Improving Grade VIII Students' Vocabulary Achievement By Using Personal Vocabulary Notes In SMP SANTA MARIA MEDAN

Nova Ivanna Panjaitan*

Drs.Elia Masa Gintings,M.Hum**

ABSTRACT

This study attemps to improve students' vocabulary achievement by using Personal Vocabulary Notes. This research was conducted by using classroom action research. The subject of this study was VIII-B class SMP Santa Maria Medan which consisted of 46 students. The research was conducted in two cycles and each cycle consisted of three meetings. The result showed that the improvement of the students' scores from the first test in orientation test to the third test in cycle-II test. In the first test in orientation test, the mean was 46.95, in the second test in cycle-I test, the mean was 64.86, and the third test in cycle-II test, it was improved to be 80.45. Based on the diary notes, observation sheet, and questionnaire, it was found that the teaching learning activities ran well. Students were active and enthusiastic during the teaching learning process in the second cycle than the first one. The result of the researcher showed that the use of personal vocabulary notes significantly improved students' vocabulary.

Keywords: *Vocabulary, Action Research, Personal Vocabulary Notes,*

INTRODUCTION

Vocabulary is the first stage in any language learning. Vocabulary is important to be improved in language learning process. According to Richard Nordquist (http://grammar.com/Articles/Vocabulary defenition.html),Vocabulary is all the words of a language, or the words used by a particular person or group. Kridalaksana (1993: 35) defines that vocabulary is language component which contain all information about meaning and using words in language which are possessed by a speaker, listener, writer, or reader.In learning a foreign language, vocabulary plays an important role. It is one element that links the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing all together. In order to communicate well in a foreign language, students should acquire an adequate number of words and should know how to use the accurately. Without vocabulary, student can't speak, listen, write and read. Commonly, students cannot compose a

sentence or phrase in speaking even writing and reading because they are poor in vocabulary. Most of the students are lazy to memorize and increase their vocabulary, it causes of some teachers cannot motivate them, some of teachers cannot use good method, technique and strategy to teach them.

Based on the writer experience in Field Teaching Practice (2011) , the writer found that English was one of the subjects that they hated. Because when they found the words , they did not know what the meaning the word itself. When they was ordered to open dictionary to find the meaning from difficult word or a new word, there were only three or four students did it and some of students were lazy to open their dictionary and just waiting until the teacher give the answer. The other problem were when the teacher ask us to speaking, they're afraid to make mistake, they didn't have confidence to speak up.

So, In teaching teacher need to improve their students vocabulary ability and give motivate them. Teacher need teach them with some method, technique and strategy and make the students to learn more. By using an interesting technique in teaching vocabulary, the teacher helped to improve students' vocabulary achievement.a technique can help students to learn vocabulary easier than before, such as Personal Vocabulary Notes.Brown (2001: 16) said that technique is any of a wide variety of exercises, activities, or tasks used in the language classroom for realizing lesson objectives. Kurzweil (2002) conveys that Personal Vocabulary Notes is a way of developing students vocabulary in a personalized way while encouraging them to become autonomous learners.

In using PVN technique, students write some words which they do not know in their daily journal or note paper. Students have to get at least five words. If students do not manage to get five in class, they need to think of words they want to know outside of class. For the next meeting students are hoped to know new words from their note papers and those words can improve students' English learning.

In this research, the Personal Vocabulary Notes was applied in teaching vocabulary provided by making the words to their notes which they found from text. It will make students more interested and enthuastic in learning process. Hopefully that the students' vocabulary achievement will be improved. Of course by using it help the

students to memorize the words and help the teacher to increase students' interest and to motivate them to learn vocabulary.

Based on the background of the study, this research problem is formulated as the following: "is the Personal Vocabulary Notes able to improve student' vocabulary achievement?"

METHOD

This study was designed as classroom action research, because it involved a substantive act with a research procedure to find the improvement. A classroom action research was conducted because it result the improvement of students' skill. Whitehead and Mcniff (2006:2) state that action research is a kind of theory that is most appropriate for explaining its process. research carried out in the classroom by the teacher of the course mainly with the purpose of solving a problem or improving the teaching/ learning process. According to Wallace action research focuses on individual or small group professional practice and is not so concerned with making general statement. Based on the explanation above, it can be said that action research aims to improve students' learning and the outcomes of teaching and learning process.

This action research was conducted in the second year students of SMP Santa Maria Medan.The sample of research was VIII – B which consists of 46 students.

The instrument of data collection was using test, observation sheet, questioner, and diary notes. In this study, there were three tests which were done during the research. They were orientation test, Post test in cycle I, and Post test in cycle II.

The procedure of data collection of the study was conducted by using two cycles in six meetings. There are four stages namely; plan, action, observation and reflection.

FINDING

The data for this study were acquired from the diary note, observation sheet, questioner sheet and tests during the research was done. This research was conducted into two cycles. Conducting cycle one, the target still was not achieve yet so the researcher conducted the cycle two. There were six meetings. The score of the students showed improvement continuously. It can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.1 The Score of Students' Vocabulary Test

No	Students' Initial	Orientation test	Test I	Test II
1	AAS	40	66	76
2	AS	40	78	80
3	AAS	40	50	82
4	AES	40	54	78
5	AFS	60	68	80
6	BAS	55	78	78
7	BF	40	74	75
8	CJF	30	45	76
9	CA	40	66	82
10	CAT	55	62	80
11	CS	30	60	98
12	CC	40	70	76
13	DCH	70	80	98
14	DCP	60	80	84
15	DA	60	66	76
16	DAA	60	81	96
17	EAT	50	60	76
18	FHP	50	58	62
19	GR	70	78	88
20	HJ	60	70	82
21	HN	30	58	78
22	IGN	50	58	78
23	JES	30	50	70
24	JIN	50	70	82
25	JFS	60	81	94
26	JS	50	60	72
27	KN	30	50	78
28	MY	60	74	84

No	Students' Initial	Orientation test	Test I	Test II
29	MM	40	78	96
30	NWH	50	56	76
31	NYP	70	84	88
32	NP	30	50	80
33	PV	30	50	75
34	RSH	50	58	78
35	RJH	30	50	78
36	SCS	60	50	78
37	SMS	60	68	88
38	SMC	30	60	80
39	SSG	50	58	80
41	TFS	30	56	76
42	TAL	50	52	75
43	WPS	50	60	80
44	WMG	60	66	76
45	WA	30	50	76
46	YVH	70	81	86
	Total ($\sum x$)	2160	2984	3701
	Mean ($\overline{X}$)	46.95	64.86	80.45

DISCUSSION

Based in the result of data, it was found that the application of personal vocabulary notes had successfully improved students' vocabulary achievement.

The finding of this research is that Personal Vocabulary Notes can help the students improve their vocabulary achievement. By applying this, the score of the students in vocabulary kept increasing from the orientation-test until the post-test of cycle 2. It was proved by the data which showed that the mean of the students in the post-test II (80.45) was higher than that of the post-test I (64.86) and also higher than that of pre-test (46.95).

The qualitative data taken from the observation sheet and interview sheet also showed that students interest in vocabulary by using personal vocabulary notes because personal vocabulary notes can be a solution for them in facing difficulties of vocabulary learning. The students looked enjoyed the class and applied the technique well. The technique was very useful to help the students to improve their vocabulary which was lack of stocks of English words.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on research findings, the researcher concluded that the improvement was supported by the increasing of the mean of the students' scores. The mean score of the test I was 46.95; the mean of the test II was 64.86, and the mean of the test III 80.45. It means that test II is higher than test I and test III is higher than test I. Therefore, it can be concluded that word walls strategy can improve students' vocabulary achievement. Based on the result study, the suggestion can be stated as following:

1. For English teacher, it is useful as one of the alternative techniques to teach vocabulary because by using this technique the teacher makes the students become active. The teacher will not give some instruction to the students to write difficult words, but the students write their difficult words themselves.

2. To the students, it is useful to give important information. The students are more interested to learn vocabulary than before and they become more active than before, they do not only write and memorize their words, but also know how to pronounce them and the function of words in the sentences.

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