

## **THE ANALYSIS OF FACTORS INFLUENCING THE STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN LEARNING ENGLISH VOCABULARY AT VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL 2 TOLITOLI**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The students of SMKN 2 Tolitoli have some problems such as lacking understanding and limiting vocabulary used in constructing sentence. The objective of this research was to find out the factors influencing the students' difficulties in learning English vocabulary at vocational high school 2 Tolitoli. This study focused on four main indicators. The results of this research are Pronunciation difficulty leads to miscommunication and reduce students' confidence and motivation to speak English. Spelling issues hinder students' ability to remember and accurately use new words, though consistent practice helps improve their skills. Meaning, challenges arise when students fail to grasp word definitions, particularly when dealing with similar meaning, causing confusion and hesitation in using the vocabulary. The length and complex of words overwhelm students, slowing their learning process and often resulting in frustration and loss interest. These factors collectively impact the students' ability to effectively learn and retain English vocabulary.

**keywords:** factors influencing, Students difficulties, Learning English Vocabulary

### **INTRODUCTION**

English is one of the most widely spoken language used by people since it is agreed as an international language. English has unique or special characteristics that differentiate it from other languages. an important component of language learning and teaching is vocabulary. According to Richards and Renandya (2002), Vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis for how learners speak, listen, read and write. It influences four English skill they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing for getting a good result in English. Without Vocabulary, we cannot communicate effectively. So, the first step to learn English is learning vocabulary. It is important to teach vocabulary for students because it gives students the ability to say what they read, supports students' ability to grasp ideas and helps

students memorizing new words in English. In line with idea above, Richards and Schmidt (2010).

Memorizing vocabulary in English is very important to easy communication with other or in teaching and learning process. As many learners do not develop sufficient mastery of the vocabulary, explicit instruction of memory strategies and giving strategy awareness can facilitate them to store and retrieve new vocabulary items.

Based on pre observations made at vocational high school, students felt problems where students felt learning English was difficult, boring because they did not have a large vocabulary. Students did not understand the lesson because they had limited vocabulary that they would use in constructing sentences, and for parts others. The researchers want to conduct research to find out what the factors influencing difficulties they experience.

The objective of this research is to find out the factors influencing the student's difficulties in learning english vocabulary. In the second grade at vocational high school 2 Tolitoli.

## **METHOD OF THE RESEARCH**

The researcher would use qualitative research as a methodology. This is because researcher analyze the data descriptively and present the results in the form of word explanations. qualitative research is a method that has the aim of describing using facts related between interpretation and data, not only to seek truth but also to seek observational understanding.

## **FINDING**

The researcher classified the findings into several points consisting of difficulties faced by students and factors causing students difficulties in learning English vocabulary. The Students' difficulties in data collection process was conducted on 25 July 2024. The researcher also interviewed to find out factors causing students difficulties in learning English vocabulary. The participant of this study was limited to XI students at vocational high school 2 Toli-Toli.

### **1. Pronunciation**

The research results of pronunciation difficulties are a significant factor that influences students' confidence in learning English vocabulary. These challenges can cause fear, frustration, and avoidance behaviors, which hinder their willingness to practice speaking using and words. The inability to pronunciation words properly often leads to a cycle where students avoid using the word, leading to lack of reinforcement and eventually forgetting the vocabulary. addressing these pronunciation issues through targeted practice and supportive

feedback could help build students' confidence and improve their overall proficiency in English vocabulary.

## **2. Spelling**

The research result can be concluded that spelling errors significantly affect students' understanding of the meaning of word in a text. Students feel confused and often misinterpret the meaning of words when they spell them incorrectly. To overcome these difficulties, students use various strategies such as rewriting difficult words, using dictionaries, or applications to assist with spelling they also emphasize the importance of regular spelling practice, which not only helps them remember and understand new vocabulary but also boosts their confidence when writing complex words in English.

## **3. Meaning**

It can be concluded that the most students have difficulty using words whose meaning they do not understand. However, they agreed that context was very helpful in understanding, because by looking at the use of words in they could guess or understand the meaning of the sentence better. In addition, to understand the differences in meaning between similar words, students tend to look for definitions, and relevant synonyms.

## **4. Length and complexity**

Based on the students' responses in this study, it can be conducted that long and complex words significantly impact their learning difficulties. The following key points emerged from the analysis: 1. Long and complex words slow down comprehension: Most students reported that they require more time to understand long and complex words, which slows down the learning process and makes it more exhausting. 2. Difficulty in understanding and remembering: Students face greater challenges in understanding and remembering long and complex words compared to shorter ones. This often leads them to feel overwhelmed and lose motivation to learn. 3. Impact on learning motivation: Difficult and length words also contribute to a decline in students' motivation to learn. they tend to feel frustrated, stressed, and less interested in studying these words when they encounter significant difficulties in pronunciation or comprehension. 4. Coping strategies used: some students attempt to overcome these challenges by breaking down long words into smaller parts or syllables, which makes it easier for them to memorize and understand these words.

Overall, this study highlights that the length and complexity of English words are significant factors contributing to students' learning difficulties, requiring special attention in the teaching process

## **DISCUSSION**

First, Students' responses reflect a significant impact of pronunciation on their vocabulary learning process. Most students mentioned that incorrect pronunciation often leads to misunderstanding the meaning of words. They also noted that difficulty in pronouncing new word decreases their willingness to use or learn those words. The fear of mispronunciation, and consequently being ridiculed, lowers their confidence in speaking English, especially in public or classroom settings. These findings highlight that pronunciation errors not only affect comprehension but also influence students' motivation and confidence in using English.

Second, Spelling errors were reported to have a direct impact on students' ability to grasp meaning of words. Students indicated that correct spelling is closely tied to their ability to learn and remember new vocabulary efficiently. Challenges with complex spellings often require students to repeatedly write the words, use tools like dictionary or apps, and engage in consistent spelling practice improves students' confidence and mastery over difficult words, suggesting that focus on spelling accuracy could enhance overall vocabulary acquisition.

Understanding the meaning of words proved to be a crucial factor in vocabulary retention and usage. Students expressed that if they do not grasp the meaning of a word, they struggle to use it correctly in conversations. Contextual clues, such as sentence usage or accompanying images, play a significant role in helping students decipher meaning. However, when students encounter words with similar meanings, they often face confusion and require additional strategies like comparing definitions, using synonyms, or seeking visual aids to differentiate between them. This emphasizes the need for a contextualized approach to teaching vocabulary to improve comprehension.

The length and complexity of words pose significant challenges for students. Long and complex words tend to overwhelm them, slowing down their learning process and making it difficult for them to retain the vocabulary. Students reported that breaking down longer words into smaller, manageable parts help with memorization. Nonetheless, simpler words are more easily learned and retained, whereas complex words are more easily learned and retained, whereas complex words often lead to frustration and demotivation. This suggest that teaching strategies should focus on simplifying complex vocabulary to make it more approachable for students.

## **CONCLUSION**

This research aimed to analyze the factors influencing students' difficulties in learning English vocabulary at a vocational high school. The study focused on four main indicators: Pronunciation difficulty leads to miscommunication and reduce

students' confidence and motivation to speak English. Spelling issues hinder students' ability to remember and accurately use new words, though consistent practice helps improve their skills. Meaning, challenges arise when students fail to grasp word definitions, particularly when dealing with similar meaning, causing confusion and hesitation in using the vocabulary. And length and complex of words overwhelm students, slowing their learning process and often resulting in frustration and loss interest. These factors collectively impact students' ability to effectively learn and retain English vocabulary.

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