**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING CROSSWORD PUZZLES TO INCREASE ENGLISH VOCABULARY MASTERY OF THE SECOND GRADE STUDENTS’ OF SMP N 2 AMBAL IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2012/ 2013**

By

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**Abstract**

The objective of this research is to find out whether teaching vocabulary by using Crossword Puzzle is effective for Junior High School students or not. This research is an experimental research which has been conducted on the second-grade students of SMP N 2 Ambal in the academic year 2012/2013. In this research the researcher took 52 students as the samples. The researcher took class VIIIA, which consists of 26 students as experimental group, and class VIIID, which consists of 26 students as control group. The test consists of 30 items as instrument of the research. It is a multiple choices reading test. The researcher had given pre-test before she taught the students vocabulary by using Crossword Puzzles, and the researcher gave post-test after she had taught the students vocabulary by using Crossword Puzzles media. Stasistically, the researcher analyzed the data by using t-test. The result of this study shows that there is significant effect of using Crossword Puzzles to teach the students vocabulary, since it was found that the result of t-value is 2.99, the degree freedom (df) is 50 and the level significance of t-test table is 5% (0.05) It shows 2.05. It is proven by the result of t-test sample related that the t-value is higher than t-table. Based on the result finding, it can be seen that using Crossword Puzzles as media to increase vocabulary is effective for Junior High School students’ of SMP N 2 Ambal in the academic year of 2012/2013.

**Key word**: Effectiveness, Crossword Puzzles, Vocabulary Mastery.

1. **Background of the study**

Language is very important in human life. It is used by people to communicate with one another. There are many languages, which are used and learned by people in many different places in many different ways.

Vocabulary is very important, because the student must master vocabulary first before studying the sentences. Vocabulary cannot be separated from English language teaching, especially language skills such as reading, speaking, writing, and listening. The learners cannot master all those skills if they do not master vocabulary well. In this case vocabulary should become the first target in English language teaching, especially to the second grade students in Junior High School.

Junior High School students’ ability in language is still considered low. This fact has obvious implications for teaching strategies and techniques. Therefore, it is better to find a new solution in for teacher by using a certain teaching media which encouraging and motivating students in learning English it needs a certain media which is economical (of money and time), enjoyable for students, easy to create, and last, of course, it is on the educational purpose.

Based on the statement above, the researcher is interested in conduct the research entitled ‘’ The Effectiveness of Using Crossword Puzzles to Increase English Vocabulary Mastery of the Second Grade students of SMP N 2 Ambal.

1. **Research Method**

This research is classified as an experimental and quantitative research. In this research, the researcher chooses SMP N 2 Ambal as the population sampling of research. In addition, the time of research was held from June, 15 th 2013 up to June, 21st 2013. In this research, the population is the second grade students of SMP N 2 Ambal in the academic year of 2012/ 2013 consisting of 8 classes. The total of population is 210 students. The researcher uses the purposive sampling one would be treated as the experimental group and the other as the control group. In this research, the researcher uses pre-test and post test in getting the data. The researcher took this research through three activities. The first activity is giving pre test, the second activity is conducting the treatment and the last activity is giving post test. To analyze the data, the researcher applies an descriptive analysis, inferential analysis, hypothesis testing is done through t-test.

1. **Finding and Discussion**

The table below is the summarized scores of students’ achievement of the control group and experimental group.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Group | H | L | R | Me | Mo | T | M | SD |
| Control | 83 | 53 | 30 | 70 | 60 | 1739 | 66.88 | 6.99 |
| Experimental | 97 | 63 | 34 | 71 | 67 | 1914 | 73.61 | 9.16 |

From the result of the post test from experimental groups, the researcher was gotten the data. The data shows that the highest score is 97, the lowest score is 63, the mode is 67, the median is 71.50, the mean is 73.61, the range is 34, the variance 83.92, SD is 9.16, and the total score is 1914. It is categorized as good.

From the result of the post test from experimental groups, the researcher was gotten the data. The data shows that the highest score is 83, the lowest score is 53, the mode is 60, the median is 70, the mean is 66.88, the range is 30, the variance 48.98, SD is 6.99, and the total score is 1739. It is categorized as good.

From the test normality, it shows that post-test ( Asymp-sign ( 2-tailed) are higher than 0.05 is 1.96 . It means that the data is normal. The F value is lower than 0.05 ( 1.71 < 1.96), So the variance of two samples were homogeneous.

After computing t-test separated variance and knowing the hypothesis is accepted, the theory meets the fact in this case. Then, from the computation in the previous section, the researcher concludes that using Crossword Puzzles as media to increase vocabulary is effective for Junior High School students’ of SMP N 2 Ambal in the academic year of 2012/2013.

1. **Conclusion**

The result shows that t-value was 2.99. This value was higher that significance level 5 % ( 0.05 = 2.05) with the degree freedom (df) is 50. The position of t-value = 2.99 > 2.05.

Based on the analysis above, the researcher could infer that Using Crossword Puzzle as a method is effective to increase English ‘vocabulary mastery for the second grade students of SMP N 2 Ambal in the academic year of 2012/2013.

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