



## **Using Flashcard as A Media in Teaching Vocabulary for The Eighth Grade Students of Junior High School**

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### **Abstract**

The problem of this study was the students' vocabulary mastery was still low. This study aims to improve student's vocabulary by using Flash Card for the eighth-grade students of SMP Kristen 1 Dobo. One alternative to facilitating students' problems is by using Flashcards. Flashcards can be used as medium and visual aids that are interesting and helpful for the students and teacher during the teaching-learning process. Vocabulary is essential for students in learning English as a foreign language. Vocabulary is a fundamental and essential thing to know. The purpose of learning Vocabulary is to help the students to be able to communicate and help the students to reflect on their experience, show idea, feelings and also understand any kind of meaning. Common vocabulary will obstruct the students' speaking, listening, reading, or writing. Therefore, the students need to learn vocabulary before the four skills.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Teaching and learning nowadays have needed to consider other alternatives to facilitate students' problems in the class. One option is by using flash. Flash Card has been identified throughout the research to develop students' language skills, including the problem related to vocabulary. According to Cross (1991), a flashcard is a simple picture on a card or paper, probably the most widely used visual aid in language teaching. It means that flashcard is one media that can help the teacher teach English easily. Flashcards in teaching vocabulary are straightforward visual, aids and the teacher can make the students more active during the teaching-learning process. Flashcards are some kinds of media that the teacher in the classroom can use. They can increase their attention span and concentration to study new words in English.

In the other case, social living everywhere cannot be separated from the problem of the flashcard. Flashcards are quickly found on the internet and even in the life of communities. It has

become a great potential on flashcards that are provided somewhere to be easily used to help students memorize vocabulary.

Concerning the problem of students' vocabulary, it is significant for students to learn English as a foreign language. Moreover, this will also help students reflect on their experiences to show their ideas and feelings and understand the meaning. For junior high school vocabulary, it has an important role in preparing the students to continue their study to the following stages of education. For junior high school, it is still suitable for introducing the basics of English, that is, vocabulary, to introduce new vocabulary earlier to the students. It makes them know and understand a lot of vocabulary. If students have low vocabulary will obstruct the students' chances to speak, listen, read, or write. It is the key to language learning. As stated by Vermeer in Schmitt and McCarthy (1997) that knowing the words is the key to understanding and being understood.

## **BACKGROUND**

After observing the teaching and learning process of the eighth-grade junior high school students in May 2019, the writer finds out that the students' vocabulary mastery is still low. It can be seen from the students' pronunciation when they are order to reading textbook about English, there are students say that: *Bahasa Inggris susah, tidak tau arti kata; sulit membaca, tulis sama baca sudah beda; sulit mengingat kata, sering lupa*. Based on the information gained from the English teacher, the teacher agreed to use flashcard in learning the English process. The teacher said that they use a flashcard to teach because the teacher thinks that flashcard is one of the simple media that can make students understand vocabulary. Also if the teacher uses it, the class will be more enjoyable.

From the students' statements above, the writer concludes that 1) the students get difficulties in recognizing words; 2) the students get difficulties in remembering words; 3) the students get difficulties in grasping the meaning of English words; 4) the students get difficulties in pronouncing words correctly, and 5) the students get difficulties in writing words correctly. Therefore, the classroom situation does not conducive for teaching-learning process. It can be seen from, 1) students often play and chat with friends during the teaching-learning process; 2) students often ask permission to go to toilet; 3) some students look sleepy in the class. The problems may arise because of their assumption that English is difficult. These issues are also similar to the issues founded by Sholikhah (2013) for her Thesis in improving students' mastery by using flashcards based on students' difficulties in mastering vocabulary.

Moreover, limited media that teachers can use as teaching become one of the reasons why students find difficulties in mastering English, especially vocabulary. For example, the teacher and student only used the handbook and students' worksheets each meetings class. Therefore, the writer would like to describe why the flashcard is one media to help this issue. According to Alexakos (2001) states that students' knowledge and understanding are reinforced in special classrooms when the teacher involves students in active learning. Therefore, the teacher needs to use the media in order to make the situation to be dynamic. The teacher have to improve students' vocabulary issue through active learning by choosing suitable media such as flashcards. According Broughton et al. (2003), a cue card or flashcard is a card with writing or pictures held by the teacher briefly, and it is used to elicit students' responses, either oral or written. Flashcard

is a teaching aid that can be helpful in the teaching and learning process of a language, especially for teaching vocabulary.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **The Definition of Vocabulary**

There are some definitions of vocabulary. Ur (1991: 60) said vocabulary could be defined roughly as the words we teach in the foreign language. Then Harimurti Krida Laksana (1993:127) defines vocabulary as a component of a language that maintains all of the information about the meaning and using words in the language. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (1995:721), vocabulary is all words that a person knows or uses.

Some experts define vocabulary Hatch and Brown (1995:1) define vocabulary as a list or set of words for a particular language or a list or collection of a word that individual speakers of language might use. The other expert, Barnhart (2008:697), said that vocabulary is "... (1) Stock of words used by person, class of people, profession, etc. (2) a collection or list of words, usually in alphabetical order and defined."

While based on Merriam Webster (2003:476), vocabulary is a. A list or collection of words and phrases is usually alphabetically arranged and explained or defined. b. A sum or stock of words employed by a language group individual or work or in a field of knowledge. c. A list or collection of terms or codes is available for use. Therefore, vocabulary is a component of a language and unit of speeches that an individual produces a word. Moreover, it can interact with another people or a set of language as a symbol of ideas in a foreign language.

### **The Method of Building Vocabulary**

The students who master vocabulary are very important. So, to achieve the success of mastering language faculty the students are expected to be able to build up vocabulary through the appropriate. AlKhuli (1976: 62) states that there are eight Media in building vocabulary, they are:

a. Direct Association

The new word is taught by the direct association of the word and its referent. This method is best applicable in the case of words referring to tangible things existent in the classroom itself.

b. Picture

A Picture is flexible teaching aid; a picture used to build vocabulary may come from books, magazines, etc. A picture can also use to distinguish a plural or singular form. It would be possible for the teacher to jump in order to demonstrate, but a picture helps students show that activity.

c. Action.

The meaning of some words may present through acting. It's means acting is the process of betting, including the offering and acceptance of a bet and determination of winner. This method works best in teaching the meaning of verb.

d. Context

The parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage can throw light on its meaning. That means a word may use in a sentence or group of lead to students understanding the meaning.

e. Synonym.

The meaning of a new word may be thought by giving a synonym word. Synonym provides the language with interest and color; and increases the vocabulary.

f. Antonym

The meaning of new word may be explained through an antonym. The antonym has to be a familiar word as well to the students; antonym will help to increase the student's vocabulary power. Sometimes it is easy to find out the exact antonym of word.

g. Definition

Definition in the target language may be used effectively if expressed in terms that are better known or more easily guessed that the word can be defined. However, teaching words by definition is not suitable for beginner foreign language learning.

h. Translation

If the referent is an abstract one, the native language equivalent of that word may be used. Further, such as equivalent may be given if other techniques prove to be impractical or ineffective with some words. The teacher, through experience, will gain more knowledge in choosing the proper technique that suits a specific word.

Based on the explanation above, the writer uses one of the Media of building vocabulary, which is picture. It can give easy in learning vocabulary because pictures can help the students to show that activity. Using pictures makes it easier to remember vocabulary because they can imagine and descriptive vocabulary from pictures. Therefore, picture is one of the media that effectively teaches and learns vocabulary.

### **Definition of Flashcard**

There are many definitions of flashcards. Based on Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (1995: 94) flashcard is a card with a word or words and sometimes a picture down it. In contrast, Azhar Arsyad (2002:119) explained that Flashcards means small cards containing picture, text, or symbols to remind and stimulate the students on certain things. Based on the picture, flashcards usually have 8x12 cm or can be adapted by big or small class such as alphabet can be used to practice spelling (in Arabic or English). According to Suyanto (2007: 109) in Inayah (2009: 29), flashcards are cards have big size. Usually, it uses paper relatively thick stiff, and the size is A4. It contains pictures and words. It is classified based on kind and class such as the flashcards of food, fruits, vegetable, household, transportation, profession, and clothes. Usually the teacher holds and moves some flashcards is in a pile of flashcards to the front side. The movement of cards quickly, maybe it is the reason, why does it called by flashcard. Flash is quickly, or a flash means "sekilas."

According to Harmer (2002: 134), Flashcards are smallish cards that we can hold up for our students to see. According to Sarah Phillips (2001: 69), Flashcards are picture cards that an invaluable way of introducing and revising vocabulary, and they can use to drill simple structure and function. According to Cross (1991: 119), a flashcard is a simple picture on a piece of card or paper, probably the most widely used visual aids in language teaching.

Based on the definition above, it can be taken a general view that flashcards are cards with a word or words, number, or a picture on it for use in the classroom by teachers and students that help learn and memorize new words. Besides it, a flashcard is one of the visual aids used to make the students more interested and enjoy the teaching learning process and improve students' understanding of the material given by the teacher.

### **Advantages and Disadvantages of Flash Card**

According to Wright (1968), as quoted by Debora, the advantages of using flashcards are:

1. It can help the students to ease themselves in memorizing words they have learned.
2. It can be brought everywhere because the size of the cards is not too big.
3. It gives variation in teaching. The teacher is not only to teach and explain the lesson.
4. Flashcards are very helpful to refresh the students' minds before starting the new lesson plan.

According to Wright (1968) as quoted by Debora, the disadvantages of using flashcards are:

1. Flashcards cannot be used at all levels for those with a large vocabulary. Flashcards are not effective.
2. The teacher who wants to make flashcards should have much time in presenting flashcards as well as making the cards.

Based on the explanations above, it can be concluded that flashcards have many advantages and disadvantages above. The researcher concluded that the advantages of flashcards are one of teaching aid that the students and the teacher need to maintain interest and motivation. Flashcards have great power in motivating and stimulating the students. Meanwhile, flashcards are easy media to help students and teachers in the learning process, especially to teach elementary school students. A teacher can use it anytime and in any situation when he wants to teach.

There are some weakness of flashcards as follow: the price of flashcards are too expensive, if the teacher wants to make flashcards itself, they need much time, and if the picture of flashcards are not clear and big enough, the students will misunderstand the teacher's explanation when they see flashcards, so the goal that is planned cannot be achieved.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Teaching Vocabulary**

Traditionally, the teaching vocabulary above elementary levels was primarily incidental, limited to presenting new items as they appeared in reading or sometimes listening texts. Based on Harmer (2007: 229), the procedure of teaching vocabulary can be divided into two stages, and they are namely:

- a. Introducing Vocabulary.

In this step, the teachers introduce the new vocabulary with good pronunciations. The teachers can use some pictures or real things like dictionaries. It hopes by using pictures of things that

real, the students will remember or memorize the vocabulary quickly, and they can pronounce it well since they know the words first.

b. Practicing Vocabulary.

In the second step, the teacher give exercises to the students to practice the subject items being learned, making completion, matching, words classification, vocabulary games, using dictionaries, etc. Those are several types of exercise in this stage.

Teaching is a process to give information to people. Teaching vocabulary to junior learners is not easy because learning new words is crucial to them. The teacher may attempt to introduce new words because it is impossible to let the students make their selection in learning the vocabulary of their language. Vocabulary gives them the knowledge to achieve a certain. Vocabulary is very important in aspect English because it is needed by students as it serves as a foundation when reading in English. In writing, their vocabulary determines how clearly and accurately they can express their ideas to others in writing. In speaking, the students' vocabulary can affect how well people understand what they say. In listening, their vocabulary influences how much they understand the lesson, speech, and class discussion. Alqahtani (2015) states that teaching vocabulary for teachers to their students is one of the essential items in learning a language. It is because languages are based on words. Introducing vocabulary

The importance of learning vocabulary is often forgotten in the teaching and learning process in the class. According to Cameron (2001), learning words is a cyclical process of meeting new words and initial learning, followed by meeting those words, again and again, each time extending knowledge of what the words mean and how they are used in the foreign language. In learning new words, the learners are not only expected to meet as many new words as possible, then know their form, use, and meaning, and need to memorize them. Therefore, they can recall the words that they have learned easily. Moreover, learning vocabulary is important for language learners.

### **The Learning of English Vocabulary**

The importance of learning vocabulary is often forgotten in the teaching and learning process in the class. According to Cameron (2001), learning words is a cyclical process of meeting new words and initial learning, followed by meeting those words, again and again, each time extending knowledge of what the words mean and how they are used in the foreign language. In learning new words, the learners are not only expected to meet as many new words as possible then know their form, use and meaning, and need to memorize them. Therefore, they can recall the words that they have learned easily. Moreover, learning vocabulary is important for language learners.

### **Method in Teaching Vocabulary**

Some Methods can be implemented in teaching vocabulary. Richards and Renandya (2002) recommend three approaches to teach vocabulary they are incidental learning, direct instruction, and independent strategy training as the combination for vocabulary. The learners are learning vocabulary due to reading or listening to English texts. While direct instruction depends on the vocabulary acquisition for the learners, the independent strategy training is the strategy needed to

be taught for the students to help those inferring words in a context and support the learners to master the vocabulary.

### **The Technique of Teaching Vocabulary**

According to Anthony (1963), that technique must be consistent with a Media, and, therefore, in harmony with an approach as well. It means Technique to teach English vocabulary is very important because the teacher is responsible for the students to provide teaching techniques of learning English suitable for the students'. The teacher use Media procedures to get their aims in the teaching learning process. And then, the technique is a classroom practice used by a teacher or the implementation of approach and Media. So, related to the teacher have covered all of four language skills in the English for one meeting of the lesson.

### **The Principles of Teaching Vocabulary**

Nunan (2003) mentions four basic principles for teaching vocabulary: focus on the most useful vocabulary. First, focus on the vocabulary most appropriately, use Media effectively, and encourage learners to reflect on and take responsibility for learning. Teaching vocabulary is one of the foundations in mastering English. For example teachers use various Media to make students feel happy with the lesson. Based on the researcher, in SMP Kristen. English usually consists of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and reading. The English teacher patiently teaches a lesson for students. The teacher and students use Media that make students like learning English.

### **Problems Faced by EFL Students in Mastering Vocabulary**

In this step, mastering vocabulary faced by EFL students' level is quite different at the school level. The researcher found problems during teaching and learning process. The students with lack felt bored with Media used by the teacher. The teacher should adapt some teaching Media in making the English teaching learning process. But the teacher still translated Media to improve the students' vocabulary. It can be seen from their read text book.

### **The Role of Teachers in Facilitating Students with Vary Teaching Media.**

A brilliant teaching-learning opportunities for teachers to create an active learning environment in the classroom. The teacher helps the students in learning in various ways. Sometimes, the role of the teacher is changing in smart and active learning Media as a facilitator in learning. If a teacher thinks that every student should be sound in his subject, then the teaching-learning process becomes innovative, active, and engaging. Teachers should become mentors, and they should make students learn. Teaching means the teacher is doing the act of teaching. Learning means students are doing the act of learning.

### **FlashCards as Teaching Aids**

As foreign language, English is not used daily in society; English is considered complex subject studied by the students. So it needs approach consideration and strategy in learning English in order to be easy and interested. English teachers should use a variety of teaching aids to explain the material. The teachers should use an effective strategy, be creative, and adapt when they are

teaching students in the teaching and learning process. If the teachers use one Media, students are bored with the subject.

Teaching aids provide a means of literating lessons and allow learning in a new light. More than classroom decoration, they are designed to teach, illustrate and reinforce the lesson more than classroom decoration. They can be broken down into four board categories: bulletin boards, charts, flashcard, manipulative and experiments. In other words, Teaching aids are called media. Media come from the Latin language “medius”. It means it is middle, intermediary or companion. In Arabic, media are intermediary or message delivery from the sender to the receiver (Azhar Arsyad, 2002: 16). According to Romiszowski (1999: 100), media is an extension of man which allows him to affect others who are not in face to face with him. Communication media there are letter, television, film, radio, something printed and telephone.

In general, there are three kinds of media as below:

a. Visual aid.

Visual aid is media which can be seen and be touched by students. Pictures, photos, real objects, maps, miniature, and realia. The teacher often uses visual aid are pictures, flashcards, and realia.

b. Audio aid

Audio aid is text and material recorded, which used for listening skills and understanding oral discourse. It can be heard, such as radio and cassette recorder.

c. Audiovisual aid

Audio visual Aid is media that can be heard and seen. As TV and film usually show a story, event, or condition in another place. The picture is indicated together with information in English, and it should be selected is based on language development students' range (Suyanto, 2008:100).

From some definitions above, the researcher can conclude that media is a tool to convey the message from the teacher to the students. And it can used to stimulate students' ideas or understanding students on the material which studied by them. Visual aids are one of the media which make the students can be interested.

Visual aids have important role in teaching-learning activities. It can make students' understanding easier and reinforce memory. It also develops students' interest and connects material and real matter. In order to be more effective, visual aid should be occupied on context has meaning, and the students have to interact with the image convinced that created information processing (Azhar Aryad, 2002:22).

There are some definitions of visual aids. Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English (1995:481) explained that Visual aids are connected with sight. There are pictures, videos, etc., which are used to help student's understanding of the material in teaching process. According to Merriam and Webster (2003:1399), visual aids are instructional devices (as a chart, map, or model) that appeal chiefly to vision, especially an educational motion picture or filmstrip. In English class, the teaching-learning process should use aid, especially visual aid, and there are picture, flashcards, dolls, puppets, realia, miniature, or something is real which can bring in the class.

According to Suyanto (2007: 102) in Inayah (2009: 29) kinds of pictures are served in cards form. There are flashcards, circular cards, flip cards, etc. It is beneficial to the fluent teaching



learning process. These cards can be used for individual activity, group, and classical. According to Harmer (1983:134), the teacher has always used pictures or graphics taken from books, newspapers, and magazines or photographs. A picture can be in the form of flashcards. Flashcards are smallish cards that we can hold up for our students to see, large wall pictures which are big enough for everyone to see details, cue cards. They are small cards that students use in pair or group work and photographs or illustration, which is typically in a textbook

To make in teaching vocabulary is successful. The teacher needs a teaching strategy. The teaching strategy can help the students to understand vocabulary easily. Concerning this research, the researcher takes a strategy to use flashcards as visual aids in teaching vocabulary. Because it helps the students improve students' understanding of vocabulary and help them memorize words. The teacher is expected can be creative and imaginative in the learning and teaching process and imaginative in the learning and teaching process.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

In conclusion, it is agreed that teaching and learning nowadays have needed to consider other alternatives to implementing to facilitate students' problems in a class teaching. One alternative is using flash. Flashcard has been identified throughout the research to develop students' language skill, including the problem related to vocabulary. According to Cross (1991), a flashcard is a simple picture on a piece of card or paper, which is probably the most widely used visual aid in language teaching. It is a teaching aid that can be implemented in the teaching and learning process of a language, especially for teaching vocabulary. However, it is undoubtedly that each media has its advantage and disadvantage. Therefore, in implementing this media, there should be a systematic preparation for teaching as well as the learning process to gain advanced outcomes, especially in helping students' master vocabulary.

Some suggestions are for the students, English teachers, and further researchers. The suggestions are as follows:

The writer suggests for the teachers to use flashcards in teaching-learning. It is an interesting media because it could attract the students' interest. Students are easy to memorize the material and are motivated in learning. English teachers should make the teaching-learning process enjoyable because students love to play and learn best when they feel enjoyable.

The students have to study to master vocabulary because by mastering vocabulary, all skills of English can be successful. Therefore, students should develop their knowledge of vocabulary using interesting media like flashcards because flashcard can attract the students' interest and motivation in learning process.

Lastly, the writer hopes the result of this research can be used as an additional reference; there will be a further writer with different discussions which can revise within the development of these flashcards.

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