

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Today, the most extensively used language in the world is English. English is one of the most widely used communication languages after Mandarin. This makes English a language needed by many people. English is also a language family in many fields such as science, health, astronomy, biology, etc. Thus, English is a necessity that must be owned by everyone, especially students. In learning English, students should have the following four skills when learning English: speaking, writing, listening, reading, and vocabulary mastery [1].

In Indonesia, learning English has many obstacles, one of which is the lack of mastery of Vocabulary[2]. Vocabulary mastery is still very lacking for students, one of which is students in junior high school. Many of them still have not mastered some basic vocabulary that they should have at their level. This is certainly a fairly complex problem in terms of learning. Vocabulary mastery is no less important factor than the four skills that students need in learning. Vocabulary is the initial capital for learning at a higher level, such as in learning a new language or foreign language, especially English. If someone learns a new language without recognizing vocabulary, they will have difficulty learning the new language[3].

Vocabulary mastery and reading are closely related. Vocabulary mastery serves as the bedrock of reading, exerting a significant influence on students' reading comprehension and language proficiency. Across all languages, vocabulary assumes a pivotal role, as it enables students to understand and communicate effectively. To excel in comprehension and communication, students must diligently develop their vocabulary skills. Moreover, proficiency in vocabulary serves as a crucial prerequisite for attaining other academic competencies, encompassing reading, speaking, listening, and writing. By mastering vocabulary, students gain the capacity to articulate their ideas and thoughts eloquently.

Activities for teaching and learning are not only carried out face-to-face but can be done through Zoom or long distance, Those activities that were previously carried out a traditionally in a more advanced way, course, with the help of technology. Educational progress result form of various factors, one of which is technology. Technology allows humans to work more easily, effectively, and efficiently[4]. Indeed, technology plays a crucial and indispensable role in virtually every field, with the field of education being no exception. The integration of technology in education has brought about significant advancements and transformations in the way knowledge is accessed, disseminated, and absorbed. Here are some key points highlighting the importance of technology in education:

1. **Access to Information:** Technology has made a vast repository of information easily accessible to students and educators alike. With just a few clicks, learners can explore a multitude of resources, ranging from online textbooks and scholarly articles to interactive learning platforms and educational videos.
2. **Enhanced Learning Experience:** Technology has revolutionized the learning process, providing interactive and engaging tools that cater to different learning styles. Virtual simulations, educational games, and multimedia presentations contribute to a more dynamic and immersive learning experience.
3. **Personalized Learning:** Adaptive learning technologies and artificial intelligence-driven platforms can assess students' strengths and weaknesses, enabling the delivery of personalized learning paths tailored to four skills
Currently, technology plays an active role, especially in English language learning.

Overall, technology has revolutionized the landscape of education, empowering learners and educators alike to explore new horizons and embrace innovative approaches to knowledge acquisition and skill development.

One approach that can be done when using technology with learning activities is the MALL (Mobile assisted language learning) method. MALL is a learning approach method that is introduced to assist foreign language learning activities through smartphone media [4]. MALL can also be defined as a medium of learning approach digitally. Then, MALL can facilitate students when learning without being constrained by time and place[5]. This can certainly help students in terms of learning. MALL is a manifestation of the advancement of technology engaged in education. Thus, through the MALL (mobile-assisted language learning) method students can develop in the academic field and not be limited by technology. Many things can be done with this method, of course with the help of applications that are currently developing. Many applications can be used by students to complement their learning and can be used anywhere and anytime.

Nowadays, the use of technology plays an active role, especially in English learning. One example is the "Duolingo App". Duolingo is a language application that can be accessed online and is available on mobile phones. According to [6], many benefits can be obtained from using this application, such as vocabulary acquisition, speaking, writing, and of course reading. The Duolingo application was born in 2012 and has survived until now and continues to develop for the better. This application is of course very helpful for students in learning, especially reading and mastering vocabulary. Duolingo is changing the world by giving free education in any language. Students can learn languages by accessing the web or directly using an application for free. Duolingo offers a number of languages to study, including Arabic, English, Spanish, French, Dutch, Korean, and others. The app has facilities such as a teacher forum where users can discuss topics or subjects to study and access the apps. [7]. It can measure students' achievements and enthusiasm with a fun look. Duolingo provides facilities such as images and sounds for learners to learn. Duolingo is abundant and easy for novice users to use the app in learning languages. This can certainly help learners in improving vocabulary mastery more easily.

Thus, the researcher wants to see how the impact of using Duolingo with the MALL method (Mobile assisted language learning) in improving students' vocabulary mastery. Whether the strategy can assist students or not in improving vocabulary mastery. The purpose of this explanation is that the researcher will use the experimental research titled **"The Impact Of Using Duolingo Through Mobile-Assisted Language Learning To Improve Vocabulary Mastery of Students In Junior High School.**

1.2 Problem of the Study

Based on the foregoing described above, the researcher focuses on improving students' mastery of vocabulary, so the problem formulations in this study are:

1. What is the impact of using Duolingo through Mobile Assisted Language learning on Vocabulary mastery in junior high school

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem above, this study aims to examine:

1. To find out the impact of using Duolingo through Mobile Assisted Language Learning on Vocabulary mastery in junior high school

1.4 The Significances of the Study

Some of the significance of the study and the researcher's hopes from this research include:

1. For Students
Motivate students to master a lot of vocabulary through digital applications.

2. For Teachers

This study can provide information to teachers about students' vocabulary development through digital applications. Teachers can also encourage their students to read more books, including books written in English. Thus, students' English skills, especially vocabulary mastery, will improve.

3. For further researcher

The study's findings will be valuable to other academics working on the same subject. If they want to perform additional studies on the same topic, this might be both a source of concern and a suggestion for future research.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

Researchers limit the focus to problems that can be in-depth. The problem limitation in this research is The impact of using Duolingo through mobile-assisted language learning to improve Vocabulary mastery of students in junior high school