

Narrative Study on the Students' Vocabulary Acquisition

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ABSTRACT

This journal aims to find out how people have acquired a vocabulary of English. Whether an ancestry will have a big impact on someone's English language acquisition. The researcher conducted research that used a qualitative approach using narrative study design on objects where he was proficient in English. Even though he has no ancestry at all, but with his enthusiasm and willingness to master English, he has also gone through various obstacles, likes, ridiculed by the surrounding community (especially by his friends). What is interesting is that he uses social media as a media to acquire the vocabulary.

Keywords: Vocabulary Acquisition, Narrative Study, Language Mastery.

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INTRODUCTION

Vocabulary, as one of the knowledge areas in language, plays a great role for learners in acquiring a language (Cameron, 2001). According to Cameron, as learners of acquiring language vocabulary is important to be acquired by the learners because that is the first step to acquire the language. The one who wants to learn the language will not able to acquire if they do not have a good vocabulary bank. Furthermore, Schmitt (2000) emphasizes that "lexical knowledge is central to communicative competence and to the acquisition of a second language". Similar to Cameron, Schmitt stated that lexical knowledge is important too for learners to acquire the language because that is the main point if you want to learn some languages, whether it is the first language or second language.

Nowadays there is a lot of people who want to learn languages but do not have good preparation like do not to know the vocabulary more, they are too underestimate what they are faced with. Even though, the things that are considered trivial are very important because that is the key to learn the languages. A variety of strategies someone in mastered vocabulary, there is the fast one, the middle one, even the slow one. This research is intended to figure out the process of how the students acquire the vocabulary, especially from the fast one and I will share with you the variety of ways to acquire the vocabulary.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The researcher admits, even everyone knows that it is not easy to learn a language, let alone learn a second language. There are many difficulties when you learn a language, it somehow depends on factors such as their activities, social, ideological and cultural conditions which will affect the process of acquiring language. However it depends on your way how to face it, do you want to be a winner by facing and pass the difficult or do you want to avoid it, do not want to develop and eventually become a loser.

"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try" (John F. Kennedy) quote from the saying of John F. Kennedy, you must not stop learning, you must keep going even though slowly because even if the path is slow the edges will get to the destination, the wrong thing is not wanting to start the steps to change for the better (Gomathi, Geetha, & Raa, 2017).

Besides that, some people learn vocabulary by using media, some used film, music, and even social media. This is more effective than going to the library to read books because every time we do something fun and

it suits us it will more easily absorb into our brains. It will arouse the interest of English learners towards English language learning and the English learners may use social media tools for a long enough time without any boredom because that is content the picture not only text.

METHODS

In conducting this research, the researcher used a narrative study method. This study is a qualitative research which enables the researcher to reach detailed data in its natural setting and since it is interpretative it allows the researcher to interpret the data. It also focuses on a participant's experiences and ideas (Creswell, 2012).

This research involved a student who was studying a language. The object in this research had been introduced to English by his mother from an early age, as time went by he honed him and his abilities had increased until now he had become proficient.

The participant for this study is Bimoje. He is a fourth-year student at Universitas Majalengka. He is majoring in the English Department in the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education. Bimoje was born in Sumedang in 1999, he has a mixture of Betawi and Javanese bloodline but then exposed to Sundanese culture as he grew up in Sunda environment.

The data is collected by an in-depth interview with a participant. The research focused on the experiential process of learning English regarding his motivation, how they are exposed to English, he cases of English learning in the classroom in the home.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When doing the interview, precisely in the first question and answer session, I was surprised to hear the fact that Bimoje did not have any English ancestry. Bimoje grew up in a family with multicultural identities where his father was born Javanese and speak Javanese, while his mother was born in Jakarta and speak Indonesian with Betawi culture. Bimoje, on the other hand, was born in Sumedang and was exposed to Sundanese culture ever since.

"mmm no, I don't think so (have any English ancestry). Everytime people ask me that question (the ethnicity I belong) I actually never answer what is my ethnicity because I don't have one but because I have a lot of them. I mean my mother is Betawi and my father is Javanese but I was born in Sumedang which is, as we know, Sumedang is a Sundanese land. I mean, the ethnicity in Sumedang mostly are Sundanese, so I am a mixture between Betawi, Javanese, and I grew up in Sundanese ethnicity. But every time people ask what is my ethnicity, I never answer that question, I always answer that I am Indonesian. Because I believe that I am a representative of what is Indonesia like which as we know Indonesia has a lot of ethnicities, a lot of languages, so I just like to call myself that I am an Indonesian."

Bimoje started learning English when he was 4 years old, and then develop in elementary school, and more frequently in his family. But there is a very unfortunate thing that there was no or even a little relevance for them to learn English at the time because English is not used in his environment. As we know the bad habits of the people in our area if there is someone who speaks English instead of being reviled.

"My mother introduced me to English since the first time I can speak so that is like when I was four years old. Yeah, I think I agree with that (about the environment) because in Indonesia especially in Majalengka we do know that the people here is not that open-minded I mean yeah some are being open-minded, some are being close-minded. Mmm, how do I deal with it? Maybe it's just because I don't really care about what people say. I just do what I wanna do, I speak what I wanna speak, I speak English everywhere whenever I like, mmm yeah I just don't care about what people say."

This condition also underlined a situation where Bimoje is an open-minded person. He also narrated how he was mocked by his surroundings (including his friends and older people where he lived) when he tried to speak English. But, he doesn't care and he never stops to struggle.

"Mostly yeah (speak English every day). When I was a child I usually used my brother's modul or handouts because yeah they are ten and eight years older than me, so I like to read their books, I like to read their handouts and start reading star reading getting knowledge, but when I was a teenager maybe start, like, when I was in junior high school I really like to read books and I start buying English books, bilingual books, and I acquire vocabulary from that. But, as I grow older I know social media like instagram, twitter, I mostly acquired my vocabulary from social media, from instagram, the memes, mmm because you know in instagram there is a feature called explore or instagram explore, I usually read memes from that. And it gives me a lot of vocabulary, new vocabulary and it introduce me to meme culture of western or west countries, yeah and social media really gives me a lot of insight and knowledge especially about the culture there."

Various methods that he has done to learn English, starting from participating in learning when his brother is homework from school, reading books and even buying English books. As time goes by when he grows up and knows social media, he is not like other children, he instead makes it as a media for learning English.

"For me, yeah, but you know only in its corridor I mean when you are trying to learn the western culture it is appropriate for you to use a social media to know about their culture, to know about what they actually do, and what they actually speak in the media, in social media it is very effective to learn the culture. But when we are talking about, maybe, technical terms or technical vocabularies mmm it is more proper for you to I mean for me to gain some vocabularies through maybe books or academic books mmm technical books and things like that, for me yeah it is effective but in its corridor."

Bimoje's statement supports the findings by Khan, Ayaz, & Faheem (2016) that social media plays an important role in the vocabulary development of English learners. It is easier than books reading and other text materials, and arouse interest. At the college, when he first entered college while taking a vocabulary subject, the learning media used were handouts.

"Universitas Majalengka (where I study). In the college, I learn the vocabulary subject in the second year I think, I forget whether it is the first year or second year. I learn the vocabulary subject and even though the name of the subject is vocabulary, we as the student are relying on the lecturer's handout so the media that the lecturer used is only the handout."

It can't be forced, because everyone has different ways of learning, there are faster catches by reading books, some are faster by listening to music, there are faster by watching movies or videos from youtube. Look for what we like, because doing what we like will make us enjoy and easy to learn it.

"There is a theory where the students have their own type of learning, but for me personally is more effective to learn from literature like books, novels, because I really like reading books, I really like reading novels because first, it's fun, second I usually spend my leisure time to read books, and then other from books I usually acquire vocabulary from youtube videos which is very very very interesting, very insightful for me because I usually watch, like, TED Talks and CGP Grey because is a very good channel for us to learn new vocabularies, learn new knowledge, learn new insight, and it's very customizable I mean the content of the youtube videos that you can watch is very customizable according to your interest, according to your passion, and it's very very useful for me to gain vocabularies from youtube videos. Also, I learn some vocabularies from music because who doesn't love music, right? I usually listen to western music like Cuco, Rich Brian, and learning the vocabularies from music really

helps me in learning the culture of western people because yeah they usually put the culture in the music, put the culture in their lyrics and I know how to speak well in their accent in their language. So it really helps me out."

We get a lot when we learn languages. Because, when we learn one language, we not only get the language but we will also automatically learn the culture. For example, when we read memes, we will know what happened there, how the habits, etc. Also from YouTube videos about people giving speeches about their inspirational experiences, we come to know how life is there and how they think.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study are that we must be sure of our ideals, never mind the words of others that are of no use to us at all. While it's beneficial for us and makes us happy, keep going. In this era, social media is our daily consumption from children to adults, all using social media. But most people use it just for fun and it's wasting time. Well, make it as a media for learning, so that it is useful for us.

In this world there is no instant, all goals must go through the process first to achieve that. Never be afraid to try, never be afraid to start, never give up, the effort will not betray the results. Do what other people don't, then you will get what other people don't get. So, just do what you think is right.

This research was only carried out qualitatively. The findings obtained from this study were only from one person. Because of the lack of preparation and a short time to do this research. It would be better for future researchers to conduct research quantitatively and provide data of the masses of people.

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