

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher explains why this research was conducted. This is discussed through several sub-chapters including a background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Learning vocabulary is a basic component of learning English. Knowing more vocabulary can help us become skilled in English, such as listening, reading, writing, and speaking anything in English. According to Dian et al., (2021) expressed vocabulary is very important for students to learn, because knowing various kinds of English vocabulary will make it easier for them to able to read, write, and speak English. This shows that it is very important for student to be able to master vocabulary so that their English skills improve. This is also evidenced by the statement from (Faliyanti, 2015) states that mastering vocabulary is very important.

For students, mastery of vocabulary is not easy. Many problems are found when students learn vocabulary, such as students still need help remembering unfamiliar words they have hear or read in the text, they have difficulty understanding the meaning of unfamiliar words, they do not know the meaning when the teacher explains the material in English, they did not know how to recognize spelling a word and finding the meaning of vocabulary based on the text. The students felt bored or uninterested when the teacher only delivers the material using conventional teaching, in which the students only used the textbook as their guidance. These problems arise because when learning vocabulary in class, teachers still use media that are less attractive and not innovative (Trianasari, 2017).

Therefore, regarding these problems the English teacher needs an alternative teaching technique that is more innovative, fun and involves students in teaching vocabulary in the classroom. Social media can be used as a source of innovative learning to support students' self-learning because currently, social media became popular

in all circles of society including students. One of the media that can be used is Instagram. Instagram can be used as an alternative media especially to improve students' vocabulary mastery (Rokhmawati & Mastuti, 2019). Moreover, Ramdhany, (2017) said that consciously or unconsciously students can understand a variety of vocabulary from the habits they do. He also stated that students can be able to learn vocabulary with read an Instagram post, updating status, or posting photos and videos through Instagram. In addition, on Instagram there are many content creators who provide special content to teach vocabulary to students. Many students today are interested in learning vocabulary through these content creator accounts. An example of a content creator account sharing English vocabulary such as Aarons English, Guruku Mr. Dannis, Kampung Inggris LC etc.

However, there are still few researchers who focus on researching the use of Instagram in teaching students' vocabulary. For example in a study conducted by Sallamah and As Sabiq, (2020) which revealed that Instagram as a media can affect students' writing skills on recount text. In addition, research conducted by (Putri et al., 2021) focused more on the use of Instagram in improving students reading skills. Therefore, the main purpose of this research is to find out whether the use of Instagram can enhance students' vocabulary skills through one of the educational creative content creators, especially those who share content regarding vocabulary discussions in English, namely Aarons.english.

Aarons.english is Aaron O'Brien's Instagram account. He is a native speaker from Melbourne, Australia. He has long since moved from Australia to Indonesia to become an English tutor. Currently, Aaron has around 800 thousand followers on his Instagram account named Aarons.english. He is an influencer who focuses on teaching English to his followers. Aaron's journey to become a teacher began when he moved from Australia to Indonesia. At that time, Aaron was looking for new experiences by joining as an English tutor at several learning institutions in Indonesia. By utilizing his social media, Aaron is currently active as an English tutor for content via Instagram. Aaron English learning content is also very short, concise, and clear to learn. The content he creates mostly shares about English vocabulary, English slang related to Indonesian terms. He shared about vocabulary

related to Indonesian slang, common mistakes, and some tips to increase students' speaking skills.

The reason researcher use the Aarons.english Instagram account as a research media for teaching vocabulary to students is because there are still few researchers who research using this Aarons.english Instagram account.

B. The Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulated the problem in this research as follows:

1. What are EFL students' perception toward the use of Aarons.english Instagram account as media of learning vocabulary?
2. What are the benefits that students get besides learning vocabulary from Aarons.english Instagram account?

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of this research was to find out the students' perception on the use of social media such as Instagram whether it can attract students' interest in learning vocabulary.

D. Significance of the Study

Based on the problem statements already been named previously, the outcomes of this research are expected to be useful for teacher, students, and researcher.

1. For Teacher

The result of the study could be a consideration for the teacher to use Instagram as an alternative media to be implemented in the teaching and learning process so that students' vocabulary becomes better.

2. For Students

By using Instagram as a media, it could be used as motivation to make the students more interested in learning English and improve their vocabulary mastery and understanding of the material that teaches by the teacher, and also can make students

more active in teaching and learning process so the class can more alive.

3. For Researcher

The results of this study can help researchers to learn more about the use of Instagram in students' vocabulary, and it can also be used as a reference for future researcher in teaching vocabulary.

E. Scope and Limitation

In this case, the researcher focuses on the discussion vocabulary learning using the Instagram account Aarons.english for 9th grade junior high school students at SMP PGRI 1 Buduran Sidoarjo.

F. Definition of Terms

In this section, the researcher will briefly describes the definition of terms from Instagram, teaching media, and vocabulary.

1. Instagram

Instagram is one of the most popular social media lately, there are many features on Instagram including sharing photos, videos, Instagram stories, live in instagram to all followers of the account owner, direct messaging and also this platform can connect to other social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter if the user allows (Feroza & Misnawati, 2020).

2. Teaching Media

Teaching media are tools, methods, and techniques used to streamline communication and interaction between teachers and students in order to create a conducive learning environment and can carry out the learning process efficiently and effectively (Hamalik cited in Veygid et al., 2020).

3. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a collection of words that everyone knows or uses, all words in a word language, list of words with meaning (Alfu et al., 2021).