

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Language is very important for humans. Without language, people cannot communicate with each other. According to Roberts(1986), This means that language is a basic and essential part of human life. If someone can master a foreign language, they will be able to communicate well. Language is used to express thoughts and feelings. To communicate well in a foreign language, students need to know enough vocabulary and understand how to use it correctly. Vocabulary is one of the most important parts of English.

Vocabulary is the core part of language skills and it greatly affects how well someone can speak, listen, read, and write. Without enough vocabulary and strategies to learn new words, students may not reach their full potential and may lose interest in learning English. Richards & Renandya (2008).

Based on the explanation above, the writer uses crossword puzzles to teach English vocabulary to 8 th-grade students at SMP Negeri 1 2 x 11 Enam Lingkungan Padang Pariaman. This study is expected to contribute to the use of crossword puzzles as an alternative technique in teaching vocabulary.

Therefore, this study measures students' vocabulary mastery through their ability to identify nouns, verbs, and adjectives in simple contextual texts using multiple-choice questions. This approach helps students understand vocabulary meaning and function in real situations

Based on this background, the writer chooses the title: The Effect of Using Crossword puzzles on Students' English Vocabulary Mastery at the Eighth grade of SMP Negeri 1 2 x 11 Enam Lingkung Padang Pariaman.

B. Identification Of The Problem

1. Students have limited English vocabulary, which affects their ability to understand and express ideas.
2. Traditional vocabulary learning methods often make students feel bored and unmotivated
3. There is a need for more engaging and effective activities to improve students' vocabulary.

C. Limitation of the Problem

This research focuses on the effect of using crossword puzzle on students' English vocabulary mastery. The study is limited to Eighth-grade students at SMP Negeri 1 2 x 11 Enam Lingkung Padang Pariaman. This study focuses on vocabulary mastery, especially nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Other language components such as grammar, pronunciation, reading, and writing are not included in this research.

D. Research Question

The research question for this study is: " Is there a significant difference in vocabulary mastery between students taught using crossword puzzles and those taught using conventional methods at the eighth grade of SMP Negeri 1 2 x 11 Enam Lingkung Padang Pariaman?

E. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to find out whether the use of crossword puzzle games has an effect on students' English vocabulary mastery, especially for Eight-grade students at SMP Negeri 1 2 x 11 Enam Lingkung Padang Pariaman.

F. Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to be useful for teachers, students, and future researchers, both in theory and in practice.

G. Theoretical Significance

This research is expected to give new ideas about learning vocabulary using word games like crossword puzzles. It can also be used as a reference or guide for future studies on the same topic.

1. Practical Significance

a. For Students

It is hoped that this method will help students improve their vocabulary. Learning through games can make students feel relaxed and enjoy learning. This can make it easier for them to remember new words.

b. For Teachers

This research aims to improve teachers' strategies in teaching English vocabulary and contribute to the development of more effective and engaging materials. It is hoped that the findings will inspire educators to apply innovative methods that boost students' interest and motivation in learning vocabulary.

c. For researchers

This study can be a useful reference for future research, encouraging deeper exploration of vocabulary teaching methods and supporting the ongoing development of English language education.

