


## VOCABULARY COMPLEXITIES FACED BY THE STUDENTS IN LEARNING ENGLISH OF EIGHTH GRADE AT SMP NEGERI 13 MAKASSAR

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Article history:</b> Received: April 12, 2022 Revised: April 14, 2022 Accepted: April 25, 2022 Published: July 15, 2022</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Vocabulary Complexities Faced English Learning</p>	<p>The Purpose of this study is to find out the vocabulary complexities faced by the students in learning English. In other words, researchers are trying to find out the factors that cause the vocabulary complexities faced by the students in learning English. The method used is descriptive qualitative method. This study was followed by 6 classes of eighth grade student junior high school 13 Makassar with a total of 18 students using interview research instruments. Based on the results, most of the students' main complexities were meaning, pronunciation, spelling, grammar, vocabulary memorization, similarity of vocabulary, and unfamiliar words. There are several factors that cause vocabulary complexity faced by the students in learning English, namely lack of word understanding, written forms with different spoken forms, students are lazy to memorize vocabulary, students are confused with similar vocabulary, and students are rarely read books.</p> <p><i>This is an open access article under the <a href="#">CC BY-SA</a> license.</i></p> 
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<p><b>Corresponding Author:</b> Rini Jumatri, English Education Department, Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar, 259 Sultan Alauddin Road, Makassar City, Rappocini 90221, Indonesia. Email: <a href="mailto:105351110917@unismuhmakassar.ac.id">105351110917@unismuhmakassar.ac.id</a></p>	

### INTRODUCTION

Vocabulary is a collection of words that are mastered by someone who is part of a particular language. The greater a person's vocabulary mastery of a particular language, the higher their understanding of the use of that language. In certain context, this vocabulary has even become a standard for assessing a person's level of intelligence and education level. Vocabulary is all words in a language, for example English vocabulary, Indonesian vocabulary, Mandarin vocabulary and others. According to (Hornby, 1995) explains that vocabulary is the total number of words in a language, all the words a list of words known to someone or used in specific books and topics and their meanings

Learning English vocabulary is an important part of learning language. The more words you know, the more you will be able to understand what you and read; and the better

you will be able to say what you want to when speaking or writing. The importance of learning English vocabulary to improve and develop students' language skills makes vocabulary learning increasingly urgent to be carried out more seriously and directed because there are still many students study English education they seem to have complexities in learning English vocabulary.

The goals of the learning English vocabulary is to know a lot of vocabulary so that students are skilled in speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Without vocabulary we can't communicate with each other and express our feelings. According to UR (1996) that vocabulary is one important things to be taught in learning a foreign language because it will be impossible to speak up without a variety of words.

The students complexity of the English vocabulary in learning English is also a problem for eighth grade students at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar. Rohmatillah, (2014) stated in her findings that the complexity of the largest English vocabulary by students was the pronounce of the words. In addition, the other types of complexity were found by (Mhd Ferdi Irvani, 2019), namely the complexity of students in spelling and grammar. Basically, this problem can be caused by many factors. Furthermore, (Rohmatillah, 2014) states that the factors is pronouncing the words because of the differences between spoken and written in English. But the cause of the English vocabulary complexities faced by the students of eighth grade at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar has not been found well. In addition, students do not have the media to express their complexity in English vocabulary. Therefore, researchers want to find out more about these problems through the research "Vocabulary Complexities faced by the students in learning English of eighth grade at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar"

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research study is descriptive qualitative method by using interview. This research is study aims to know vocabulary complexities faced by the students in learning English of eighth grade at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar and to know the factor that cause vocabulary complexities faced by students in learning English of eighth grade at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. The Vocabulary Complexities Faced by the Students in Learning English of Eighth Grade at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar

This research explains that English vocabulary complexities faced by the students in learning English of eighth grade at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar. According to Thornbury, there are some complexity in English vocabulary such as 1) Pronouncing, 2) Spelling, 3) Length and complexity, 4) grammatical of words, 5) Meaning of words, 6) Range, connotation and idiomaticity.

Reflecting on the result of the interviews related to this case, the researcher concluded that not all of these things proved to be a problem with English vocabulary complexity in learning English. This statement was strengthened and analyzed by the results of interviews with students of the eighth grade at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar. Based on the results of the study, there are seven English vocabulary complexities faced by the students in learning English, namely complexity in understanding the meaning of words, students not being able to pronounce English vocabulary properly and correctly, and students having complexity spelling the alphabet in English vocabulary, students are confused on grammar, students cannot memorize vocabulary, students are confused with similarity, and students do not know unfamiliar words. All of these problems have been analyzed as follows:

### 1) Meaning

Lack of vocabulary and complexity in understanding the meaning of words. Students have complexity in mastering vocabulary because they have less vocabulary knowledge so they do not understand the meaning of the vocabulary in English. When students want to answer questions in English books, they find a lot of students are asked to explain the answers to some questions they feel confused because they still do not understand the meaning of some words.

According Thornbury (2004), Meaning when two words overlap in meaning, the students are likely to confuse them. For example, make and do. Do you make breakfast and make an appointment, but you also do the housework and do a questionnaire.

### 2) Pronunciation

In pronouncing English words, the researcher found that the students in this school were less talented in language and had no interest in learning vocabulary. This shows that when the researcher interviewed them and the students said that one of their difficulties in vocabulary was pronunciation. Students also said that when they were bored learning English the students played games during the learning process. They are not interested in learning English.

According to Hewings (2004:3). The main complexity in learning pronunciation is that English and Indonesian have different ways of pronouncing words. In English one example word can be pronounced differently than another and also different sounds make different meanings. This makes students more confused in learning. Unlike the case with Indonesian, in Indonesian the words written in the way they are read remain the same and have no meaning anymore

According to Urai Salam and Nurnisa (2021) Pronunciation was not be able to separated with speaking skills, since pronunciation is one of the sub-skills of speaking. Therefore, pronunciation was viewed as one of the most crucial sub-skill to be mastered

### 3) Spelling

In spelling English vocabulary, the researcher found that the students did not know how to spell in English. Basic The complexity of students in learning to spell English words is due to a completely different way of reading words. One syllable has more than one way of pronunciation and vice versa in Indonesian. So, that's why students find it complex to learn English. This difference causes students to be confused with learning English. Students must know what a word sounds like (pronunciation) and what it looks like (spelled). In this case, students are in the category of the least serious in spelling.

In the previous study that was conducted by Nunik (2012), she found that students were in the least serious category in spelling. Students were taught by method, repeating the words and students will follow the teacher. It makes students bored in the learning process.

According to Thornbury (2004), Mismatches in sounds and spelling are common causes of errors in pronunciation and spelling, and they can add to the complex of a term. While most English spelling follows the rules.

#### 4) Grammar

Understanding grammar for some people is not an easy thing. Not a few also give up learning English because of the complexity of learning grammar. Learning grammar is a must when learning English. without mastering grammar, knowledge of English feels incomplete.

In English grammar, the researcher found that the students in this school lacked English grammar. This shows that when the researcher interviewed them and the students said that one of their difficulties in vocabulary was grammar. Students say they do not master tenses so students are confused when making sentences. If students know when to use the past tense, future tense, and present tense, students will find it easier to make English sentences and will better understand the placement of vocabulary in the sentence.

According to Thornbury (2004), Grammar also problematic is the grammar associated with the word, especially if this differs from that of its L1 equivalent. It might be difficult to remember if a verb like enjoy, love or hope is preceded by an infinitive (to swim) or a-ing form (swimming).

#### 5) Memorizing

Related to this case is that students have complexity in memorizing vocabulary. Students have problems memorizing vocabulary during the English learning process. Students cannot memorize a lot of vocabulary for a long time. When they try to memorize a large vocabulary, their head will get dizzy and hurt. This is because they never learn the vocabulary at home or use it in everyday life.

According to Cameron (2001), building a useful vocabulary is the essence of learning foreign languages at the elementary level. The learner's vocabulary provides a helpful perspective in foreign language learning in the classroom. From this term, it is clear that the vocabulary must be mastered by students.

6) Similarity

On the similarity of English vocabulary, the researcher found that students could not distinguish if there was a vocabulary that had almost the same meaning or pronunciation. The basic complexity of students in similarity is because students do not increase their vocabulary knowledge. If students do not increase their vocabulary knowledge, they will be confused when they find new and almost the same vocabulary.

7) Unfamiliar words

Vocabulary complexity faced by students in learning English of the eighth grade of SMP Negeri 13 Makassar is an unfamiliar word. Students listen to new vocabulary more often so students rarely hear foreign vocabulary. Lack of vocabulary knowledge in students, so if you get an English text, students don't understand what is in the text. Mastery of students' vocabulary must be improved so that students understand every existing vocabulary.

**2. Factors cause the Vocabulary Complexity Faced by the Students in Learning English of Eighth Grade at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar**

Based on the results of the study, there are seven factors cause English vocabulary complexities faced by the students in learning English, namely complexity in understanding the meaning of words, students not being able to pronounce English vocabulary properly and correctly, and students having complexity spelling the alphabet in English vocabulary, students are confused on grammar, students cannot memorize vocabulary, students are confused with similarity, and students do not know unfamiliar words. All of these problems have been analyzed as follows:

1) Meaning

One of the vocabulary complexities faced by the students in learning English of eighth grade at SMP 13 Negeri Makassar is meaning. The complexity of the vocabulary faced by the students in meaning causes the students not to master English, so students do not understand the meaning of the English vocabulary. The lack of students mastering English vocabulary so that students will not understand English learning. They often ask the teacher so that their English vocabulary is not improved. Without knowing a lot of English vocabulary, it will make them complex for students to understand the content of English material. English vocabulary is also an important skill for learning to read, speak, listen, and write. Without sufficient English vocabulary, students cannot communicate and express their feelings in both oral and written forms effectively. Students must be more active in mastering English learning so that they are not constrained when understanding the meaning of vocabulary when learning English.

2) Pronunciation

The complexity of the vocabulary faced by students in pronunciation causes students not to know how to pronounce vocabulary in English. When the student does not understand how to pronounce English vocabulary, they usually just say how to pronounce it. Students must pronounce English vocabulary more often so that the pronunciation is better and more correct.

Enjoy learning to listen and pronounce English vocabulary more often so that students will become more fluent. If these students learn student learning, they will be confused when pronouncing vocabulary or when speaking English.

The important thing that becomes the problem is the lack of students' attention because they do not understand what their teacher is saying. They are less interested in learning English vocabulary because of the difference in the way is spoken and written so they do not how to pronounce it. And students are nervous when they want to pronounce English vocabulary.

### 3) Spelling

The complexity of the vocabulary faced by students in spelling causes students not to know the English alphabet. Because students are not taught by the teacher how to spell properly and correctly. To master English writing, students must know good spelling and correct English writing. The problem is that students' attention to learning English is lacking. The student do not master the English alphabet so when asked by the teacher to spell English vocabulary the student is confused.

### 4) Grammar

Learning grammar cannot be separated from learning a foreign language. In fact, learning a foreign language becomes complex because the target language has a different system from the mother tongue. Someone who learns a foreign language often experiences problems when using his mother tongue or the structure of their first language in a foreign language structure that is different from their mother tongue.

The complexity of the vocabulary faced by students in grammar causes students to be confused in arranging a sentence grammar. Students cannot distinguish past tense, present tense, and future tense. So that students do not know how to write good and correct sentences. Participant.

### 5) Memorizing

The complexity of the vocabulary faced by students in memorizing causes students to lack mastery of English vocabulary because there are many vocabularies that must be memorized by students. If students do not master English vocabulary, students will be constrained in speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Therefore, students must be diligent in memorizing vocabulary because vocabulary is the main key to mastering English.

## 6) Similarity

The complexity of the vocabulary faced by students in similarity causes students to be confused when there is a vocabulary that has the same meaning or the way it is pronounced the same. When students are bored, they usually students use cell phones, if students always use cell phones when studying, they will be left behind in learning English.

## 7) Unfamiliar words

The complexity of the vocabulary faced by students in unfamiliar word causes students to only know the daily vocabulary. Students who usually only listen to daily vocabulary will cause students to be confused when they know the foreign vocabulary. If students read a lot of books or listen to an English vocabulary it will increase their vocabulary and students will not only know daily vocabulary.

## CONCLUSION

Based on data analysis and discussion in the previous chapter, the researcher can conclude as follows:

There are several vocabulary complexities faced by the students in learning English of the eighth grade at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar. They have complexity in understanding the meaning of words, students have complexity in pronouncing English vocabulary and students have complex in spelling alphabet, they have complexity in grammar, they have complexity in memorizing, they have complexity in similarity and students have complexity in unfamiliar words.

There are several factors that cause English vocabulary complexities faced by the students in learning English of eighth grade at SMP Negeri 13 Makassar. These factors are students who never studied the material, their lack of English vocabulary. So that they do not understand when the teacher or other people speak English, students do not know how to pronounce English vocabulary because the pronunciation is different from the writing, students do not master the English alphabet, students do not master tenses, they can't memorize a lot of vocabulary, they can't differentiate when there are almost the same words, students get confused when they hear unfamiliar words

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