

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Vocabulary is a fundamental aspect of language learning, serving as a component that connects and enhances other essential skills, including speaking, listening, writing and reading. Vocabulary is the most important aspect of language acquisition that significantly impacts communication and comprehension. This opinion is supported by Hatch and Brown (1995), they said that "vocabulary is a basic or important part of building a language, playing a very basic role in communication". This means that the more vocabulary we have, the easier it is for us to speak and understand communication. In addition, Terasne and Hafiz (2022) stated that vocabulary is essential for learning English as it enhances key language skills like listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It significantly contributes to students' understanding and effective communication in their first and second languages.

In learning English vocabulary, many media can help teachers teach and develop students' vocabulary, such as songs, movies, flashcards, dolls, etc. According to Reftywati (2017) and Laksmi et al., (2021), as a learning media, songs are an engaging resource in the English classroom that generate positive energy and enhance students' motivation, making them more enthusiastic, interested, and joyful in their English learning. Furthermore, Wang (2013) said that English songs also bring energy to the classroom and boost students' confidence.

Numerous studies have been conducted on English songs as a vocabulary teaching method. Burhayani (2013), using the experimental method, revealed that using songs positively improved students' vocabulary. She considered that the improvement because the use of songs could make the students enjoy the learning process and assist them in the memory of new words. The next prominent study was conducted by Bawawa (2020), which was conducted on second-grade students at SMP Negeri 3 Merauke to investigate the use of songs in teaching English vocabulary. The results revealed that students' vocabulary mastery improved with the result scores of the pre-test and post-test. Students showed that the pretest value

was lower than the post-test value. The third study was conducted by Putri and Rustipa (2023), this study explored how songs can encourage students to learn vocabulary. The results showed that songs are an effective way to teach English vocabulary easily. Moreover, using songs to teach English vocabulary in the classroom can increase students' learning motivation during the lesson and students are able to easily remember and enhance their vocabulary.

Previous studies have paid attention to the benefits of using songs as a media in teaching vocabulary properly. However, little attention has been paid to the response of students during using songs as media in teaching vocabulary, especially to the lower secondary level. From the pre-observation in one of the lower secondary schools in Tasikmalaya, the researcher found a problem: many students have difficulty with vocabulary. Students face many difficulties with vocabulary when learning English, and their understanding of the material is lacking; they are not interested and feel bored when English lesson. Therefore, the researcher was inspired to conduct a descriptive case study to explore how song is used in teaching English vocabulary and also to investigate the students' responses during the use of song in teaching English vocabulary. The researcher believes that by conducting this study, English teachers in those lower secondary schools can solve students' problems in English lessons, and this strategy can be a reference.

1.2 Formulation of the Problem

The question of the research is “How is the song used in teaching English vocabulary?”

1.3 Operational Definitions

The researcher provides two definitions related to this study to avoid misunderstanding about the terms set out in this study:

1.3.1 Song

A song is a short piece of music with words that are sung. Songs provide authentic language and can be used in various ways in the classroom. In this study, the songs refer to children's songs that have changed lyrics according to the material to be taught.

1.3.2 Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to the set of words and phrases that a language user knows and uses. Vocabulary in this study relates to the teaching and learning English vocabulary process activities where the teacher demonstrates the vocabulary using songs.

1.4 Aim of the Study

This study aims to investigate how the song is used to teach English vocabulary to lower secondary school students.

1.5 Significance of the Study

1.5.1 Practical Significance

The present study contributes to the students with an overview of how the use of the song as media that teachers can apply to students in teaching vocabulary. It is hoped that this can be used as information or insight for readers, especially English teachers, in the context of teaching English. Moreover, the result of this study gives an overview of the benefits and drawbacks of the use of songs as media in teaching English vocabulary.