excluding unnecessary data to avoid errors. Data display involves presenting data through narrative text and tables from interviews and questionnaires. Drawing conclusions involves concluding new findings, clarifying unclear aspects, and summarizing research insights, which offers interactive insights and conclusions.

IV. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Data Presentation

The researcher spoke with 10 students from X IPS 2 at SMA YPK Pematangsiantar in the 2022/2023 academic year about their English vocabulary. The students had different views on how important vocabulary is in speaking English. This chapter looks at the importance of knowing vocabulary. Only 3 of the students knew relevant English words, while the other 7 mostly used Indonesian words when speaking English.

Data Analysis



The analysis is centered around interview responses and questionnaire results obtained from students regarding English vocabulary and its impact on speaking ability. The data is presented in three tables.

Table 1. Sample of Students' Answer Sheet 1

No	Questions	The Answers
1	In your point of view, what is the tool of communication in our daily live? (Menurut Anda, apakah alat komunikasi dalam kehidupan kita sehari-hari?)	The tool of communication in our daily live is language. In daily live people need language to communicate. As the tool of communicate to each other.
2	In your point of view, what is the meaning of vocabulary? (Menurut Anda, apa yang dimaksud dengan kosakata?)	Vocabulary is a list of word for a particular language or a set of word that individual speakers of language might use in communication.
3	Do you think that vocabulary is important in studying English? (Apakah menurut Anda kosakata itu penting dalam belajar bahasa Inggris?)	Of course, is important in studying English because vocabulary is one of the elements of language that should be might and thought.
4	Do you think that vocabulary is important in speaking ability and why? (Menurut Anda, apakah kosakata itu penting dalam kemampuan berbicara dan mengapa?)	Yeah of course, because without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. It means that although we have a very good grammar but that is less if we do not have enough vocabulary. Speaking is also important in English subject because speaking for daily live.
5	What do you think about studying vocabulary in English? Is it difficult or easy for you? (Apa pendapat Anda tentang mempelajari kosa kata dalam bahasa Inggris? Apakah sulit atau mudah bagi Anda?)	Sulit, karena sulit hafal atau takut salah dalam pengucapan
6	What are the difficulties that you face in studying English vocabulary? (Apa kesulitan yang Anda hadapi dalam mempelajari kosakata bahasa Inggris?)	Pengucapan yang diucapkan lebih sulit untuk dipelajari
7	What do you think the cause of difficulties in studying vocabulary? (Menurut Anda apa penyebab kesulitan dalam mempelajari kosa kata?)	Lebih sulit untuk dipelajari kata-katanya, tata bahasa nya, artinya juga.
8	What do you do to master the vocabulary in speaking ability? (Apa yang Anda lakukan untuk menguasai kosa kata dalam kemampuan berbicara?)	Yang saya lakukan adalah dengan menghafal kosakata minimal 10 atau 20 kata dalam sehari dengan itu saya bisa mengimprove hafalan kosakata saya.
9	Could you tell me, what is the relation between vocabulary mastery and speaking ability? (Bisakah Anda memberi tahu saya, apa hubungan antara penguasaan kosakata dan	Yeah of course, because without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed.



	kemampuan berbicara?)	
10	Could you tell me what is the advantages of vocabulary mastery in English? (Bisakah Anda memberi tahu saya apa keuntungan penguasaan kosakata dalam bahasa Inggris?)	Itu sangat bagus karena kita bisa berbicara bahasa inggris dan bahasa inggris adalah bahasa internasional.

Table 1 showcases a sample of students' responses where some use a mix of languages to answer questions about communication tools and vocabulary. The researcher concludes that respondent 2 exhibits vocabulary usage, while respondent 8 makes an effort to incorporate vocabulary.

Table 2. Sample of Student's Answer Sheet 2

No	Questions	The Answers
1	In your point of view, what is the tool of communication in our daily live? (Menurut Anda, apakah alat komunikasi dalam kehidupan kita sehari-hari?)	Bahasa.
2	In your point of view, what is the meaning of vocabulary? (Menurut Anda, apa yang dimaksud dengan kosakata?)	Kumpulan kata yang dimiliki oleh seseorang dalam bahasa tertentu.
3	Do you think that vocabulary is important in studying English? (Apakah menurut Anda kosakata itu penting dalam belajar bahasa Inggris?)	Penting, penyusunan kalimat dan kemampuan lain dalam bahasa inggris.
4	Do you think that vocabulary is important in speaking ability and why? (Menurut Anda, apakah kosakata itu penting dalam kemampuan berbicara dan mengapa?)	Penting, Karena kita berbicara menggunakan kosakata.
5	What do you think about studying vocabulary in English? Is it difficult or easy for you? (Apa pendapat Anda tentang mempelajari kosa kata dalam bahasa Inggris? Apakah sulit atau mudah bagi Anda?)	Ada sulitnya ada mudahnya, kalau sulitnya di pengucapannya,kurang percaya diri serta sulit dalam pelafalan.
6	What are the difficulties that you face in studying English vocabulary? (Apa kesulitan yang Anda hadapi dalam mempelajari kosakata bahasa Inggris?)	Agak sulit di mengerti miss.
7	What do you think the cause of difficulties in studying vocabulary? (Menurut Anda apa penyebab kesulitan dalam mempelajari kosa kata?)	Pengucapannya miss, karna malas belajar juga,dan susah menghafal.
8	What do you do to master the vocabulary in speaking ability? (Apa yang Anda lakukan untuk menguasai kosa kata dalam kemampuan berbicara?)	Dengan menghafal,kemudian belajar.Itu saja miss.
9	Could you tell me, what is the relation between vocabulary mastery and speaking ability? (Bisakah Anda memberi tahu saya, apa hubungan antara	Tidak tahu miss,skip saja.



	penguasaan kosakata dan kemampuan berbicara?)	
10	Could you tell me what is the advantages of vocabulary mastery in English? (Bisakah Anda memberi tahu saya apa keuntungan penguasaan kosakata dalam bahasa Inggris?)	Kita dapat lebih mudah memahami bahasa miss.

Table 2 focuses on students who primarily respond in Indonesian, limiting direct assessment of English vocabulary's impact.

Table 3. The Students' Percentage Result of Interview

No	Criteria of the Students	
1.	The students who can speak and mix their language in English.	Quite Good English P1: 3 students P2: 30 %
2.	The students who can not speak English or even do not use English.	Quite Good English P1: 7 students P2: 30 %

Table 3 presents the percentage of students who can mix languages or solely use Indonesian when speaking English.

Table 4. The students' Percentage Questionnaire Result

No	Questionnaire	SA	A	UC	DA	SDA
1.	English vocabulary is complicated.	P1 : 8 P2 : 80%			P1 : 2 P2: 20%	
2.	Most of English vocabularies are difficult to pronounce.	P1 : 8 P2 : 80%	P1 : 1 P2: 10%		P1 : 1 P2: 10%	
3.	English vocabulary is the difficult word to remember.	P1 : 8 P2 : 80%	P1 : 2 P2: 20%			
4.	English vocabularies have some meanings.	P1 : 10 P2: 100%				
5.	Students confuse to arrange the English vocabulary based on the sentences pattern.	P1 : 9 P2: 90%			P1 : 1 P2: 10%	

Questionnaire results are also presented in Table 4 highlighting students' perceptions of English vocabulary's complexity, pronunciation difficulties, memorization challenges, diverse meanings, and sentence pattern confusion.

Discussion and Findings

The researcher found that vocabulary is important for communication in different languages, especially in English. Previous research also showed its relevance. However, students struggle with mastering vocabulary due to memorization, pronunciation, meanings, sentence structure, and fear of mistakes. Many students at SMA YPK Pematangsiantar are having difficulties with speaking skills in the 2022/2023 academic year.

V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion



The research's conclusion emphasizes the crucial significance of vocabulary as an integral component of language, enabling the conveyance of ideas, information, and expressions. The study reaffirms the consensus among experts that vocabulary serves as a tool for communication in daily life and plays a central role in speaking English proficiently. The findings indicate that students strongly recognize the challenges tied to vocabulary mastery, including complexities, confusion, pronunciation difficulties, and the formidable nature of English vocabulary acquisition. The researcher concludes that these difficulties are of a high level based on students' agreement and disagreement scale, aligned with Brown's criteria (2001). The challenges manifest in students' struggles to remember and pronounce words, along with the apprehension to express opinions in English. Interviews and questionnaire results confirm that students' self-confidence is significantly affected. While acknowledging the benefits of English vocabulary, such as facilitating global communication and forming new relationships, the research underscores the importance of vocabulary in language acquisition.

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