

Students' Problems in Building up English Vocabulary

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Abstract. The aims of the research were to analyze the students' problems in building up English vocabulary and the alternative solutions to overcome students problems in building up English vocabulary during COVID-19 pandemic at the eighth grade of SMP Negeri 3 Kepil by using descriptive analysis methods. To select the participants, the researcher chose VIII/A, which consisted of 32 students to answer the questionnaire. Besides, the researcher chose an English teacher to answer the interview. In this research there were three processes for analyzing data, including: data condensation, data display, and drawing conclusion. Finally, the result of students' problems were: 1) having low motivation (81%) having low interest (75%), 2) lazy in memorizing English words (84%), 3) did not understand the grammar (91%) and did not understand the meaning of words in English (84%), 4) did not understand the English pronunciation (91%), 5) have no sufficient learning facilities (internet connection) (97%). Then, the alternative solutions were: 1) using a dictionary (84%), 2) learning with friends (78%), 3) making a note (68%), 4) searching in the internet (59%), 5) listening to English music (75%). From the results, it could be concluded that the main problem for students in building English vocabulary in the COVID-19 pandemic situation was that they had problem in the learning facility in the form of bad internet connection with a percentage of the problem was (97%). Besides, the main alternative solution to overcome students' problems was using a dictionary with a percentage was (84%).

Keywords: Building up English vocabulary, Students' problems, COVID-19 pandemic

1. Introduction

To communicate with others, humans need language. One of the languages used as an international language is English [1]. In learning English, it was very useful to acquire a large of vocabulary [2]. By mastering vocabulary, students will be able to use it to understand and give a response both in writing and in speech properly. It means, vocabulary plays a fundamental role as a foot-stone in making various sentences that will be used in communication [3].

To learn and develop an English vocabulary is not as easy, because the pronunciation of the English word differs from spelling [4], [5]. Besides, English is not also the main language in Indonesia, so it will be difficult to learn English as a second language. Other factors that impede students' ability to learn English vocabulary is the COVID-19 pandemic that causes schools to adopt online learning systems Famularish; Suparsa & Mantras [6].

The COVID-19 virus entered Indonesia. Since then, the Indonesian government has turned the previously face-to-face educational system into an online or long-range learning system as a precaution against the spread of the COVID-19 virus according to SE number 3 of 2020 [7]. In online learning, the platforms used are the zoom meeting, Google classroom, WhatsApp group and so on [4], [8], [9].

To find out the general description of the problems, the researcher conducted observations and also brief interview. This is done in order to get an outline of the impact of COVID-19 on English learning, which will have an impact on students' understanding and ability to learn English. The English teacher said that there were many students who had not mastered various aspects that related to the indicators of achieving learning objectives contained in the syllabus, especially in eighth grade students'. By the reason of the lack of

vocabulary mastery in the English language, the researcher is intrigued to look further into the vocabulary-related problems [10], [11]. More specifically, it was a research that examined the students' problems in building up English vocabulary during COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Literature Review

Definition of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the building block of language that greatly affects a someone's ability to generate words [12]. Vocabulary or lexicon of an individual refers to all of the words, word parts, and lexical phrases that someone has acquired at any given point in time [13]. From the expert above, it can be interpreted that vocabulary is something related to words that someone has learned in a certain period of time. Besides, vocabulary is all the words that someone have, or words in a language arranged alphabetically can be defined [14].

Vocabulary plays a fundamental role as a foot-stone in making various sentences that will be used in communication [3], [15]. In a communication sentence, vocabulary is used to convey someone's ideas or feelings to others [16]. On the other hands, to be able to communicate with other people well and fluently, someone needs to master a lot of vocabulary. If someone does not master the vocabulary, someone will not be able to express ideas, send messages, even can not understand what other people are saying [17].

Types of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is divided into two, including receptive vocabulary refers to the word that can be recognized also understood in the listening (oral) and reading (written) context and productive vocabulary is a collection of words that that can be used by someone when writing (written) or speaking (oral) context [18]. These words are generally familiar and frequently used words.

In addition to the expert opinions above, [19] classify vocabulary into three tiers, they are; basic vocabulary refers to common words found in everyday conversation that rarely require teaching, Academic vocabulary refers to the words found in academic texts in various domains that have a high frequency, but these words are unlikely to appear in everyday conversation, and discipline specific vocabulary refers to low frequency of words. These words are specific to a particular field of study, and are generally often found in informative texts on that topic.

Teaching English Vocabulary

There are seven guidelines on how a teacher should explain words when teaching, they are; providing a clear explanation of the meaning of the learning material in a simple form; paying attention to the general underlying meaning of a word; paying attention to words repeatedly; helping students identify definitions; prioritizing what to explain about certain words, the teacher must help the students to remember what is explained; and avoiding interference from related words [20].

The Principles of Vocabulary

In learning vocabulary, teachers and students should know about the principles of vocabulary in a language learning. The principles of learning vocabulary including; definitions, to learn about words, of course someone will learn clear definitions that filter out important and unimportant aspects of the words itself, context, placement of each target word in context a sentence aims to feel how it is actually used [21]. If someone want to really know a word, someone need to learn how it behaves in its natural habitat (in sentences, paragraphs, and books), connections, when making connections to each word, think vocabulary as a label for the underlying concept [22], [23]. Connection is an amalgamation of new words/labels with known concepts, and morphology, it is the study of word structure, including the parts of words that have meaning, such as roots, patterns, and word formation. The morpheme system in English can be a very powerful vocabulary learning system if someone know how to explore it.

Aspects of Vocabulary

There are four aspects that learners need to learn when learning vocabulary there are; word meaning, A single word might have multiple meanings [24]. The word's meaning is determined by the context and setting in which it is used. For example the word "right" this word based on context and situation meaning it can be "correct or turn right", word use, the way a word is used can change

or limit its meaning, which is something students should be aware of. For example, to know a word that means "sprain" someone needs to know and say "wrist sprain", someone can not say "stomach sprain" or "neck sprain", and word formation, it includes things like adding a suffix to a word or adding a prefix to a word. The remainder need to know how to turn verbs into nouns, as well as how to create adjectives and other words. For example the word "sadness" (noun) is changed to "sad" (adjective) is changed to "sadden" (verb) is changed to "sadly" (adverb) and the last is word grammar,

The term grammar refers to aspects of the language used to express an action or verb, such as vocabulary. There are words in English that can have an extra "to" in front of them, such as walk to, want to, and so on, but there are also words that cannot, such as can, way, and will. The word has a tense, similar to how the verb "can" becomes "want". Students need to be aware of using the correct words such as the first, second, and third verbs.

The Problem of Learning English Vocabulary

In a learning can not be separated from many problems, as is the case when learning English. One of the problems that make it difficult for students to learn English is that students learn vocabulary. Problems in learning English vocabulary are split into two aspects, they are linguistic and non-linguistic factor. Linguistics factor regarding language difficulties (related to grammar and language rules used). Nonlinguistics factors are divided by two, including: internal factors (motivation of the people, people's interest, and words' memorization) and external factors (teaching method, environment and also situation) [25].

Then, there are five problems that make it difficult for students to learn English vocabulary, including: lazy in memorizing words, words meaning and word grammar, pronunciation, learning facilities, and motivation [17]. The factors that cause problems for students when learning English vocabulary, they are linguistics factors; words meaning and word grammar, in English, many words have opposites (antonyms) and sometimes words also have one meaning (synonyms) [25] [17]. In addition, to make a good English sentence, it must be guided by grammar. This is one of the problems when learning English vocabulary and pronunciation, most students have problems learning English vocabulary related to word pronunciation and word hearing. It is because sometimes the writing of words in English is different from the pronunciation, which makes it difficult to understand the words' meaning[26].

Nonlinguistics becoming some internal factor, they are a low word memorizing, one way to increase vocabulary is to memorize it. If students masters a lot of vocabulary, students will be able to easily express ideas and understand the meaning of speech or writing. However, most students are too lazy to memorize it, and low motivation and interest, it is something that encourages humans to achieve anything in order to achieve a goal. Sans motivation and interest, students will not be able to learn well.

Nonlinguistics becoming some external factors, they are learning facilities, environment and situation, they greatly affect a student's success in learning. If the situation and environment are not comfortable and the learning facilities are inadequate, the learning process will be disrupted, and the second is teaching method, they are convoluted and difficult to understand will make it difficult for students to understand the learning.

The Alternative Solutions

To overcome problems related to build English vocabulary, students can apply various ways to overcome these problems, they are using dictionary, students can use a dictionary to find out the meaning of words they do not know, so that it can make it easier for them to understand and remember these words; practice with friends, when it comes to studying English, there are numerous strategies to increase a student's vocabulary [17]. One of them is to keep practicing with friends; making a note, one of the strategies that students can do to overcome the problems of building English vocabulary is to write words in the notebook to make it easier in memorizing words at home; searcng in the internet, if students find it difficult to look up vocabulary they do not know, students can use the internet to look it up [27]. Using the internet is simpler and more time efficient than using a dictionary manually, and the last is listening and watching, to improve vocabulary can be done by listening to songs or watching videos that have subtitles. This will automatically increase our knowledge of vocabulary.

Previous Study

In correlation with this research, the researcher examines several previous studies related to this research. The aim of correlating the results of research regarding the problems faced by students in

building up English vocabulary and alternative solutions to overcome these problems. First, research that is in line with this research was conducted by [28]. The differences between the researcher's research and the research conducted by Balqis were: the research conducted by the researcher was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic, while research conducted by Balqis was not; The research subject conducted by the researcher were eighth grade students of SMP, while the research subject conducted by Balqis were eleventh grade students of secondary school in Indonesia.

The second, the researcher looked for alternative solutions to overcome students' problems in building English vocabulary [29]. The fourth, researcher observed some alternative solutions to overcome students' problems in building up English vocabulary using qualitative descriptions [25]. Researcher found the new method to raise the student motivation by short-cut video [30]

3. Methods

This research belongs to non-experimental research and its design uses qualitative methods. Qualitative research is a type of research that includes a number of philosophical orientations and approaches [31]. Qualitative approach method is a method that relies on deductive design to refute or build evidence in favor of a particular theory and hypothesis [32]. In this research, the researcher wants to find and discover the existing phenomena or natural setting of students' problems and also alternative solutions in building up English vocabulary during COVID-19 pandemic at the eighth grade of SMP Negeri 3 Kepil.

The participants in this research were eighth grade students and the English teacher. To select the participants, the researcher chose VIII/A, which consisted of 32 students to answer the questionnaire. This was based on the consideration of the English teacher, because the class had the highest problem in terms of building up English vocabulary during the COVID-19 pandemic. The questionnaire consisted of 15 closed-ended question models with four predetermined respond categories (strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree). Beside that, the researcher chose an English teacher who taught in that class (VIII/A) to answer the interview. The interview was a semi-structured interview method that consisted of 10 5W+1H questions model which were asked verbally and recorded to get the data accurately. The aim of the interview was to get in-depth information about students' problems and alternative solutions to overcome students' problems analyzed in this research based on the teacher's point of view (as a support data from questionnaire). In this research there were three processes for analyzing data, including: data condensation, data display, and drawing conclusion/verification [33].

4. Findings and Discussions

Students' Problems in Building up English Vocabulary During COVID-19 Pandemic

- a. Students' Problems in Building up English Vocabulary During COVID-19 Pandemic Based on the Result of Students' Questionnaires.

Table 1. Students' Problems Taken From Questionnaire

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
1.	Did not interest in learning English	75%
2.	Low motivations in learning English	81%
3.	Lazy in memorizing English words/vocabularies	84%
4.	Did not understand about the meaning of various kinds of English vocabulary	84%
5.	Did not understand about the grammar in English	91%
6.	Did not understand about the pronunciation of English words	91%
7.	Did not have sufficient learning facilities in learning English	97%

- b. Students' Problems in Building up English Vocabulary During COVID-19 Pandemic Based on the Results of an Interview With an English Teacher.

Table 2. Students' Problems Taken From the Result of English Teacher' Interview

No.	Questions	Analysis of statements
1.	1. How are the motivation conditions of VIII/A students in learning English vocabulary in this era of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Students had low motivation in learning English, because the students were too lazy to memorize or to re-learn English, including English vocabulary.
2.	2. What causes VIII/A students to have/not have high motivation in learning English vocabulary in this era of COVID-19 pandemic?	The low motivation of students in learning English vocabulary was because they did not like to learn English. They had the perception that English was difficult to learn, including word translation, grammatical structure and pronunciation of English words.
3.	4. How are the conditions of VIII/A students regarding the ability to understand well the meaning, grammar, and pronunciation of English vocabulary in this era of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Students had problems related to the ability to understand well the meaning (in English to Indonesian or from Indonesian to English), grammar (many students who made mistakes in the arrangement of words), and pronunciation (The problem was that they still used the basic spelling of Indonesian words) of English vocabulary.
4.	5. What causes VIII/A students to be able/not to understand the meaning, grammar, and pronunciation of English vocabulary well in this era of COVID-19 pandemic?	The factor that caused students not to understand the meaning of words, grammar, and pronunciation of English vocabulary was due to the laziness of students to practice and memorize the English learning material which was triggered by their low motivation for learning English.
5.	7. How are the conditions of the situation, environment, and learning facilities of VIII/A students in learning English vocabulary in this era of the COVID-19 pandemic?	In learning English (English vocabulary), students were constrained by problems with online learning facilities in the form of bad internet connections.

The Alternative Solutions to Overcome Students' Problems in Building up English Vocabulary During COVID-19 Pandemic

- a. The Alternative Solutions to Overcome Students' Problems in Building up English Vocabulary During COVID-19 Pandemic Based on the Result of Students' Questionnaires.

Table 3. The Students Mostly Used Solutions Taken From Questionnaire

No.	Students' alternative solutions	Percentages
10.	Using Dictionary	84%
11.	Learning with Friends	78%
12.	Making a Note	68%
13.	Searching in Internet	59%
14.	Listening to English Music	75%

- b. The Alternative Solutions to Overcome Students' Problems in Building up English Vocabulary During COVID-19 Pandemic Based on the Result of an Interview With an English Teacher.

Table 4. The Solutions by the English Teacher

No.	Questions	Analysis of statements
1.	3. How to solve VIII/A students if they do not have the motivation to learn English vocabulary in this era of COVID-19 pandemic?	To increase students' motivation in learning English vocabulary in this era of COVID-19 pandemic was by practicing or learning with their friends. Meanwhile, to overcome students who were too lazy to memorize English vocabulary that they have learned, students could make their own notes or dictionaries to make it easier for them to memorize or build English vocabulary.
2.	6. How to solve VIII/A students if they cannot understand well the meaning, grammar, and pronunciation of English vocabulary in this era of COVID-19 pandemic?	Students could use a dictionary to look for the meaning of various kinds of English vocabulary that they did not know. Then, to find information about grammar, the meaning of a word in English, and also how to pronounce words in English, in order to build English vocabulary, students could use the internet. Besides, listening to English music could train students' pronunciation to be better as well as to find new English vocabulary.
3.	8. How to solve VIII/A students if they do not have good learning facilities in order to learn English vocabulary in this era of COVID-19 pandemic?	To overcome students' learning facilities in learning English vocabulary in this era of the COVID-19 pandemic, students could learn together with friends.

Students' Problems in Building up English Vocabulary During COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Low Motivation and Interest

This finding was in line with previous study by [28]; and [17], who stated that the problems faced by students in building up English vocabulary were due to the low of motivation in learning English itself. From the result of the questionnaires analysis conducted on VIII/A students, it was found that the majority of students (81%) have low motivation for learning English. It could be seen from questionnaire number 2 that students had low motivation to learn English.

Table 5. Students' Motivation to Learn English

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
2.	Low motivations in learning English	81%

Based on the result of interview with an English teacher on question number 1, the researcher obtained the result that VIII/A students had low motivation in learning English vocabulary. He said:

"If I observe in daily learning, the students of VIII/A have low motivation to learn English, especially to learn English vocabulary. It is marked by the students not being serious in learning, being late and not even submitting assignments, etc....." (English Teacher Interview No.1)

Besides, the low motivation of VIII/A students in learning English vocabulary was influenced by students not interested in learning English itself. The result of questionnaire number 1 which stated that the majority of VIII/A (75%) students were not interested in learning English.

Table 6. Students' Interest in Learning English

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
1.	Did not interest in learning English	75%

It was also strengthened by the result of an English teacher interview number 2, the teacher said:

“The factor that causes the low motivation of VIII/A students in learning English, especially to learn English vocabulary during the COVID-19 pandemic is because these students are not interested in learning English itself. They have given up before trying, because they think English is very difficult to learn. The difficulty section includes word translation, grammatical structure and pronunciation of English words that are not the same as when they are written.” (English Teacher Interview No.2)

The English teacher's statement stated that the students were not interested in learning English because they thought English was very difficult to learn included the word translation, grammatical structure, and pronunciation, which were reinforced by questionnaire statements number 4,5 and 6. From questionnaire number 4 it stated that the majority of VIII/A students (84%) did not understand the meaning of English words, while from questionnaires number 5 and 6 it stated that most of VIII/A students did not understand grammar (91%) and pronunciation English word (91%).

Table 7. Students' Understanding (Meaning, Grammar and Pronunciation of English Words)

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
4.	Did not understand about the meaning of various kinds of English vocabulary	84%
5.	Did not understand about the grammar in English	91%
6.	Did not understand about the pronunciation of English words	91%

From the finding above, the first problem of students in building up English vocabulary during the COVID-19 pandemic could be concluded from the low motivation of students in learning English. The low motivation of students was caused by students who were not interested in learning English because they thought English was very difficult to learn, including word translation, grammatical structure, and pronunciation.

2. Lazy in Memorizing Words

This finding was in line with previous study by [28] and; [17], who stated that one of the factors that caused students' problems in building up English vocabulary was lazy to memorize English words because they had low learning motivation. From the result of the questionnaire number 3, most VIII/A students (84%) were lazy in memorizing the English vocabulary that they have learned.

Table 8. Students' English Vocabularies Memorization

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
3.	Lazy in memorizing English words/vocabularies	84%

The reason why students were lazy in re-learning or memorizing English vocabulary during the COVID-19 pandemic was none other than the low motivation of students to learn English itself. This was reinforced by the result of interview number 1 with an English teacher who taught in the class. He said:

“..... The inability of these students to learn English is influenced by students who have low motivation in learning English itself, which causes students to become lazy and even rarely to memorize or re-learn the material that has been taught by the teacher. In effect, this will limit students' ability in English, including students' vocabulary stock.” (English Teacher Interview No.1)

It was also reinforced by the result of questionnaire number 2 which proves that VIII/A students (81%) had low motivation in English vocabulary during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 9. Students' Motivation to Learn English

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
2.	Low motivations in learning English	81%

From the finding above, the second problem for students in building up English vocabulary during the COVID-19 pandemic came from students who were lazy in memorizing the English vocabulary they have learned. This was due to the low motivation of students in learning English.

3. Word Meaning and Word Grammar

This finding was in line with previous study by [29], who explained that most of the students had difficulties in understanding the grammatical type of a word. Besides, the students found difficulties in selecting the suitable meaning of the words. The result of questionnaires number 4 and 5 proved that the majority of VIII/A students did not understand the various words meaning (84%) and also words grammar (91%) in English.

Table 10. Students' Understanding (Meaning and Grammar of English Words)

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
4.	Did not understand about the meaning of various kinds of English vocabulary	84%
5.	Did not understand about the grammar in English	91%

It was also reinforced by an English teacher's statement from the result of interview number 4. He said:

“The condition of VIII/A students regarding the ability to understand the meaning of English words and the arrangement of words related to grammar in English can be said to have not been mastered by the students well. This is evidenced by the many students who made mistakes in the arrangement of words (eg. wrong in to be used (is, am, are), verb forms etc.) and also the inability of students to translate words or answer questions (in English to Indonesian or from Indonesian to English) in various English practice assignments given by the teacher.....” (English Teacher Interview No.4)

The caused of students did not mastering various kinds of word meanings and also English grammar well, came from students who were lazy to re-learn or memorize the English material that has been given by the teacher because they had low learning motivation. The result of interview number 5 with an English teacher who taught in VIII/A were as follows:

“The factor that causes VIII/A students not to understand the meaning of words, grammar, and pronunciation of English vocabulary in the COVID-19 pandemic era is due to the laziness of students to practice and memorize the English learning material that has been given by the teacher. This is triggered by the low their motivation in learning English. Why do I say that? because students will not be able to instantly master English vocabulary without memorizing and practicing continuously.” (English Teacher Interview No.5)

As has been said in the interview, students would not be able to directly master English vocabulary without memorizing and practicing it continuously. Proved that VIII/A students were too lazy to memorize the English vocabulary they have learned because they had low motivation in learning English, reinforced by the result of questionnaires number 2 and 3. Where questionnaire number 2 proved that most of the VIII/A students (81%) had low motivation in learning English, while questionnaire number 3 proved that most of the VIII/A students (84%) were lazy in memorizing the English vocabulary that they had learned.

Table 11. Students' Motivation and English Vocabularies Memorization

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
2.	Low motivations in learning English	81%
3.	Lazy in memorizing English words/vocabularies	84%

From the finding above, the third problem for students in building English vocabulary during the COVID-19 pandemic came from they did not understand the meaning of words and grammar in English caused by their laziness to re-learn or memorize the English material that has been given by the teacher because they had low learning motivation.

4. Pronunciation

This finding was in line with previous study by [29], who explained that most of the students had difficulties in saying the words, the way to write and to spell. Based on the result of the questionnaire number 6 given to the students of class VIII/A, it was known that the majority of them (91%) did not understand the pronunciation structure of English vocabulary.

Table 12. Students' Understanding (Pronunciation of English Words)

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
6.	Did not understand about the pronunciation of English words	91%

Apart from the questionnaire above, the result of interview number 4 with an English teacher who teach in VIII/A also strengthen these findings. He said:

".....While the condition of students' mastered in pronunciation of various kinds of English vocabulary, many students have not mastered it. Because, the pronunciation and writing of an English word are different. The problem is that they are still stuck on the basic spelling of Indonesian words. For example, the teacher said the word "wən", "wən" in English is written "one" while the catch of the students "wən" is "wan". This causes students' to find it difficult to understand the pronunciation of English vocabulary, which will hinder them in mastering or building English vocabulary during this COVID-19 pandemic." (English Teacher Interview No.4)

As well as the condition of students who lack understanding of grammar and words meaning in English, the problems of students in mastering pronunciation of English vocabulary were caused by the lack of insight and knowledge of students about English which came from students' laziness to re-learn or memorize English vocabulary due to the low motivation of students in learning English. As the English teacher said in interview number 5, including:

"The factor that causes VIII/A students not to understand the meaning of words, grammar, and pronunciation of English vocabulary in the COVID-19 pandemic era is due to the laziness of students to practice and memorize the English learning material that has been given by the teacher. This is triggered by the low their motivation in learning English. Why do I say that? because students will not be able to instantly master English vocabulary without memorizing and practicing continuously." (English Teacher Interview No.5)

This was evidenced by questionnaire number 2 which stated that most students in VIII/A (81%) had low motivation to learn English, while questionnaire number 3 proved that most students in VIII/A (84%) were lazy in memorizing the English vocabulary they have learned.

Table 13. Students' Motivation and English Vocabularies Memorization

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
2.	Low motivations in learning English	81%
3.	Lazy in memorizing English words/vocabularies	84%

From the finding above, the fourth problem for students in building English vocabulary during the COVID-19 pandemic came from they did not understand the structure of word pronunciation in English caused by their laziness to re-learn or memorize the English material that has been given by the teacher because they had low learning motivation.

5. Learning Facilities

This finding was in line with previous study by [28] and; [17], who explained that one of the factors that caused students' problems in building up English vocabulary was the unfilled learning facilities. After the researcher distributed questionnaire to VIII/A students, the researcher found

that most of the VIII/A students (97%) experienced problems related to learning facilities (internet connection, cell phones) when participating in learning English during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 14. Students' Learning Facilities

No.	Students' problems	Percentages
7.	Did not have sufficient learning facilities in learning English	97%

Apart from the questionnaire above, students' problems in terms of learning facilities were also strengthened by the result of interview number 7 with an English teacher who teach in VIII/A. He said:

“The conditions of the situation and environment of VIII/A students in learning English vocabulary in this era of the COVID-19 pandemic I think there is no problem. But, it is undeniable in the form of facilities that support students learning during online learning. This is because the internet connection in this area is bad, especially when it rains, during the day or during a power outage. When a power outage usually lasts up to a day, at which time the internet connection will completely disappear. That the problem with cell phones is almost impossible if students nowadays don't have cell phones.” (English Teacher Interview No.7)

From the finding above, the fifth problem for students in building English vocabulary during the COVID-19 pandemic came from online learning facilities in the form of bad internet connection caused by the geographical location of the area which was located in a rural area.

The Alternative Solutions to Overcome Students' Problems in Building up English Vocabulary During COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Using Dictionary

This finding was in line with the research by [34], who explained that a dictionary was an important resource in improving students' spelling literacy and vocabulary. From the results of the questionnaire number 10 given to students of VIII/A, the majority of them (84%) choose to use a dictionary to find out the meaning of various kinds of English vocabulary that they did not know.

Table 15. Solution: Using Dictionary

No.	Students' alternative solutions	Percentages
10.	Using Dictionary	84%

In addition, the interview number 6 with an English teacher who taught in VIII/A also said that the dictionary was an alternative solution for students to find out the meaning of various kinds of English vocabulary that they did not know.

“If students have problems in building English vocabulary during the COVID-19 pandemic because they don't know word meanings, that's an easy solution. With an English-Indonesian dictionary or vice versa, they will know the meaning of various kinds of English vocabulary that they do not know. There are various kinds of dictionaries, some are printed, some are electronic, they just have to choose which one to use.....” (English Teacher Interview No.6)

From the finding above, the first alternative solution to overcome students' problems in building up English vocabulary during the COVID-19 Pandemic, was by using a dictionary. By using dictionary, students could find out the meaning of various kinds of English vocabulary that they did not know.

2. Learning with Friends

This finding was in line with the research by Balqis [28], who explained that students could build English vocabulary by learning with their friends. By learning with their friends, students could help each other if they found difficulties when learning English. From the results of the questionnaire number 11 given to students of VIII/A, the majority of them (78%) choosed to learn with their friends to make them feel comfortable and also to cover their learning facilities.

Table 16. Solution: Learning with Friends

No.	Students' alternative solutions	Percentages
11.	Learning with Friends	78%

Learning with friends would increase their motivation in terms of learning English vocabulary during this covid-19 pandemic. The results of interview number 3 with an English teacher who taught in VIII/A were:

“In my opinion, the way to increase students' motivation to learn English vocabulary in this era of COVID-19 pandemic is by practicing or learning with their friends. because by learning together with their friends, they are free to discuss and share knowledge about English, including to learn English vocabulary. I am sure, they will feel more comfortable if they learn English with their friends. So with this comfortable feeling, it will create a kind of motivation for them to learn English, including English vocabulary.....”(English Teacher Interview No.3)

Besides, the result of interview number 8 with the English teacher who taught in VIII/A that show by studying with friends, would handle students facilities that unfulfilled in learning English vocabulary as follows:

“In my opinion, to overcome students' learning facilities in learning English vocabulary in this era of the COVID-19 pandemic, students can learn together with friends who have internet quotas to handle if one of them do not have an internet quota. Students can also study with their friends who have wifi if at any time the internet network on their cellphone is bad.” (English Teacher Interview No.8)

From the finding above, the second alternative solution to overcome students' problems in building up English vocabulary During the COVID-19 Pandemic was learning with their friends. By learning English with their friends, would make students felt comfortable. So, that it would increase their motivation in learning English vocabulary. Beside that, it would handle students facilities that unfulfilled in learning English vocabulary.

3. Making a Note

This finding was in line with research conducted by Christinawati & Trimastuti [35], who explained that writing their own dictionary would help someone in learning words, and using their own dictionary could be faster than with a regular dictionary. By making notes, students could summarize the English material to make it easier for them to memorize the English vocabulary. From the results of the questionnaire number 12 given to students of VIII/A, the majority of them (68%) choosed to make notes diligently to help it easier for them to learn English vocabulary.

Table 17. Solution: Making a Note

No.	Students' alternative solutions	Percentages
12.	Making a Note	68%

This finding was also reinforced by the result of interview with an English teacher number 3, that by making notes, it would make it easier for students who were lazy to memorize words to build English vocabulary.

“.....Meanwhile, to overcome students who are too lazy to memorize English vocabulary that they have learned because the material is too long, etc., students can make their own notes or dictionaries to make it easier for them to memorize or build English vocabulary during this COVID-19 pandemic.”(English Teacher Interview No.3)

From the finding above, the third alternative solution to overcome students' problems in building up English vocabulary During the COVID-19 Pandemic was making a note. By making notes, students could summarize the English material to make it easier for them to memorize the English vocabulary.

4. Searching in the Internet

The internet technology on students' Smartphones could provide them with many resources to find the various materials related to English learning [36]. Besides, this finding also was in line with the research by [17]. Wulandari's explained that using the internet, students could widely search for various sources to improve their ability to build English vocabulary. From the result of the questionnaire number 13 given to students of VIII/A, the majority of them (59%) choose to use the internet to make it easier for them to learn English vocabulary.

Table 18. Solution: Using the Internet

No.	Students' alternative solutions	Percentages
13.	Searching in Internet	59%

This result was reinforced by the result of interview with an English teacher number 6, that used the internet to make it easier for students to learn English vocabulary.

".....Then, to find information about grammar, the meaning of a word in English, and also how to pronounce words in English, in order to build English vocabulary during the COVID-19 pandemic, students can use the internet. In this technological era, students can easily get the information they need by using the internet. Indeed in this area the internet connection is bad, but not always bad....."(English Teacher Interview No.6)

From the finding above, the fourth alternative solution to overcome students' problems in building up English vocabulary During the COVID-19 Pandemic was using internet. By using internet, the students could serching various information about grammar, the meaning of a word in English, and also how to pronounce words in English, in order to build English vocabulary.

5. Listening to English Music

This finding was in line with research conducted by [37], who explained that listening to music like in the JOOX application would make students get better pronunciation and also get new vocabulary. From the results of the questionnaire number 14 given to students of VIII/A, the majority of them (75%) choose to improve their understanding of English vocabulary by listening to English music.

Table 19. Solution: Listening to English Music

No.	Students' alternative solutions	Percentages
14.	Listening to English Music	75%

In addition to the description above, It was also stated by the English teacher who taught in VIII/A in interview number 6.

".....Beside that, listening to English music can also train students' pronunciation to be better as well as to find new English vocabulary that they don't know yet. This method is worth trying to build English vocabulary during this COVID-19 pandemic." (English Teacher Interview No.6)

From the finding above, the fifth alternative solution to overcome students' problems in building up English vocabulary during the COVID-19 Pandemic was listening to English music. By listening to English music, the students could acquire new English vocabulary and also practice their English pronunciation for the better.

From the results in the discussion session, it could be concluded that the main problem for students in building English vocabulary in the COVID-19 pandemic situation was that they had problem in the learning facility in the form of bad internet connection with a percentage of the problem was (97%). This bad internet connection made students have some problems in building up English vocabulary. Beside that, the main alternative solution to overcome students' problems was using a dictionary with a percentage was (84%). The reason was because using a dictionary was the simplest way to find the meaning of various words in English to Indonesian or vice versa.

Moreover, the dictionary was available in book form as an alternative for students if they had difficulty accessing the online dictionary in the internet due to bad internet connection.

5. Conclusions

Based on the data analysis, the following conclusions were: Students' problems in building up English vocabulary during COVID-19 pandemic were included: 1) having low motivation (81%) and having low interest in learning English (75%), 2) lazy in memorizing English words (84%), 3) did not understand about grammar (91%) and did not understand the meaning of various kinds of English vocabulary (84%), 4) did not understand about the pronunciation of English words (91%), 5) have no sufficient learning facilities in English online learning (internet connection) (97%) as the main problem.

The alternative solutions to overcome students' problems in building up English vocabulary during COVID-19 pandemic were included: 1) using dictionary to find out the meaning of various kinds of English vocabulary that they did not know (84%) as the main solution, 2) learning with friends to increase their motivation and to handle their facilities that unfulfilled in learning English vocabulary (78%), 3) making a note to make it easier for them to memorize the English vocabulary (68%), 4) searching in the internet to find various information about grammar, the meaning of a word in English, and also how to pronounce words in English (59%), 5) listening to English music to acquire new English vocabulary and also to practice their English pronunciation for the better (75%).

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