

# Improving Vocabulary Mastery Using Vocabulary Builder Application on the Second Semester Students' at Universitas Bhinneka PGRI

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## ABSTRACT

It has been known that learning vocabulary is not easy. It needs long time to master vocabulary. Reality shows that if word is provided in the context, learning more concrete and faster because student has an understanding of whole. So, students will understand more easily in learning vocabulary if the context is associated with a child's world, so they can easily put into practice or to communicate. Many students have to master the vocabulary skills to improve their skills in English. The design of this research was classroom action research with cycle model since this research is planned to improve the students' Vocabulary mastery at the second semester of Universitas Bhinneka PGRI using Vocabulary Builder Application. According to the result of Test Cycle I was done in cycle I, it was found that the students who could reach the passing grade were 17 students (81%) and 4 students (19%) were failed. The criteria of success which had been determined was 80% of the students and the standard value was 85. So, the action in cycle 1 was successful.

**Keywords:** vocabulary builder application, vocabulary learning, classroom action research

## A. Background of the Study

Language serves as a means of communication between members of the public. The function is used in a variety of environments, level, and interests are diverse. Everyone wants to communicate with other people in the world. However, the language of each country may be different. To solve the problem, it is necessary to make international language such as English, Arabic, Mandarin, etc.

English is international language in every part of life in the world. Science, news, theory, philosophy and many others can be learned from other countries. English is still considered one of the most important school subject and therefore, beginning teachers can find the responsibility of teaching it both exciting and challenging. It is described as the most important of all school subject, principally because reading, writing, speaking and listening are needed to a greater or lesser degree in every schools subject.

Vocabulary is one of the language elements that is important to be taught. First, Vocabulary is foundation of learning language. In learning language students must master the

vocabulary to know the meaning of the new words. Without knowing the meaning of the words, it is impossible for them to understand the language. So improving students' vocabulary knowledge has become an educational priority. Second, vocabulary is supporting element in mastering four communicative skills ( speaking, listening, reading, and writing). Without the basic vocabulary mastery, there is difficulty to develop the communicative skills. For example, if students only have limited knowledge of vocabulary in writing skill, they will break down in creating the sentences. So by having vocabulary mastery, students can improve their ability in communicative English skills.

Considering the background of the study above, the problem of the research is formulated as follows : "How can Vocabulary Builder Application improve the students' English Vocabulary Mastery at the Second Semester Students' At Universitas Bhinneka PGRI in the academic year of 2022/2023".

In relation to the research problem, the objective of the study is to improve the students' Vocabulary Mastery at Second Semester at Universitas Bhinneka PGRI in the academic year of 2022/2023 through Currency Converter Plus Application.

The result of the research is expected to give contribution for the students, the English teacher, and the future researchers. For the students it is expected to assist them to improve their English For Banking Material. So, they never get difficulty to study English in the higher level. For the English lecturer the finding of the research offers the new technique to the teachers in teaching English For Banking Material. For Future researchers the finding of this research can be used for the next research as a reference.

## **B. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATUR**

### **1. Definition of Vocabulary**

In some literatures, the researcher found the meaning of vocabulary. There are some definitions of vocabulary. According to Oxford Dictionary (2008), vocabulary is all the words that a person knows or uses, all the words in a language, and list of words with their meanings. Vocabulary is an important aspect of language learning and no language exists without any words (Fardhani, 2005: 3). We can understand about English sentence if we know the meaning of words. It means that vocabulary is important to know, learn, and used. Without having a good vocabulary, they cannot make meaningful sentences in communication.

### **2. Teaching Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is an very important part of learning English (Flower, 2002: 5). It supports and develops the four English language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). The students must learn and master the English vocabulary.

According to Richard (2006), there are many techniques for teaching vocabulary, those are: illustration, mime, synonym, definition, context, and translation.

### **3. Vocabulary Builder**

Vocabulary Builder App helps you to learn English Vocabulary in effective way. Vocabulary Builder App is an off line application you can learn English words without Internet connection.

This Vocabulary app makes learning super easy. Vocabulary App has multiple tests on English Grammar like Common Errors and Sentence improvement. Bookmark difficult questions using Vocabulary App so you can refer them easily afterwards.

English Vocabulary App offline has flashcards this will be very helpful in your Study. Start learning English words and English Grammar now using this simple and beautiful Vocabulary Builder app.

## 1. RESEARCH METHOD

### Research Design

The design of this research is a classroom action research with cycle model since this research is planned to improve the students' Vocabulary Mastery at the second semester of Universitas Bhinneka PGRI using Vocabulary Builder Application. Action research is a form of collective self-reflective enquiry undertaken by participants in social situations in order to improve the rationality and justice of their own social or educational practices, as well as their understanding of those practices and the situations in which the practices are carried out (Carr and Kemmis 1988: 5-6 in Smith, 2007).

The researcher takes the model of an action research proposed by Kemmis and Targert in which each cycle consists of four steps. Those four main steps are preceded by preliminary study. Waters – Adams (2004) states, “ For a start, you will probably not start with planning; there may be much monitoring and observation of existing practice (reconnaissance) before you are ready to plan and implement a change”. The spirals of action can be seen below;

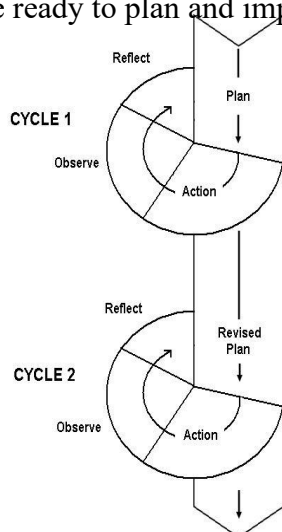


Figure 3.1 Action Research Procedure (adapted from Maclsaac, 1995 (in O'Brien, 1998))

### Research Procedures

In this session, the researcher describes preliminary study, planning, implementing, observing, reflecting and data analysis. Planning consist of preparation of the strategy, preparation of the lesson design, research instruments and criteria of success.

The criteria are set up in order to judge whether the implementation of the action is effective or not (Mc Niff, at.al. 1996:93). Thus, the criteria are used to see whether the implementation of game in teaching the English For Banking Material successful or failed in

order to decide whether another cycle of the action is needed or not. There are criteria used in this research to measure the success of the action:

- a. All of 80% students reached the reading test score above 85 (minimum mastery learning score) in 0-100 scale
- b. The students are actively involved during the teaching and learning process.

The criteria are identified and analyzed based on the result from the preliminary study.

Data analysis is an important aspect in action research. Data analysis is the process of looking at and summarizing data with the intent to extract useful information and develop conclusions (Wikipedia, 2008).

The researcher uses statistical analysis method to analyze the data. She uses Guttman Scale to analyze questionnaire's answers. "Yes" answer scored 1 and "No" answer scored 0 (Riduwan, 2005:17). She analyzes in every item. She finds the percentage of score by using the formula as follows:

$$\%S = \frac{1xY}{1xN} X100\%$$

% S = percentage of score

Y = number of students who answer "Yes"

N = total of students

Then she compares the percentage with the criteria of interpretation score. It is shown as follows:

0% - 20% is very weak

21% - 40% is weak

41% - 60% is average

61% - 80% is strong

81% - 100% is very strong

To analyze the result of test, the researcher uses the formula of the percentage of success. The formula is:

$$\% X = \frac{X_1}{N} x100\% \text{ (Agustina, 1999:32)}$$

% X = percentage of success

$X_1$  = number of students who passed the test

N = total of the students

## E. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

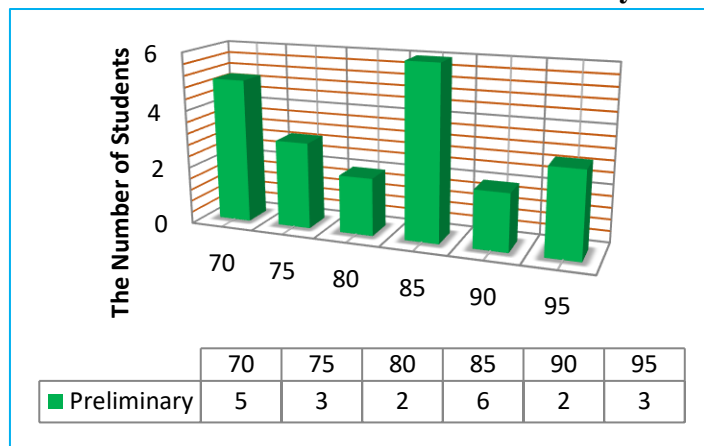
### 4.1 Research Finding

In this preliminary study, the researcher observed the teaching and learning process and interview and giving questionnaire to collect the data. Based on the interview to the researcher, the students got some problems in Vocabulary Mastery. Most of the students said that learning English For Vocabulary mastery was difficult. They were difficult to understanding idiom . The English became the most difficult subject. In addition, the researcher giving questionnaire to the students to get some information, the researcher concluded that the students felt troubled in teaching and learning process. They had not motivation in learning Vocabulary mastery.

Most of them had negative response in learning English Vocabulary Mastery. As the result, they had low motivation and the class became bored.

**Graphic 4.1**

**The Result of Students' Score in Preliminary Test**



Based on the table, it was found that students' mean score of preliminary tests was 81 and the students who could reach the criteria of success were 11 students (52%) and 10 students (48%) were failed.

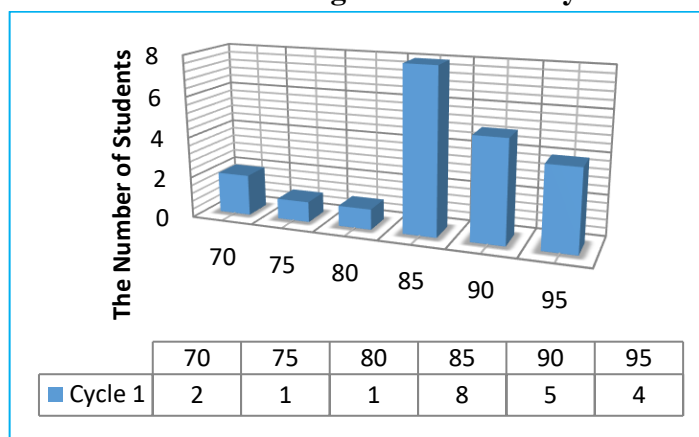
#### Cycle I

The researcher practices the method. In the main activity, the researcher explained about multiple meaning. Then the researcher explained the students about Vocabulary Builder Application. It contained the rules and implementation of the method. After explaining the material, the researcher asked the students to get pair-work with their friends. After the students got their pairs, the researcher gave some instruction about implementation about Vocabulary Builder Application. Then the researcher asked the students whether they were ready or not to practice this application. After students were ready, the researcher started the method. The researcher gave some question and then students answered the question. After finishing the practice, the method the researcher and students discussed the students' work together.

In the post activity, the researcher checked the students' understanding about material of the topic. The researcher asked the difficulties about the material. After that, the researcher concluded the material that had explained. Finally, the researcher closed the teaching and learning process in first meeting.

At the second meeting, the researcher conducted tests on students. where the students took a test of 30 questions that were worked on for one hour. after students finish doing the test, the researcher will retrieve data from the student's test results.

**Graphic 4.2**  
**The Students' Reading Test Score in Cycle I**

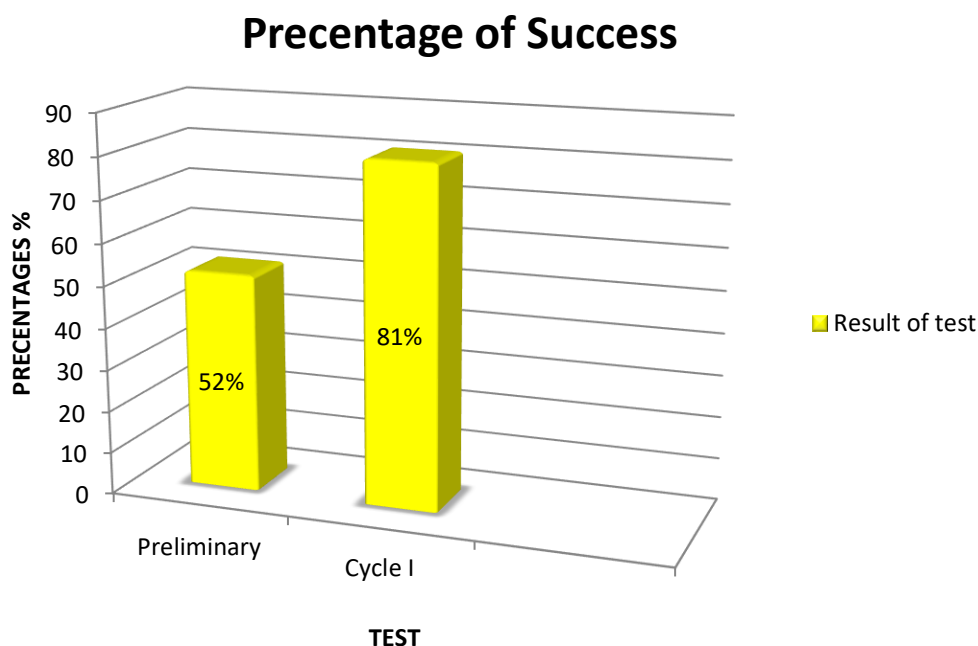


According to the result of Test Cycle I was done in cycle I, it was found that students who could reach the passing grade were 17 students (81%) and 4 students (19%) were failed. So the action in cycle I was successful.

### Discussion of the Findings

Based on the implementation Currency Converter Plus Application in the teaching and learning process of English For Banking Material, the researcher found that the students had enthusiasm and active to follow the activity. Beside that, the students look fun and enjoy. In this research, the pair work was effective in implementing Currency Converter Plus Application. So, pair work will be effective. The researcher also found that during the explanation the material, the researcher should be clearly and carefully to explain the material. It could be done loudly when the researcher explained so the students could pay attention to the researcher explanation. The researcher also gave suitable assignment to the students. That had to support about English For Banking Material.

The diagram of the percentage of success on preliminary and cycle I can be seen as follows:



**Graphic 4.3**  
**The Percentage of Success Test of Preliminary and Cycle 1 .**

From the diagram above, it is clear that there is improvement of the students' English For Banking Material from preliminary study to cycle I. On preliminary study only 11 students who passed the test, it means that just 52% from 21 students can vocabulary mastery. Then on cycle I, 17 students were successful on vocabulary test. 81% of students could pass and 19% failed. It means that the test was successful.

### **Conclusion**

The Classroom Action Research (CAR) was done to improve the second semester students' Vocabulary mastery through Vocabulary Builder Application of Universitas Bhinneka PGRI. Based on the results of the research, the researcher finds that after the implementation of the strategy, the students' English Vocabulary mastery can be developed. So, it means that implementation of Vocabulary Builder Application can improve the second semester students' English Vocabulary mastery of Universitas Bhinneka PGRI in the academic years 2022-2023. It can be known from the students' result in preliminary study, and cycle I had increased.

Based on the students' score on preliminary study, it is shown that the students' vocabulary mastery needed improvement caused their scores were low. There were 52% of 21 students who passed the English Vocabulary test. The success of this class was less than 80%. The result could not achieve the criteria of success. It means that the students' English Vocabulary mastery before the implementation of the strategy is quite weak. To improve the students' English vocabulary mastery, the researcher did this classroom action research.

From first cycle, it is known that amount of the students who passed the reading test increased. The result of the study on this cycle was 17 students passed the English vocabulary test. 81% of the students were successful and it had achieved the criteria of success. It means that the students' English vocabulary mastery is improved after the strategy.

### **Suggestion**

This section presents suggestions for the students, for the teacher, and for the other researcher.

#### **For the Students**

The suggestion for the students by using Vocabulary Builder, the students can know much English vocabulary mastery and it makes students more active in teaching and learning process specially to improve English vocabulary mastery. The students can motivate themselves to be more active in joining the English class to improve their English achievement, especially in vocabulary mastery.

#### **For the lecture**

Realizing that implementation of vocabulary builder Application was successful as an alternative way that can improve the second semester students' English vocabulary mastery of Universitas Bhinneka PGRI in the academic year 2022/2023, the researcher suggested that English lecturer at Universitas Bhinneka PGRI should use Vocabulary Builder Application as alternative way in teaching English For Banking Material to improve their students' vocabulary mastery. It is hoped that the English lecturers and all lecturers at Bhinneka PGRI University will be able to use interesting, creative and innovative methods so that students can study well so that they can improve their achievements.

#### **For the Future Researcher**

From the results of this study, The researcher hopes that the study will be useful for the future researcher as the reference to make a further research. It is also advisable for them to use other method in their study for enriching the technique that can be used for improving the students' English For vocabulary mastery.

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