

## IMPROVING ENGLISH VOCABULARY MASTERY BY USING CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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### Abstract

Vocabulary is important in English language. Because, to make a sentence an adequate vocabulary is needed. So, the researcher apply a method in the classroom which can make students motivated to learn vocabulary. The aim of the research is to know that the crossword puzzle is effective to improve students' vocabulary or not through the use of crossword puzzles among seventh-grade students of MTs At-Taqwa Cihampelas in the academic year of 2018/2019. The method used in this research is quantitative technique and the pre-experimental research design conducted in one class. The population in this research is seventh-grade students of MTs At-Taqwa Cihampelas with the total number of the population are 104 students consisting of 3 classes, and the sample is class VII.A that consist of 30 students. The data is collected with the pretest and posttest as an instrument. The researcher conducted the tests before (pre-test) and after (post-test). After that the researcher give students a treatment consists of five meetings. The result show that the mean score of pre-test was 41.83, and the post-test was 75.67 after gives treatment uses crossword puzzle. It means that teaching English vocabulary using a crossword puzzle was effective media to improve students' vocabulary at seventh-grade.

**Keywords:** *crossword puzzle, students' vocabulary mastery*

### INTRODUCTION

Teaching English is needed for preparing the globalization era and developing science. So, we can increase competition with the world community. To master all, they should prepare them self with vocabularies. The vocabulary an important thing in learning English. If the students have a lack of vocabulary, they cannot express their ideas, and it is impossible to communicate effectively among people.

Vocabulary is one of the language component that support the student in learning language. According to Richard (2001:4) in Anwar and Efransyah (2018) vocabulary is one of the most obvious components of language and one of the first things applied linguists turned their attention to. Murcia (2001: 285) in Parmawati stated that vocabulary learning is central to language acquisition, whether the language is first, second or foreign. If people could be mastered vocabulary well, they will speak, listen, read and write. various ways are done to manipulate the vocabulary that aims to improve the ability of writers and speakers to make emotive effects and construct a smooth and coherent of the discourse

The students' vocabulary mastery needs improvement. Case (1994: 5) in Profita, Susilohadi and Sarosa claims that puzzle are useful for language learners because the enjoyment,

satisfaction, reflection, and play can focus learners attention on the language in a concentrated but nonstressful way. So, the researcher brings the way of teaching vocabulary by using crossword puzzles, to improving students' vocabulary mastery.

According to Widyasari in Anwar Taofik Yayang and Efransyah (2018) there are some kinds of crossword puzzles that can be performed in the process of teaching and learning vocabulary in the classroom using crossword puzzle game, those are:

- a. Oral Puzzle. It is a puzzle that is giving oral by teachers, and students are given only an empty crossword puzzles without a clue. Give instructions orally can train hearing students. Tell students to fill out what they could and then repeat the instructions again until they understand.
- b. Picture Puzzle. It is a puzzle using the picture as a clue. And only give the students the puzzle without the clues. For each clue, replaced with pictures. It works very well with a unit which embroiled many new vocabulary.
- c. Object Puzzle. It is the crossword where inside the object is written a clue. give a blank puzzle without a hint to the student. The goods placed around the room, each given a labeled with the prompts number. Then the students are asked to go around at different stations; allow them to pick up the objects as they complete the puzzle.

According to Plaister in in Anwar Taofik Yayang and Efransyah (2018) in teaching vocabulary there are some advantage of crossword puzzle that can be taken, namely:

1. Learning vocabulary by doing, because doing action would be more meaningful and motivating students.
2. By doing puzzle, students are trained to involve in the problem solving.
3. It is interesting and challenging for students. It can avoid students' boredom of monotonous learning. In this case, puzzle tries to increase students' attention, their lesson materials and this procedure better learning.
4. The puzzle in group or classroom discussion students is trained to be more critical thinking.
5. The puzzle in group will make the students feel fun, enjoy in their learning English. This is and helpful for students' in learning English.

Based on the statement above, the researcher indicate that crossword puzzle is good way to improving vocabulary.

## **METHOD**

This research about improving English vocabulary mastery by using crossword puzzle in the seventh grade at MTs At-Taqwa Cihampelas. The aim of the research is to know that the crossword puzzle is effective to improve students' vocabulary or not. The researcher will employ the quantitative method and the pre-experimental research design conducted in one class. The population in this research is seventh-grade students of MTs At-Taqwa Cihampelas with the total number of the population are 104 students consisting of 3 classes, and the sample is class VII.A that consist of 30 students. The data is collected with the pretest and posttest as an instrument.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

In this section the researcher using *SPSS version 15.0* to answer whether crossword puzzle is effective to improve students' vocabulary at the seventh-grade of MTs At-Taqwa Cihampelas, with the title below:

**Table 1.** The Result of Pretest and Posttest

No	Name	Pretest	Posttest
1	Student 1	26	70
2	Student 2	66	95
3	Student 3	59	65
4	Student 4	56	90
5	Student 5	20	70
6	Student 6	25	75
7	Student 7	40	75
8	Student 8	15	55
9	Student 9	30	60
10	Student 10	59	70
11	Student 11	26	70
12	Student 12	20	70
13	Student 13	30	55
14	Student 14	40	80
15	Student 15	40	70
16	Student 16	40	85
17	Student 17	55	70
18	Student 18	20	60
19	Student 19	35	75
20	Student 20	20	80
21	Student 21	45	70
22	Student 22	55	90
23	Student 23	30	95
24	Student 24	70	90
25	Student 25	70	80
26	Student 26	55	90
27	Student 27	60	90
28	Student 28	40	80
29	Student 29	40	85
30	Student 30	70	90

**Table 2. Tests of Normality**

		Kolmogorov-Smirnov(a)			Shapiro-Wilk		
kelas		Statistic	Df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
pretest	pretest	.145	30	.110	.930	30	.050
	posttest	.150	30	.082	.938	30	.083

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Criteria:

If Sig > 0.05

The sample was a normal distribution.

Pretest : Sig 0.110 > 0.05

Posttest: Sig 0.82 > 0.05

The sample was a normal distribution

We look to Kolmogorov-Smirnov because the sample is less than 33.

**Table 3. Paired Samples Statistics**

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Pretest	41.83	30	17.201	3.140
	Posttest	76.67	30	11.621	2.122

At this output, we are shown the data of statistics from the sample pretest and posttest. The mean of pretest 41.83 and the mean of posttest 76.67 it means that score improved from using crossword puzzle.

**Table 4. Paired Samples Test**

		Paired Differences					T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
		Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
Pair 1	pretest – posttest	-34.833	14.300	2.611	-40.173	-29.494	-13.342	29	.000

Criteria: If Sig > 0.05 H0 is accepted

If Sig. < 0.05 H0 is rejected

The result Sig. 0.000 < 0.005 so, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis was accepted.

## Discussion

In this research, the researcher using quantitative method and pre-experimental research, who consists of 30 students at seventh-grade in Mts At-Taqwa Cihampelas. The researcher uses pretest and posttest, consists of 7 meetings. First, pretest before the researcher gives treatment, second is treatment consists of five meetings, and the last is posttest after the researcher gives treatment. Based on the result the researcher indicates that the use of crossword puzzle is effective to improve students vocabulary in seventh-grade of Mts At-Taqwa Cihampelas. The data shows that the use of crossword puzzles may have contributed to the improvement of performance since at the pretest. Based on the table 3, the mean score of pretest 41.83 and after

apply a crossword puzzle the mean of posttest 76.67. It means that crossword puzzle can improve students vocabulary.

## CONCLUSION

The aim of the research is to know that the crossword puzzle is effective to improve students' vocabulary or not, with using a quantitative method and the pre-experimental research design conducted in one class. The sample was a normal distribution. Based on the data statistics above, result of the research show that the improvement of students' vocabulary mastery could be seen in the increasing of mean score of pretest 41.83 and the mean of posttest 76.67. The last, the result Sig.  $0.000 < 0.005$ . So, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis was accepted. It means that score was improve from using crossword puzzle at the seventh-grade students of MTs At-TAQWA Cihampelas. From the statements, it can be concluded that the crossword puzzle is able to improve the students' vocabulary.

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