

## STUDENTS' STRATEGY IN LEARNING VOCABULARY

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### ABSTRACT

This research discussed in order to find out about the students' strategies in deriving vocabulary. The study was conducted to find out what strategies used or applied by the students' n learning vocabulary at SMK Immanuel Medan, to teach about vocabulary especially about tenses, and to know how important the dictionary for students when they learning vocabulary. The research was conducted at SMK Immanuel Medan. Descriptive qualitative research design was used in this research. The subject of this research were the students of SMK Immanuel Medan. The researchers took 24 students as the subject of research. In collecting the data for this research, the writer used open questionnaire as instrument for the research. The result of the research data showed that large number of language learners applied some strategies in learning vocabulary. Those strategies used were cognitive strategie, memories strategie, and metacognitive strategie.

***Key words: vocabulary, strategy***

### Introduction

Vocabulary is one of the parts of language set that must be comprehended by the second language learners. Vocabulary knowledge of a learner is many times considered as one of important set of tool for foreign language learners because a limited vocabulary they have in learning a second language make it as an obstacle in their communication. So in learning foreign language students should know about vocabularies. In learning vocabulary there are four strategies used. They are :

1. Memory strategy

This is the method used to improve student's ability to remember a learning and information. Some of these include memorization, and outlining important points.

2. Cognitive strategy

This strategy is usually used to measure students' learning abilities in their own way, whether they are able to learn in their own style in other words independent learning.

3. Metacognitive strategy

This strategy used to help students to understands the way they learn, a planned process that used to monitor their thinking.

4. Determination strategy

This strategy is applied when foreign learners in discovering the meaning of a number of new words but did not use the experience of the other persons.

Based on the elaboration stated previously, the writer would like to conduct a new investigation which focused on the students' strategies in learning vocabulary. In order to support the research, the researchers took some previous research. First a research conducted by Yaacob et al (2018) which discussed about vocabulary learning strategies through secondary students at Saudi School in Malaysia. The result of this research is that the students' at Saudi School applied five categories of vocabulary learning strategies in learning new vocabulary.

Second is Baskin (2017). The research discussed about the implementation of vocabulary achievement strategies of learning in teaching Turkish as a second language. The findings of the research is that the students' language rank were effective in deciding the vocabulary strategies the language learners applied. Students used determination strategies as dominant while applying cognitive strategies as the rest.

## **Research Method**

The type of this research descriptive qualitative design. It focused on the students strategies in learning vocabulary. It describes what strategies they use in learning vocabulary. In collecting the data, the researchers used some instruments. They are:

1. Interview

The researchers give some questions to the language learner about their strategies in studying vocabulary to achieve new knowledge.

2. Test

Test is question or drill used to know language learner's skill, intelligence and ability of students. The researchers give test to find out the data, the test consists of 15 items to answered.

In analyzing the data the researchers check the students answer sheet and then analyze the strategies in answering the question . In order to figure out the reason why the students used the strategies, the writer found out by conducting interview.

## **Results**

The present study investigates learners, Students' Strategies in Learning vocabulary in this reseach, researchers found 63 times used metacognitive strategy, 90 times used cognitive strategy, 45 times used determination strategy, 102 times used memory strategy. The most widely used strategy is memory strategy, and the least strategy that used is determination strategy.

From the interview sheet, it was also found the reason why the students used some strategies in learning vocabulary, they are:

1. They were familiar to these strategies
2. They found that one strategies is easier than another to apply
3. The teacher asked them to use a strategy

In an observation, the results of this study also found that large number of students at SMK Immanuel Medan experienced one form of problem in learning vocabulary or another at different various level of vocabulary learning in classroom. Beside the problem faced by the students of SMK Immanuel Medan , the study also found that most of the students involved in this study had the knowledge of the role of vocabulary learning albeit much of the vocabulary learning strategies they applied are at a moderate rank. In many other studies, the use of dictionary and guessing is found to be more frequently used by students.

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