

## ABSTRACT

*Apriani, Sri Rahayu.* "The Correlation between Sex and Vocabulary Mastery of Elementary School Students (A Case Study on SD Negeri Bunulrejo I and SD Negeri Bunulrejo II Malang)". A Thesis. Submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana degree of the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Airlangga University, Surabaya, 2001.

Mastering language skills is related to the mastery of vocabulary because one's vocabulary power determines the quality of his/her language skills. The mastery of vocabulary is influenced by many factors, mainly sex and linguistic knowledge. This thesis proves the assumption about the existence of relation between sex and vocabulary mastery of elementary school students and how far the contribution of sex in students' vocabulary mastery. It is based on some psychological theories stating that male are often slower to develop language and that female has bigger vocabularies. Using quantitative analysis, the number of determination coefficient and the correlation coefficient is obtained. In the observation, the researcher chose forth year students of SD Negeri Bunulrejo I and SD Negeri Bunulrejo II Malang as respondent {  $n = 60$  } which are taken by using cluster sampling method.

The research reveals a clue that there is a correlation between the variables above {  $r = -0.641$  }. The involvement of sex in the students' vocabulary mastery is equal to 41.1%. This value indicates that sex plays an important role in students' mastery of vocabulary, besides their linguistics knowledge. It is proved by the higher scores that female students achieve compared with male students' scores in the vocabulary test.

Besides, there are other factors affecting children's mastery of vocabulary. These factors consist of internal and external factors. The internal factors are such as motivation to read books or other sources, and readiness of students in doing the test. The external factors are like teaching method, the teacher, and family.

Even though most female students have richer vocabularies, there are several male students who have good vocabulary mastery. This phenomenon happens because female students have higher motivation to read books or any other sources while there are only few male students like reading. Consequently, male students do not develop their language ability optimally. It will not happen if male students motivate themselves to read in order to broaden their vocabulary and knowledge.

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**