CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Learning any language requires knowing sufficient number of words in order to communicate in that language. As stated by Harmer (1991:153) if the language structures make up the skeleton of language then it is vocabulary that provides the vital organs and the flesh. Allen (1983) states that to master over a language, the learners must learn thousands of words. It means the students must have a lot of vocabularies to support their skills in learning English. Vocabulary is one of the most important language components in learning English. Learning vocabulary for students is important because it can support and improve their ability in English. For the example is reading, in reading there are a lot of words. To make it understand the topic or the story, students have to know the meaning from each word in the reading passage. Through learning vocabulary students can know and remember the new vocabulary to support their skills in English.

Nowadays, COVID-19 spread rapidly all over the world especially in Indonesia. This can give effects on human life, one of them is education system. Since the presence of the COVID-19 in Indonesia, the education system is changing. To reduce the spread of the virus COVID-19 and to protect the students and the teachers, the Minister of Education announced that education system in Indonesia has to apply the online meeting or online classroom. It means that the students have to stay at home to do the learning process activities so they do not have to come to the school or campus. All of the students starting from kindergarten, primary school, junior high school, senior high school and also the college students have to do the meeting learning through online which is they can use laptop, computer or handphone as media to support their learning process. One of the University in Surabaya named Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya also applies the online class since the pandemic COVID-19 came and spread rapidly until it claimed many victims in Indonesia. In English Education Study Program of Widya Mandala, there are many kinds of courses and this study takes one of them which is Vocabulary in Academic Context. This course is learning about the new words in academic context. This is specifically for the first batch students in English Education Study Program. The

students who take this course must pass from Basic English Vocabulary course. This course has 2 credits. The students must pass from this course in order to continue to the next level of the vocabulary course. They only have one meeting in a week which on Mondays.

The changes of the learning process have an impact on the technique of the learning process. This is different from the previous one. The previous technique applies offline or face-to-face learning in which the students have to come to the campus and use book to support their learning process. The opportunities of the online learning is the interaction between lecturer and the students was easier because the student could ask the question to the teacher everytime and everywhere through WhatsApp or other application. In this new technique, everything is completely online where they have to meet online so they do not have to come to the campus, the students have to download first the material for learning and upload their assignments. However, the online learning brings something new to the students and the lecturer. Teacher and students have to master the internet and technology to support and help them to learn a new knowledge. Learning through online is the effective way in learning and becomes like new opportunities for the students because they can get the knowledge through internet everytime and everywhere which is easier than they have to go to the library. The challenges that are found in online learning is the unstable network and disconnected in parts of small cities or in a remote area. Bad connectivity can give the impact for the students because they difficult to follow the learning process and then they difficult to understand the material that has been explained from the teacher. Other than that, they must have more internet data to make their learning process runs smoothly. Surely it is not easy for the teacher and the students to have to adjust to this new habit but they have to do it so they can continue the learning process during the pandemic.

Therefore, this study aims to find out the challenges and opportunities faced by students in Academic Vocabulary course in learning vocabulary online. This study uses descriptive methodology and use questionnaire and interview as the instruments.

1.2 Research Problems

The research problem of this study is "What are the challenges and opportunities faced by Academic Vocabulary students during the online learning?"

1.3 The Objectives

This study aims to find out the challenges and opportunities faced by academic vocabulary students during the online learning and it is divided into five (5) parts covering learning strategies, teacher-student interaction, student-student interaction, learning materials, and assessment method.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

This study analyzes the theory of vocabulary acquisition, online learning and descriptive study. First, for the theory of vocabulary acquisition according to Mark Wollacott (2001) vocabulary acquisition concerns how people expand the number of words they understand when learning a new language. As stated by (Nation, 2013; Willis & Ohashi, 2012) vocabulary is an essential component of any language, and thus it is a critical part of second language (L2) acquisition.

According to Ally (2004) "online learning as the use of the internet to access learning material; to interact with the content, instructor, and other learners; and to obtain support during the learning process in order to acquire knowledge, to construct personal meaning, and to grow from personal experience". Carliner (1999) defines online learning as educational material that is presented on a computer. It means that online learning is the learning process with face-to-face classes over the internet and supported by technologies like laptop, computer, handphone.

Descriptive research is about describes a phenomenon and its characteristics. It is particularly suitable for explorative study when it is of prime importance to develop new ideas and insights. Fawcett and Garity (2009) point out that the purpose of descriptive research is to name things, or phenomena, or to classify characteristics of entity.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be useful for the teacher and the students, vocabulary and online learning. For the teacher, in order to understand the difficulties faced by students. Other than that, to improve the way how to teach to make the learning process run smoothly. For the students, to make them learn from the mistakes from what their seniors have experienced.

For the management of the faculty and the department, this research can be a means to provide training and workshop to the lecturers about online teaching.

Besides that, to understand and improve the difficulties experienced by teachers and students in online learning.

1.6 Definition of Key-terms

- Opportunities: an advantage or profit gained by the Academic Vocabulary students during the online learning.
- Challenges: a situation or thing that needs attention and needs to be dealt with or solved of being faced by the Academic Vocabulary students during the online learning.
- Academic Vocabulary: the course that is learning new words in academic context. To do this course, the students have to passed from Basic English Vocabulary course.
- Online learning: the learning process by face-to-face interaction between teacher-student or student-student through the internet. The learners use laptop, computer or handphone as a device to support them in online learning activity.
- Learning strategy: a method or tactic or technique that the teacher or the students use to assist them in learning process. Every teacher and students have a different technique, it depending on their ability or their skills.
- Student-teacher interaction: the relation between student and teacher that they can ask the question and give the answer, discuss the material, solve the problem, share a knowledge. It which can be through face-to-face learning or online learning.
- Student-student interaction: the relation between student and student that they can ask the question and give the answer, discuss the material, solve the problem, share a knowledge. It can be through face-to-face learning or online learning.
- Learning material: everything that becomes the content of learning that must be mastered by students. It can help the students in understanding the lesson, it can be through online resources, the books, or journals.
- Assessment: is the systematic basis for making inferences about the learning and development of students. It is the process of defining, selecting, designing,

collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and using information to increase students' learning and development by Erwin (1991).

- Vocabulary acquisition: the process of learners learning new words and getting achievement.

- Descriptive study: a research method used to describe the existing phenomena as accurately as possible (Atmowardoyo, 2018: 197).

1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study identifies the problems faced by Academic Vocabulary students during the online learning in English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya in the batch of 2020/2021 academic year. This study takes this study are 19 students from one entire class and also the teacher of Academic Vocabulary course.

1.8 Organization of the Proposal

There are five chapters in this study. The first chapter deals with the introduction which is consist of background of the study, research problems, and objectives of the study, theoretical framework, significant of the study, definition of key-terms, scope and limitation of the study. Chapter two covers the review of literature consisting of the related theories and previous study related to the statement of the title. Chapter three deals with the research method which state design of the study, instrument of the study, data collection and data analysis. Chapter four is about the findings and discussions. It presents the discussion and result from the questionnaire and interview. Chapter five presents the conclusion and the suggestions of the study.