

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problems

Vocabulary is one of the component of English and it is a key for students to acquire good ability in reading English. Vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basic for how well learners to listen, speak, read and write. In senior high school, enough vocabulary is necessary for students to reach the goal of curriculum. One of the ways to develop their vocabulary is through reading. It can help students gain more vocabulary. If students do not have much vocabulary, it will become problem in their reading activity.

It is a fact that vocabulary is one of the components of language. which is very important to mastered the language. Vocabulary is one of important skills in language. It is impossible to learn a language without vocabulary. Some vocabulary is used in reading namely pronoun, noun, adjective, and adverb. If students read more words, students are able to deliver more ideas.

Vocabulary retention is an essential part in English teaching as foreign language. Good retention of vocabulary can help the learners to express their ideas. Good retention of vocabulary is also important for someone who learns the language skills. A learner foreign language will speak fluently, write easily, and understand what he or she reads and hears if he or she has enough vocabulary and capability to use it accurately. The retention vocabulary will helps the students to

express their ideas because by having good retention of a word the students will be able to comprehend the language skills. It means that vocabulary is an important element that should be developed by students.

From the explanation above, it can be said that vocabulary is important to be retained by the students who learn English. However, in fact, the students often face difficulties in learning English because they have a lack of retention of vocabulary. Based on the writer's preliminary observation in the eleventh grade of MA Al – Islamiyah Kotabumi, the writer found that students have difficulties in vocabulary retention and the low score can be seen at the table below:

TABLE 1
STUDENTS' SCORE OF ENGLISH SCORE
ELEVENTH GRADE OF MA AL – ISLAMIYAH KOTABUMI
ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

Interval Score	Total Score		Percentage
	Class XIA	Class XIB	
80-89	8	7	22.05 %
70-79	7	6	19.11 %
60-69	13	12	36.76 %
50-59	8	4	17.64
40- 49	2	1	4.41 %
Total	38	30	100 %

Source : English teacher of MA Al – Islamiyah Kotabumi

Based on the writer's in the class and discussion with the English teacher, there are four problems as follows: first, many students have a lack of interest in reading. Second, many students got difficulties to remember the meaning of the

words. Third, students seem to have limited vocabulary. Fourth, the students are difficult to comprehend the reading texts.

Finally, these problem bring effect to the students other language skill and components. Therefore, the teacher should help and motivate his or her students retention vocabulary as one of the components in English. In relation to reading, it is assumed that the more students read, the more vocabulary they will have or memorize. In order to build the students' eagerness to read more, it is necessary to make the students interested firstly in reading itself. In other words, the students' reading interest should be good.

Interest is one of the factors which may affect to the students' reading skill. A skill cannot only be developed by learning but also must be developed by extensive and continual practice. Therefore, it is important that a reader have interest and motivation in reading.

Someone who has lack interest in reading will face difficulties to understand the text well because an interest is like a factor that can support someone to do something. In relation to vocabulary retention, someone who has an interest in reading will have long term memory about what he or she reads. Therefore, it is assumed that good reading interest will stimulate students to read effectively so that they can memorize the vocabulary they have found during the reading process. In conclusion, interest is an important role in reading activity. It means that someone who has high interest in reading any kind of text, he or she will have good vocabulary retention.

However, bulding reading interest is not easy. As it happens to the eleventh grade of MA Al Islamiyah Kotabumi who seem to have lack interest in reading. It

can be seen during the reading classroom activities that the students seem not to be interested in reading the reading material. This lack of their reading interest might be one of the factors causing the students also have limited vocabulary as it can be seen during the reading classroom activities they are difficult to comprehend the meaning of the text.

Therefore, it is important to find out and to do the investigation whether there is really any correlation between reading interest and vocabulary retention . If it is found there is significant correlation among the variables, it should be suggested to attempt to build the reading interest among the students. It is the responsibility of all parts of people who really care of the development of the Nation.

Based on the background above, the writers wants to know the correlation between students' reading interest and their vocabulary retention. Therefore, the writer proposes a research entitled “ The Correlation between Reading Interest and Vocabulary Retention at the Eleventh Grade of MA Al – Islamiyah Kotabumi North Lampung Academic Year 2017 / 2018”.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

Based on the background of the problems above, the researcher identifies some problems as follows:

- a. the students lack of reading interest;

- b. the students have difficulties to remember the meaning of the words;
- c. the students seem to have limited vocabulary;
- d. the students are difficult to comprehend the reading texts;

1.3 Limitation of the Problems

Based on the identification of the problems above, the research limited the problems into “ there is correlation between students reading interest and vocabulary retention at the eleventh grade of MA Al – Islamiyah Kotabumi North Lampung in Academic Year 2017 / 2018.

1.4 Formulation of the Problems

Referring to limitation of the problem, the problem in this reseach is formulated in the question as follows: is there significant correlation between reading interest and vocabulary retention at the eleventh grade of MA Al – Islamiyah Kotabumi North Lampung Academic Year 2017 / 2018?

1.5 Objective of the Research

In line with the formulation of the problems, the objective of carrying out this research is to investigate whether there is significant correlation between reading interest and vocabulary retention at the eleventh grade of MA Al – Islamiyah Kotabumi North Lampung Academic Year 2017 / 2018”.

1.6 Uses of the Research

The uses of the research are as follows:

1. Theoretically

This research will support the previous theory in relation to the correlation between reading interest and vocabulary retention.

2. Practically

The result of this research is hoped to be be beneficial for some parties as follows:

1) For the Teacher

This research finding can give information to the teacher about the the correlation between reading interest and vocabulary retention.

2) For the next Researcher

This research finding is hoped to be usefull as reference in conducting further research in the correlation between reading interest and vocabulary retention.

CHAPTER II