

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1. Background of the Study

English language plays a significant role in most aspects of our daily life. In aspects like education, business, and entertainment, one will find English terms and specific items of vocabulary. One will be confused if one does not understand these vocabulary items.

The present writer agrees with the statement of Michael Wallace that learning a language is basically learning the vocabulary. In his book Ten Teaching Vocabulary, he says that ‘there is a sense in which learning a foreign language is basically a matter of learning the vocabulary of that language’ (1982:9). Therefore, the vocabulary skill in English language is not only important, but is essential for learners of English.

In this term-paper the present writer would like to try to give a suggestion to improve English vocabulary, especially for the students of the D-Three Programme for English at Maranatha Christian University. The present writer has done observations of two vocabulary classes of semester II, and has obtained data from the students about learning English vocabulary. In these observations, the present writer presented some recorded material from the daily broadcast on BBC radio for learning English vocabulary skill, that is, material which the present

writer recorded from a BBC radio broadcast onto cassette. The present writer also handed out a questionnaire to each student in these two classes.

In addition to the BBC radio broadcast, which broadcasts on Radio Elshintha, the present writer also finds the Kang Guru Radio English, which broadcasts on Radio Republik Indonesia. Both are from overseas: the BBC is from England, while the Kang Guru Radio English is from Australia. However, the reason why the present writer prefers the BBC radio for learning English to the Kang Guru Radio English is because the BBC broadcasts in both the English and Indonesian languages, whereas the Kang Guru Radio English broadcasts in English only. Besides this, the BBC radio for learning English is more specific in targeting skills than Kang Guru Radio English. The BBC radio for learning English focuses on one skill in each series, for example, the vocabulary skill, or the conversation skill.

Regarding the learning process, Bobbi DePorter and Mike Hernacki, in the book Quantum Learning, state three kinds of perceptual sensors (ways to remember), namely, auditory, visual, and kinetic. When people learn something, they always use these perceptual systems, or at least one of them. If a boy likes to speak out what he reads, hearing his own voice to remember information, he is using the auditory system. If a boy likes using visual system, he often imagines information related to pictures or signs to remember that information. On the other hand, if a boy walks around when he is trying to remember information, then he is using the kinetics system. In this term-paper, the present writer is interested to discuss the learning of vocabulary which focuses on the auditory perceptual sensor.

I.2. Identification of the Problem

The problem the present writer proposes to analyse is expressed in these questions:

- I. Do the students of the D-Three Programme for English at Maranatha Christian University, especially in semester II vocabulary class, personally find the recorded material from the BBC radio broadcasts for learning English vocabulary useful in their learning of English vocabulary?
- II. How effective is the recorded material from BBC radio broadcasts for learning English vocabulary as a tool for improving English vocabulary for the students of the D-Three Programme for English at Maranatha Christian University?

I.3. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

I.3.1. Objectives of the Study

- I. To get the impression of the students of the D-Three Programme for students of English at Maranatha Christian University, especially in semester II vocabulary class, after listening to the BBC recorded material for English vocabulary.
- II. To know the effectiveness of using BBC radio broadcasts for learning English in developing the vocabulary skill in English language for the students of the D-Three Programme for English at Maranatha Christian University.

I.3.2. Benefits of the Study

- I. Maximizing the ability of learners or students in developing English vocabulary skill by using recorded materials.
- II. Improving competence in English language skills (not only vocabulary, but also other skills like pronunciation, grammar, listening).

I.4. Concise History of Maranatha Christian University

Maranatha Christian University was established on June 1, 1965. The University was pioneered by some Christians in Bandung and supported by two Protestant churches in Bandung.

On February 11, 1966, the Faculty of Letters was established with just a single department, a Bachelor Programme of English Language and Literature. The aims : producing students who have good competence of English language based on the four basic language skills; developing students' knowledge about language theories in order that they would be able to appreciate and analyse English literature.

In 1992, the D-Three Programme for English was established. It aims to train the students in mastering the four English language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and also to prepare students for the work force. Recently, the D-Three English Programme has introduced some subjects related to business and teaching such as English for Tourism, English for Business, English for Secretaries, Public Relations, and TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language).

The D-Three Programme for English has developed and improved over the years, especially in the amount of students and the quality of the lecturers' teaching and the curriculum. The total study of the D-Three Programme for English lasts for three years with a total amount of 114 credits. There are also some supporting learning facilities, such as a library, three language laboratories, an audiovisual laboratory, and a theatre.

I.5. Limitations of the Study

The present writer focuses this study on the learning of English vocabulary in two vocabulary classes of semester II at Maranatha Christian University. He specifically focuses on the listening skill, and the auditory sensor, rather than the other language skills, and he chooses to use a BBC radio broadcast rather than other forms of media which are available for learning vocabulary through listening. His analysis will be based on the data from the student questionnaire and the results of the pre-listening and post-listening tests in relation to knowing the effectiveness of using recorded material.

I.6. Layout of the Term Paper

This term-paper starts with the Abstract, a concise summary of the entire paper in Indonesian. This Abstract is followed by the Preface, in which the present writer acknowledges the work and contribution of other parties. After this is the Table of Contents, followed by its five chapters:

Chapter I is the introduction to the analysis

Chapter II contains the library research

Chapter III deals with the performance of the research

Chapter IV contains the result and discussion of the research

Chapter V contains the conclusion, the present writer's comments and suggestions.

In the final part, the present writer presents successively the Bibliography and the Appendices.