

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, research question, purpose of the research, significance of the research, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Problem

Language is a system of symbols through which people communicate. It will be hard to imagine how we work, cooperate and contact each other without language and communication. The most important role in our life and our society is communication. We have to know how to share, how to express idea, how to make a good relationship, how to build a good work team, how to make connections with many people, how to become understood each other. Connection and communication will be easy if the receivers are truly understand about informations that are given by the sender or speaker. It is also useful to avoid misunderstanding.

Vocabulary always concerns with word. Vocabulary is the one of subject that is also needed to be learnt in English Department of Bung Hatta University. In vocabulary subject, the students learn many words and also the wordsforming by using affixes: prefix and suffix. Muslikh (2014: 6) states that vocabulary is defined as the word and its meaning are instructed as well as known by a person and it may be utilized to create the learning of foreign language or it is easy to be translated from one language to another language. According to Febriyansyah

(2015: 17), in order to express ideas in the language approximately, the students have to master a large number of words.

In English language teaching and learning, vocabulary is very important especially in reading comprehension. Vocabulary becomes a major component in developing grade level reading comprehension. Improving vocabulary mastery deals with derivation which grouped is word formation process. In vocabulary building, word formation becomes an important part because the students will get knowlegde creating new words like by using compounding, blending, clipping, acronyms, affixes, etc. Hamawand (2011: 9) says that word formation means the process of makingnew words. Xhina (2013: 273) states that a characteristic of all human language is the potential to create new words. Luthfiyati, Kholiq, and Zahroh (2017: 30) state that derivation is the process of word formation in creating of new English words. Derivation is achieved by adding affixes. It is an important role how learners understand, know, and remember English vocabulary.

The researcher has interviewed some of the third year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University on March 2th 2019 about affixation, specifically prefix and suffix. Based on the interview, the researcher has been informed that they got difficulties to remember and understand the word formation especially in affixation. According to Erisda (2017: 27), derivative means a word that result from the expansion of an affix to a root, and which contains a diverse meaning from the root. For example: 'replay', 'player', and 'playful, are derivatives of 'play'. Clark and Pointon (2016: 352) define that affix means an additional letter or group letters at the first or end words to change the

meaning of the word. In vocabulary, understanding affixation is an important part of learning vocabulary.

In word formation, many words are formed by derivational and inflectional process, it results noun formation, verb formation, adjective formation, and adverb formation. Noun formation is the noun mostly formed from verb by adding affixes. Verb formation is the verb which is mostly formed from adjective and noun by adding affixes. Adjective formation is the adjective that is formed from some noun by adding affixes. Adverb formation is the adverb which is mostly formed from noun. The affixes which is attached to create new word can be prefix or suffix.

Based on the explanation and the problems of the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University in English subject especially in understanding word having affixes of word formation, the researcher was interested in conducting a research entitled “The third year students’ ability in understanding word having affixes of word formation at the English Department of Bung Hatta University Padang”.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Vocabulary becomes one of the three important elements beside pronunciation and grammar. There are four skills in English; namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In reading comprehension, a rich vocabulary will help the students to understand the text. It is also helpful to develop their ideas in writing and speaking. In learning vocabulary, word formation is also needed to be learnt. It is because word formation play important roles in changing and making new words and also changing the meaning of the new word. Affixation is a one

type of word formation that often appears in learning vocabulary section. The common affixes that mostly appear are prefix and suffix. Prefix comes to the beginning of a word and suffix come to the end of the word. A word that has changed from the other word will have different meaning and different function. Based on the background of the problems explained above, the researcher finds some problems in affixation of word formation at third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University. Many students are still confused in interpreting the words formation. Putting or adding affixes: prefix or suffix is still difficult. They have difficulties about the changed function and the changed meaning of the new word from affixation.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The researcher limited her study to the students' ability in understanding word having affixes especially in prefix and suffix of word formation at English Department of Bung Hatta University. The researcher focused on the use of affixes of noun formation, verb formation, adjective formation, and adverb formation. In these four word formation, some students have problems in remembering, using, and changing a word that is formed from other word. Example, the students have problem in adding prefix and suffix to a word. The researcher used the thrid year students of English department as the source of data.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

In the line with the limitation of the problem above, the researcher formulates the problem as "How is the ability of third year students at English

Department of Bung Hatta University to understand word having affixes of word formation?”

1.5 Research Questions

Based on the Formulation of the problem, the researcher formulated the research questions as follows;

1. How is the ability of the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University to understand word having affixes in noun formation?
2. How is the ability of the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University to understand word having affixes in verb formation?
3. How is the ability of the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University to understand word having affixes in adjective formation?
4. How is the ability of the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University to understand word having affixes in adverb formation?

1.6 Purpose of the Research

Generally, the purpose of the research is to find out the students' ability to understand word having affixes of word formation. The specific purposes are as follows:

1. To find out the third year students' ability in understanding word having affixes in noun formation at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.

2. To find out the third year students' ability in understanding word having affixes in verb formation at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.
3. To find out the third year students' ability in understanding word having affixes in adjective formation at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.
4. To find out the third year students' ability in understanding word having affixes in adverb formation at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.

1.7 Significance of the Research

The researcher expects that this research gives benefit for the lecturers, the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University, and researcher.

1. For the lecturers

The result of this research gives information to the english teacher about students' ability in understanding word having affixes of word formation.

2. For third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University

The result of this research makes the students know about their vocabulary mastery in understanding word having affixes of word formation if they have low ability.

3. For further researcher

This research can add the knowlegde for the future researcher about this problem and result of the research can be used as reference and source of information.

1.8 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the researcher operationally defines the key words as follows:

1. Vocabulary is defined as word that has certain meaning.
2. Affix is an additional letter or group of letters at the first or end words in changing the meaning of the word.
3. Word formation means the process of making new words.
4. Derivative means a word that derives from adding affixesto a root.
5. Noun formation is the noun formed from verb by adding affixes.
6. Verb formation is the verb which is mostly formed from adjective and noun by adding affixes.
7. Adjective formation is the adjective that is formed from noun by adding affixes.
8. Adverb formation is the adverb formed from other word by adding affixes.