

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the research, scope of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research and significance of the research.

A. Background of the Research

Vocabulary is one important aspect in learning a foreign language such as English. It can determine how master learners to speak the language with it. In learning a language, vocabulary plays important role in language learning. Vocabulary is also an essential skill for learning to read, speak, write and listen. Without sufficient vocabulary, people cannot communicate and express their feeling both in form of spoken and written English effectively. The more people master vocabulary the more they can speak, write, read and listen as they want.

Wilkins in Thornbury (2002: 13) states that without grammar very little can be conveyed without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. It means that even someone has good grammar but it will be useless if they do not know many vocabularies. In addition, it is supported by Ur (2009: 60) that vocabulary is one of important things to be taught in learning foreign language because it will be impossible to speak up without variety of words. Those statements imply the importance of teaching vocabulary as a foreign language. Vocabulary is very important to improve students' English skill. By

having more vocabulary will make easier student to speak, write, read and listen. Without a proportional amount of vocabulary the learners will get trouble in them.

Vocabulary has important relationship among those English skills. One of them is writing. Based on Muslikh (2014: ii), writing skill and vocabulary has a very closed relationship. It can show by the research result is shown by the coefficient correlation (r_{xy}) is 0.66. It indicates that there is a high relationship between the students' vocabulary and their writing ability. He also adds that the students who have higher size of vocabulary may learn and practice to write English well. It can conclude that having more vocabulary will make easier to an English text for the students.

By having more vocabulary also can make students more various in writing a text, such as descriptive text. There are some kinds of vocabulary that commonly use in writing a text Such as verb, noun, adjective and adverb. Verb is a word or group of words that expresses an action, an event, or a state, for example, eat, happen and exist. Noun is a word that refers to a person, a place, or a thing, such as doctor, city, and plant. Adjective is a word that describes a person or thing, for example beautiful, clever. Adverb is a word that adds more information about place, time, manner, cause or degree to a verb, an adjective, a phrase or to another adverb, such as speaks loudly, very quickly.

However, students still get difficulty in choosing a correct word to use in their writing, a correct grammar based on the function of the words, writing

the correct spelling and difficult to develop their ideas in writing because they only have some vocabulary, therefore their writing do not have various vocabulary on it. These statements also supported by Fitri (2017: 2) who said that the students get some difficulties in writing an English text such as, using the correct grammar, choosing the correct words and writing the correct spelling of the words. She also adds that the students who have lack of vocabulary will confuse to develop their ideas in writing a text.

The statements above indicate that having enough vocabulary is important in order to be able to write in English correctly, therefore investigating students' vocabulary in their writing is necessary to be done. Because all of the reasons the researcher entitle "*Investigating Students' Vocabulary in Writing Descriptive Text at English Language Education Study Program of Khairun University*"

B. Scope of the Research

This research is conducted to identify and investigate the use of content word and function word in students' writing descriptive text at English Language Study Program of Khairun University.

C. Research Questions

Do the students use correct vocabulary of content words and function words in writing descriptive text?

D. Objectives of the Research

To know that students use correct vocabulary of content words and function words in writing descriptive text.

E. Significance of the Research

This section discusses two significances regarding theoretical significance and practical significance.

1. Theoretical Significance

The results of this research are expected to contribute to the existing body of knowledge concerning the theories of vocabulary, kinds of vocabulary and the theories of descriptive text.

2. Practical Significance

The results of this research are expected to be useful for teachers and lecturers, to add their knowledge and to improve their way of teaching English to students, help students in improving their English vocabulary and also for the next researcher can develop more about this research.