

# The Use of English Novel in English as A Foreign Language Classroom

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## **Abstract**

Vocabulary is important in language learning, including in English classroom. However, there are some students who are lack of vocabulary. This research aimed to investigate the use of English novel in improving students' vocabulary mastery in EFL classroom. There are two research questions proposed by the researcher. The first is 'What are the students' strategies to master vocabulary through reading an English novel?' and the second is 'What are the benefits of reading English novel in EFL classroom?'. To answer the research questions, the researcher employed a qualitative research methodology. Interview was used as an instrument to gather the data. The interview guideline was created by researcher related to the literature review and the aims of the research. The researcher involved four participants of students' batch 2014. This research revealed that the strategies used by students in improving vocabulary through reading English novel are looking up the dictionary; memorizing; note taking; asking friends; searching the meaning in the internet; guessing; and looking for synonym all of

these are included as receptive vocabulary. The next findings are, using word in the sentence; using word in context; repeat reading; summarizing; and learning how to spell which are included as expressive vocabulary. The research also found that the benefits of reading English novel. The finding is classified in two categories. Feeling happy and consoled; being motivated; and being more curious are included as psychological effects. Next improving vocabulary; improving skill in English; improving grammar; getting new knowledge; and learning new culture are included as English skills effects.

**Keywords:** English novel, vocabulary mastery, strategies, and benefits

## **1. Introduction**

English novel is one of learning media that can be used for learning English since it might improve students' knowledge. According to Hişmanoğlu (2005) "novel is a very effective way for developing vocabulary mastery and improve reading comprehension skills" (p. 28). One of the implementation of English novel can be done through reading. Vocabulary is one of elements that are very important in learning foreign language. The smallest thing in learning foreign language that learners should know is vocabulary. Wilkins (as quoted by Thornbury 2002) stated that "without grammar very little can be conveyed; without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed." (p. 111-112). For some people, reading is something that makes them bored. There are many reasons why students do not like reading. According to Radwan (2007), the reasons why students dislike reading are that they are afraid to be punished, their mind

wanders in the wrong direction, they are impatient, and because they do not know what they should read.

## **2. Review of Literature Review**

### *2.1 The definition of Novel*

According to Sumardjo (1998) novel is a story with the prose form in long shape; the long shape means the story including the complex plot, characters and setting. Additionally, Rafiq (2016) stated that Novel is a long prose that describes intimate human expression. Novel is a long story or prose that describes human expression. In novel include complex plot, many characters and various setting.

### *2.2 The definition of vocabulary*

Vocabulary is one of important elements that students should learn in English language classroom. Burns and Broman (1975) "define that vocabulary is the stock of words used by people and class or professional, yet each clearly different" (p.8). It means that vocabulary is words that are used by persons to express their feeling. Hornby (1995) as cited Alqahtani (2015) stated that "vocabulary is the total number of words for making up the language" (p.24). The basic thing in learning language is acquisition of vocabulary. Zimmerman in Coady and Huckin (1997) states that "vocabulary is central to language and critical important for language learner" (p.11).

### *2.3 Vocabulary mastery*

Longman said that vocabulary is a list of words, in alphabetically arranged and with explanations (Longman, 1989). According to Merriam (1966 cari yang terbaru) that vocabulary is a list or collecting of words and phrases usually alphabetically order and explained. It concludes that vocabulary is a list of word usually in alphabetically with explanation of their meaning. Merriam (1966) also stated same meaning that “mastery is the skill or knowledge in a subject that makes one a master in it” (p. 20). According to Thorndike (1997) mastery is a great skill or knowledge. Mastery is great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity.

#### *2.4 Vocabulary Learning Strategies in English Language Classroom*

According to Farstrup and Samuels (2008) and O’Conner (2007) as cited in Weiser (2013) improving vocabulary can be done by clear vocabulary instruction, repeated reading new words, opportunities to use words in activities such as discussion and writing, and strategies to help determine word meanings independently. It refers that improving vocabulary can be done in a lot of ways. According to Kinsella, Stump, Feldman (2013) the strategies used by students such as looking up the word in the dictionary, using the words in the sentence, using word in a context and memorize definition are something that learners can do in learning vocabulary.

#### *2.5 Benefits of English Novel in English as A Foreign Language Classroom.*

Pringganti (2003) said reading a novel can improve learners' vocabulary in English. Hişmanoğlu (2005) stated that the use of novel is good techniques for English language classes because if novel is selected carefully, it can motivate students for learning, more interesting and more entertaining for students. Helton, Asmani and Thomas (1998) stated the educational benefits of novels helps them master the skills that will enable them to get an information, the process of finding new knowledge, identify problems from the novel, and arrive at meaningful context.

### **3. Methodology**

#### *3.1 Participants*

ELED students of private university in Yogyakarta batch 2014 became the participants of this research. Students batch 2014 has four classes, the classes were A, B, C, D but the researcher choose class D to be the participants of this research because class D is class that every semester uses English novel in their class. Furthermore, the researcher has an access to of class D where in that class the students should read English novel, thus the researcher know the improvement of students' score because in every meeting the lecturer shows that students can see the result of close book journal using novel in the screen.

#### *3.2 Instruments*

In this study the researcher used interview as the method to collect the data and the types of interview that researcher used was standardized

open-ended interviews. According to Patton (1980), “the detail wording sequences of questions are determined in advance, interviews are asked the questions in the same order”. The instrument was the interview guideline. The interview guideline was created by the researcher based on the purposes of the research and was related to the research questions. It helped the interviewer to ask the questions.

### *3.3 Data analysis*

According to Cohen et al (2011), coding is giving label or name to piece of text or information. There are some steps of coding. The steps are open coding, analytical coding, axial coding and the last is selective coding. In the first step is open coding. According to Strauss and Corbin (1990) as cited to Cohen et al (2011), open coding is giving a label of piece of text to describe and categories. In this step, the researcher gave a label of the data. The second is analytical coding. Analytical coding is more than a describing code (Cohen et al, 2011). It becomes more interpretive. In this step, the researcher should interpret the data. It is a process of the researcher to break down information into smaller unit/segment. In this step of coding, the researcher got the theme or topic from the information. Next is about axial coding. Axial coding is a category label from a group of open codes which have similar meaning (Cohen et al, 2011). In this step of coding after the researcher gave a label and interpreted the data, the researcher divided the data into some categories. The researcher gave a mark of the categories. The last is

selective coding. According to Cohen et al (2011), Selective coding is the process of identifying the core category in a text. A selective code is similar with axial coding but this is at a greater level of abstraction than an axial code.

#### **4. Discussion**

##### *4.1 Students' strategies in improving vocabulary through reading English novel*

The results showed that there are some strategies used by students in improving students' vocabulary mastery. The researcher classified the strategies into two categories. The categories are divided based on the theory. Classifying vocabulary into a receptive vocabulary and expressive vocabulary. Strategies included in receptive vocabulary are looking up the dictionary, memorizing, note taking, asking friends, searching the meaning in the internet, guessing and looking for synonym. Next is expressive vocabularies which are using word in sentence, using word in context, repeating reading, summarizing and learning how to spell the words.

##### *4.2 The Benefits of Reading an English Novel in EFL classroom*

Based on the results, reading an English novel gives benefits for students and the benefits helps students in learning English. The benefits are classified in two categories. First is psychological effects are feeling happy and consoled, being motivated and being more curious. Second is English skills effects are improving vocabulary,

improving skill in English, Improving grammar, getting new knowledge, learning new culture.

## **5. Conclusion**

In conclusion reading English novel helps students in learning English. Reading English novel helps students in improving vocabulary mastery. Every student has different strategies in improving vocabulary mastery through reading an English novel. Every strategy that is used by students helps them in learning English. Besides that reading an English novel also gives benefits for students. The benefits of reading an English novel can support students in learning English more seriously.

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