

## AN ANALYSIS OF FACTORS FOR STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY IN ENGLISH AT SMPN 35 MAKASSAR

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### ABSTRACT

The objective of the research was to find out the factors that influence the English vocabulary mastery of the second grade of SMPN 35 Makassar. This research method is descriptive quantitative research method. This research was conducted on the second-grade students of SMPN 35 Makassar. The sample in this study were 20 students in class VIII-1 for the 2023/2024 academic year. The researcher analyzed data from questionnaires which distributed to students using quantitative descriptive analysis with the percentage of information frequency divided by the number of samples. The finding reveals that there were two factors that influence to students' vocabulary mastery namely, internal factors and external factors. The Internal factors is the most dominant factors influencing to students' vocabulary mastery. These internal factors consist of two, namely students' motivation to learn vocabulary and students' self-confidence in learning vocabulary. External factors are factors that influence students from outside in mastering vocabulary. These external factors consist of the family environment and the school environment.

**Keywords:** *Factors, Mastery, Students' Vocabulary*

### INTRODUCTION

The level of technological and scientific advancement in the modern era of globalization is so great that, it is undeniable that knowledge and ability to master foreign languages are needed, especially English as an international language and one of the most widely used languages in the world. Studying English is crucial since it will help us communicate with people from other countries, find employment more easily, and be very beneficial if we decide to continue our studies abroad.

In English, vocabulary is the key to success. Without vocabulary, it is difficult to communicate, write, listen, or read. Learning vocabulary is an important part of learning English. Dilago (2022: 641) stated that vocabulary is all the words that people are familiar with and use to interact with each other. Vocabulary is very important in learning English. A person will have difficulty communicating their thoughts and understanding the thoughts of others when they lack vocabulary. Vocabulary is very important in aspects of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

In order to Safura, et al (2022: 76), stated that vocabulary is a list or series of words used to express ideas or other meanings used for general communication. The students will not be able to understand English if they do not master

vocabulary. Vocabulary mastery has a fundamental role in learning a language. This is one of the components that support language skills. Without having sufficient and appropriate vocabulary, it will be difficult for our ideas to be conveyed to others and to understand what other people are talking about. Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that vocabulary is a word contained in a language. These words can be used to communicate and convey ideas and are easy to understand.

In the process of learning English in junior high school, vocabulary mastery is very important for students because students cannot read English texts properly if they do not have adequate vocabulary. In addition, they also will not be able to translate text and they will find it difficult to know the meaning or meaning of a word and sentence. According to Setiyaningsih et al (2019: 319), vocabulary mastery is a complete knowledge and skill in processing a list or set of words of a particular language which are taught in foreign language by person, class, or profession. According to Listyani (2021:3) vocabulary mastery is a key aspect in learning a foreign language. Developing vocabulary is an important part of learning a foreign language. Haryadi, et al (2021: 47) says that vocabulary gives an important part for language learning in foreign language. It means that vocabulary mastery will affect to our knowledge in foreign language. Have a good vocabulary mastery will help us to communicate in a foreign language well. Vocabulary has a very important role in English skills.

Vocabulary is very important for students to master from an early age, especially in junior high school. According to Iftitah, et al (2020: 22) vocabulary is more important for students. Vocabulary mastery will make students practice the structure more easily. According to Amalia (2020: 2) Mastering vocabulary is important for every language learner because vocabulary is the basis for someone to master a language. Vocabulary development in children is an important aspect in language acquisition. Wero, et al (2021: 24) stated that Vocabulary plays an important role in foreign language learning. The development vocabulary is important when learners acquire English as a foreign language. vocabulary is really needed in order to have a good language proficiency in language used. Nurhalimah, et. al (2020: 74) says there two factors affecting of vocabulary namely internal factors ( age level, the child's ability and self-confidence, motivation) and external factors ( family environment and school environment). .

From this opinion it can be concluded that vocabulary helps us in learning English, without vocabulary we will not be able to convey what we think and by learning vocabulary one will be able to improve foreign skills quickly.

Even so, there are still many students who have not mastered vocabulary well. Sitorus (2021: 143) said that students' knowledge and vocabulary mastery in junior high schools is still low. This is proven through the vocabulary tests given to students, where the results show that the scores obtained by students are still below the average, namely 49.6. While the minimum completeness criterion is

60.0. The results showed that the knowledge of English vocabulary was very low due to the students' lack of knowledge about vocabulary.

Another problem that is often experienced by students in learning English vocabulary is the difficulty in distinguishing word forms grammatically such as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. In addition, students tend to feel bored when learning English. Low vocabulary mastery can be difficult for students when they are going to move on to the next level because it is well known that mastery of English vocabulary itself is closely related to students' ability to acquire these vocabulary

In line with the explanations from several previous researchers about the importance of vocabulary and the problems students experience in mastering vocabulary, the researcher is interested in conducting research entitled 'An Analysis of Factors for Students' Vocabulary Mastery in English at SMPN 35 Makassar'.

## METHOD

This research used descriptive quantitative research method, which aims to identify problem and obtain information about factors that influence mastery of students' English vocabulary. This research was conducted at SMPN 35 Makassar. The subject of this research were class VIII at SMPN 35 Makassar in academic year 2023/2024. The sample for this research was class VIII-1 totalling 20 Students. In this research, researcher used observation, questionnaire, and documentation to collect data. To analysis data the researcher use quantitative descriptive analysis with percentage of the information frequency and divided by the number of students or samples.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Findings

This section presents the results of the questionnaire and data analysis. This questionnaire consists of two parts, namely external factors and internal factors. The following presentation explains the percentage of completing the questionnaire.

**Table 1 . Percentage of Students Response Questionnaires about Internal Factors**

Items Questionnaire	Percentage				
	( Frequency )				
	SS	S	N	TS	STS
1. English is my favorite subject and I always take the time to learn vocabulary every day.	5%	35%	10%	50%	0%
	(1)	(7)	(2)	(10)	(0)

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2. I learn English vocabulary to improve my language skills	0%	80%	5%	15%	0%
	(0)	(16)	(1)	(3)	(0)
3. I can't understand every English vocabulary learning material	0%	65%	15%	20%	0%
	(0)	(13)	(3)	(4)	(0)
4. English vocabulary training tasks given to teachers are difficult to do	10%	70%	10%	10%	0%
	(2)	(14)	(2)	(2)	(0)
5. I study English vocabulary diligently because I didn't want to get bad values and i want to get a better score than my classmate.	0%	80%	10%	10%	0%
	(0)	(16)	(2)	(2)	(0)
6. I am sure I can master the vocabulary and apply it in everyday life.	0%	20%	15%	65%	0%
	(0)	(4)	(3)	(13)	(0)
7. I think I have good English vocabulary skills.	0%	20%	0%	80%	0%
	(0)	(4)	(0)	(16)	(0)
8. I always thought that other students had the ability to remember vocabulary better than me	0%	60%	20%	20%	0%
	(0)	(12)	(4)	(4)	(0)
9. I think my ability to understand vocabulary is below average.	0%	50%	15%	35%	0%
	(0)	(10)	(3)	(7)	(0)
10. I felt confident when the teacher told me to speak English in front of the class	0%	20%	15%	55%	0%
	(0)	(4)	(3)	(13)	(0)

From the result of this research it can be seen item questionnaire number 1 shows that 50% of the twenty students felt that English was not their favorite subject and 35 % of the twenty students agreed consistently set aside time each day to study vocabulary in English, nevertheless. Questionnaire number 2 show that 80% of the twenty students study English vocabulary to advance their language skills. Questionnaire 3 show that 65% of the twenty students stated that they had difficulty learning English vocabulary. Questionnaire 4 show that 70% of the twenty students find it difficult to complete the vocabulary practice assignments supplied by the teacher. and 10% students select disagreed. Questionnaire number 5 show that 80% of the twenty students study their

vocabulary because they don't want to get bad grades and 10% students select disagreed.

Item questionnaire number 6 shows that show that 65% of the twenty students doubt their ability to master language and used it in everyday life. Students who lack confidence will find it difficult to acquire new things and develop their vocabulary, 20% of the twenty students still think they can do it and use it in their daily lives. Item questionnaire number 7 shows that only 20% of the twenty students think they have good vocabulary skills, while 80% of the twenty students think they don't know their vocabulary well. Item questionnaire number 8 shows that 60% of th twenty students think that their ability to remember vocabulary is lower than that of their friends. While 20% students disagreed. questionnaire number 9 shows that 50% of the twenty students think that their ability to understand vocabulary is below average. 35% of students feel that they have good vocabulary mastery. questionnaire number 10 reveals that 55% of the twenty students feel anxious when asked to speak in front of the class, only 20% of students feel competent doing so.

**Table 2 . Percentage of Students Response Questionnaires about External Factors**

Items Questionnaire	Percentage				
	( Frequency )				
	SS	S	N	TS	STS
11. My family lives in poverty so they can't afford textbooks, including English vocabulary learning books.	5%	15%	5%	70%	5%
	(1)	(3)	(1)	(14)	(1)
12. Parents make a schedule to learn English vocabulary at home	0%	20%	15%	65%	0%
	(0)	(4)	(3)	(13)	(0)
13. My parents gave me facilities to learn such as laptops and phones	15%	75%	5%	5%	0%
	(3)	(15)	(1)	(1)	(0)
14. Parents give motivation to learn, such as giving gifts or co pliments when getting a good score	0%	35%	5%	60%	0%
	(0)	(7)	(1)	(12)	(0)
15. My parents enrolled me to attend English courses	5%	30%	10%	55%	0%
	(1)	(6)	(2)	(11)	(0)
16. Teachers used in learning media to learn vocabulary such as image and video	20%	65%	5%	10%	0%
	(4)	(13)	(1)	(2)	(0)

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<b>17. The teachers used easy-to-understand language to explain material about vocabulary</b>	0%	60%	0%	40%	0%
	(0)	(12)	(0)	(8)	(0)
<b>18. Teachers approach and give motivation to students, when students feel bored while learning English</b>	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%
	(0)	(10)	(0)	(10)	(0)
<b>19. The school has books in English in the library and learning media such as Lcds and blackboards are still functioning poperly</b>	25%	65%	10%	0%	0%
	(5)	(13)	(2)	(0)	(0)
<b>20. There isn't an English lab at the school</b>	10%	80%	10%	0%	0%
	(2)	(16)	(0)	(0)	(0)

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Item questionnaire number 11 shows that 70% of the twenty students disagreed with the statement my family lives in poverty. It shows that the majority of students lead decent lives and are able to buy vocabulary books. Some students were still unable to purchase books, though. It can be seen that 15% of respondents said they agreed. Item questionnaire number 12 shows that 65% of the twenty students disagreed with the statement stating that their parents made an English vocabulary study schedule at home. 15% students' select neutral. And 20% of students said that their parents made them study schedules at home. Item questionnaire number 13 shows that 75% of the twenty students agree that parents provide learning facilities. 5% select disagreed. Item questionnaire number 14 shows that 60% of twenty students said that they were not given motivation in the form of compliments or gifts by their parents when they got good grades and 35% of twenty students each agreed that they got motivation to study from their parents. Item questionnaire number 15 shows that there are 55% of twenty students who are not registered by their parents to attend English lessons outside of school hours. There are only 30% of the twenty students taking the course.

Item questionnaire number 16 shows that 65% of the twenty students answered that they agreed that the teacher uses media in the learning process. 5% select neutral, Item questionnaire number 17 shows that 60% of twenty students agree with the statement that the teacher's explanation of vocabulary learning materials in class uses language that is easy to understand. while 40% of students do not agree that the teacher explains the material in language that is easy to understand. Item questionnaire number 18 shows that 50% of twenty students agree that their teacher provides an approach and motivation so that they are excited to learn a language again when they are bored. However, 50% of the twenty students disagreed with the statement that the teacher provided an approach and motivation when students were bored learning English in class. Item

questionnaire number 19 shows that 65% of the twenty students agreed that schools have books in English in the library and English teaching tools such as LCDs and blackboards that are still functional. 5% students' select neutral. Item questionnaire number 20 shows that 80% of students agreed with the statement that the school does not have an English lab, while 10% of students selected neutral.

## Discussion

The discussion presents the findings of the research about the internal factors and external factors that influence students' mastery of English vocabulary in the second grade of SMPN 35 Makassar. Internal factors are factors that influence a person to master vocabulary from within. This internal factor consists of two parts, namely students' motivation to learn English vocabulary and students' confidence in learning English vocabulary.

Motivation is one of the drivers for someone to learn vocabulary. Motivation is very important in determining how much students will learn and absorb information. Having high motivation will encourage students to learn more things and encourage them to be passionate about learning new vocabulary and being able to master it. This motivation must be owned by students if they want to master vocabulary. The result of the motivational questionnaire shows that sixteen out of twenty students learn vocabulary because they want to improve their language skills.

In addition to increasing language skills, students also learn vocabulary because they don't want to get bad grades, and students want to get better grades than their classmates. The motivation that students have will be a driving force for them to study harder. But there are still a number of things that make students have less motivation, preventing them from mastering more vocabulary. Half out of twenty students said that English was not their favorite subject, so they did not take the time to learn vocabulary every day. As many of thirteen out of twenty students said they did not understand the English learning material and as many as fourteen students from one class also said that they had difficulty completing the vocabulary practice assignments given by the teacher.

Self confidence is one of the factors that supports students in mastering vocabulary. Confidence can also be interpreted as the ability that a person has and can utilize. Good self-confidence will make someone continue to study vocabulary well. The self-confidence that a person has will make him able to master the vocabulary. but there are still many students who feel less confident in their abilities. As many as thirteen out of twenty students in the class feel that they are unable to master vocabulary and apply it in everyday life. Students also think that they do not have good vocabulary mastery. In fact, they also think that their ability to master vocabulary is average. Half of twenty students also think that their ability to understand and understand vocabulary is very low. So that the lack of confidence regarding their ability to master vocabulary also hinders them from

being able to convey their ideas because students feel anxious when asked to speak in front of the class by the teacher. External factors are factors that influence someone from outside to be able to master vocabulary. External factors consist of two parts, namely the family environment and the school environment.

The result of family environment shows fourteen out of twenty students who have learning facilities provided by their parents. With the facilities owned by students, it should be able to help students improve their vocabulary mastery if these facilities can be used properly. With the learning facilities that students have, it should be able to help students improve their vocabulary mastery if these facilities can be used well. Parents must provide comfort to students when students study at home. One way to encourage students to learn vocabulary at home is to provide motivation in the form of praise or prizes when students get high grades. However, as many as twelve out of twenty students felt that their parents were not motivated. Parents also play an important role in helping students learn vocabulary at home, but as many as fourteen out of twenty students do not have a schedule for learning vocabulary at home by their parents, so this will make children lazy to study the material taught at school. And eleven out of twenty students of students were not enrolled in courses by their parents. Taking courses outside of school hours will help students improve their vocabulary mastery.

The school environment is also one of the factors that influence students' vocabulary mastery. With good teaching methods given by the teacher, will be able to help students master vocabulary. Thirteen out of twenty students say that teachers use media in the vocabulary learning process at school, such as videos and pictures. Interesting learning media will make students interested in learning vocabulary. In addition to learning media, the way the teacher explains the material will also affect students' vocabulary mastery.

As many as twelve students stated that the teacher explained in language that was easy to understand, while eight out of twenty students also stated that the teacher explained in language that was difficult to understand, making it difficult for students to understand the material explained by the teacher. Ten students out of twenty students also stated that they were not given an approach or motivation when they felt bored while learning English. Students who feel bored will find it very difficult to understand the material taught by the teacher. Adequate learning facilities in schools also affect students' vocabulary mastery. Eighteen out of twenty students said that the school did not yet have an English lab. So, with the incomplete English learning facilities in schools, students will also have difficulty mastering vocabulary.

## CONCLUSION

There are two factors influencing students' vocabulary mastery, they are internal factors and external factors. The first is internal factors. Internal factors consist of two parts namely, students' self-confidence and motivation. Confidence

in their ability to learn English vocabulary is the main factor determining their vocabulary mastery. students must possess self-confidence to practice using their existing vocabulary with ease. In addition, students must also have high motivation so that they can encourage students to continue learning new vocabulary. The second factors are external factors. External factors consist of two parts namely, family and school environment. The family environment has an impact on the development of students' vocabulary mastery. Students' vocabulary mastery is also influenced by the school environment. Students will learn more vocabulary with the availability of learning facilities, interesting and creative teaching methods used by teachers in class.

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