

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a collection of words owned by an individual or used in a language. In the context of English language learning, vocabulary includes words that are known and understood by a person, both orally and in writing. Mastery of a broad vocabulary is very important because it is the basis for developing other language skills, such as speaking, writing, reading and listening.

Vocabulary as a set of words that a person knows or uses in a particular language. In the context of language learning, vocabulary includes the meaning, pronunciation, spelling, and usage of words in various communicative situations. Nation also highlights the importance of understanding aspects such as synonyms, antonyms, and collocations to enhance language proficiency (Paul Nation 2022).

Vocabulary as a collection of words possessed by an individual or group in a particular language. In the context of language learning, vocabulary refers to the corehension and use of words in relevant contexts, encompassing both words that are understood (receptive vocabulary) and words that are actively used (Alaa Alahmadi and Anouschka Foltz 2020).

Vocabulary mastery is not only influenced by the number of words learned but also by the depth of students'

understanding of those words. This understanding can be achieved through interactive and collaborative learning methods, such as Think-Pair-Share (Syahrir et al.2021).

Every word in a language carries various shades of meaning that can differ depending on its context of use. For example, the word "resolve" can mean solving a task or addressing a problem, illustrating the flexibility of meaning in language (Klimova and Polakova 2020).

1. Type of Vocabulary

Vocabulary in English Language Learning can be divided into several categories based on how it is used. Each type of vocabulary plays an important role in helping students develop better language skills. To understand vocabulary acquisition more deeply, the following is an explanation of three types of vocabulary that are commonly encountered in the language learning process:

a. Receptive Vocabulary

Receptive vocabulary is words that students recognize and understand when listening or reading, although they do not always use them in their conversation or writing. It includes words that are known, but are more often received as information rather than actively used.

b. Productive Vocabulary

Unlike receptive vocabulary, productive vocabulary are words that are understood and also actively used by learners

in speaking and writing. Learners who master productive vocabulary have the ability to use these words confidently in various contexts.

c. **Active Vocabulary vs. Passive Vocabulary**

In language learning, we often hear the terms active and passive vocabulary. Active vocabulary is words that are used regularly in conversation or writing, while passive vocabulary includes words that are known but rarely used by learners in communication situations.

Vocabulary has a close relationship with English Language Teaching (ELT) because it is the main foundation in learning English. Vocabulary mastery is a key element that determines students' ability to understand and use language in various contexts. Without adequate vocabulary, students will have difficulty in developing other language skills, such as speaking, writing, reading and listening (Nation 2021). In addition, English language learning evaluations often use vocabulary mastery as one of the indicators of students' overall ability. Therefore, vocabulary not only supports the development of other language skills, but is also a very important part of achieving learning success in ELT.

B. The Basic Concept Busuu application

Busuu was first launched in 2008 by a group of Spanish founders, Bernhard Niesner and Adrian Cohn. They both

have a background in technology and languages, and together they created the app with the aim of offering an accessible and interactive language learning platform. Busuu is named after the endangered language Busuu, which is spoken by an ethnic group in Cameroon. The idea behind the name is to suggest that language learning is essential for the preservation and development of culture and communication between people around the world. Since its launch, Busuu has grown rapidly by integrating technology and social features, such as the ability to speak with native speakers of the language being learned. This popularized Busuu among users who wanted to learn a foreign language in a practical and fun way. These innovations have also driven wide adoption among users from different countries, making Busuu one of the largest and most popular language learning apps in the world.

Busuu is a language learning app that offers courses in 14 languages, including English, Spanish, French, German and Japanese. The app is designed to help users improve their language skills through interactive methods that include listening, speaking, reading and writing exercises. Busuu also provides community features that allow users to interact with native speakers, provide feedback and share tips to speed up the learning process.

The use of apps like Busuu can strengthen the necessary language skills in a more engaging and technology-based

way. Busuu helps users improve their language skills through interactive and structured learning, which includes listening, speaking, writing, and reading exercises (Mourad & Jebeile 2020). Busuu allows users to interact with native speakers through a “correction” feature, where other users provide feedback on writing and conversation. Busuu is a language learning program that encourages you to develop all your language skills—speaking, listening, reading and writing—at once. For example, it has a speech recognition tool that helps you improve your speaking skills just using your phone (FluentU 2025).

C. Characteristics of the Busuu Application

The Busuu app is a language learning platform that has various characteristics that support interactive and fun foreign language teaching (Tang, Jinlan, et al, 2024). Here is a detailed explanation of the main characteristics of the Busuu app:

1. Wide Range of Language Options

Busuu offers learning in over 12 foreign languages including English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and many more. Users can choose the language they want to learn and access material that suits their skill level.



Picture 2. 1 Start Menu

2. Structured Course

Each course in this app is designed with a clear structure, starting from basic to advanced levels. The learning material is broken down into smaller, more digestible units, covering a range of topics from basic vocabulary, grammar, to everyday conversation.



Picture 2. 2 Structured Course

3. Integrated Learning Methods

The app offers different types of exercises to improve the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The materials are organized to guide users in mastering vocabulary, pronunciation, as well as other communication skills. These exercises include:

- a. Listening Practice: Provides audio to practice listening skills by listening to conversations or phrases in the target language.
- b. Speaking Practice: Users are asked to speak words or sentences and receive feedback from the app.
- c. Writing Practice: Users are asked to write sentences or texts based on the material learned.
- d. Reading Practice: Provides text to be read and followed by questions to test comprehension.



Picture 2. 3 Integrated Learning Method

4. AI Technology-Based Learning

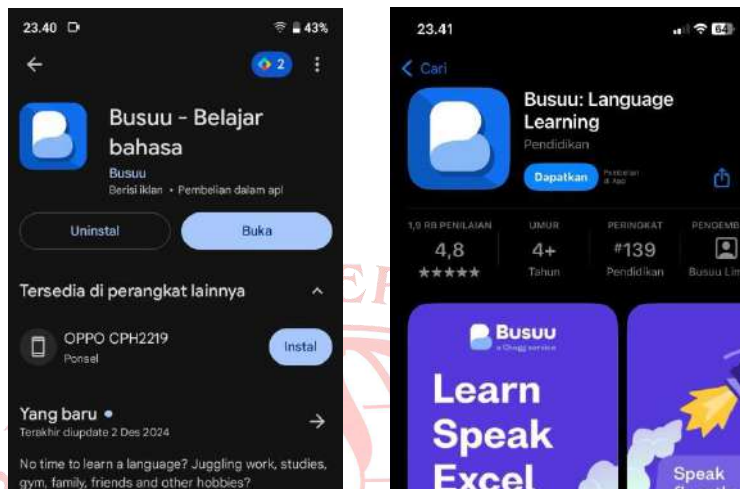
Busuu utilizes AI technology to assess users' progress and recommend appropriate learning materials according to their progress. AI is also used to automatically provide feedback on pronunciation exercises, helping users correct their pronunciation errors.



Picture 2. 4 Ai utilization in busu app

5. Available on Multiple Platforms

The Busuu app can be accessed via smartphone (iOS and Android) and also via desktop on the website. This gives users the flexibility to learn anytime and anywhere.



Picture 2. 5 busuu application accessing platform

D. The Using Of Media In ELT

One of the effective mediums to improve language skills is Busuu, a language learning app that provides a variety of interactive features. Busuu offers CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)-based learning modules that include vocabulary, grammar, speaking, writing, listening, and reading exercises. The app also allows users to interact directly with native speakers, so they can get more authentic feedback on language usage.

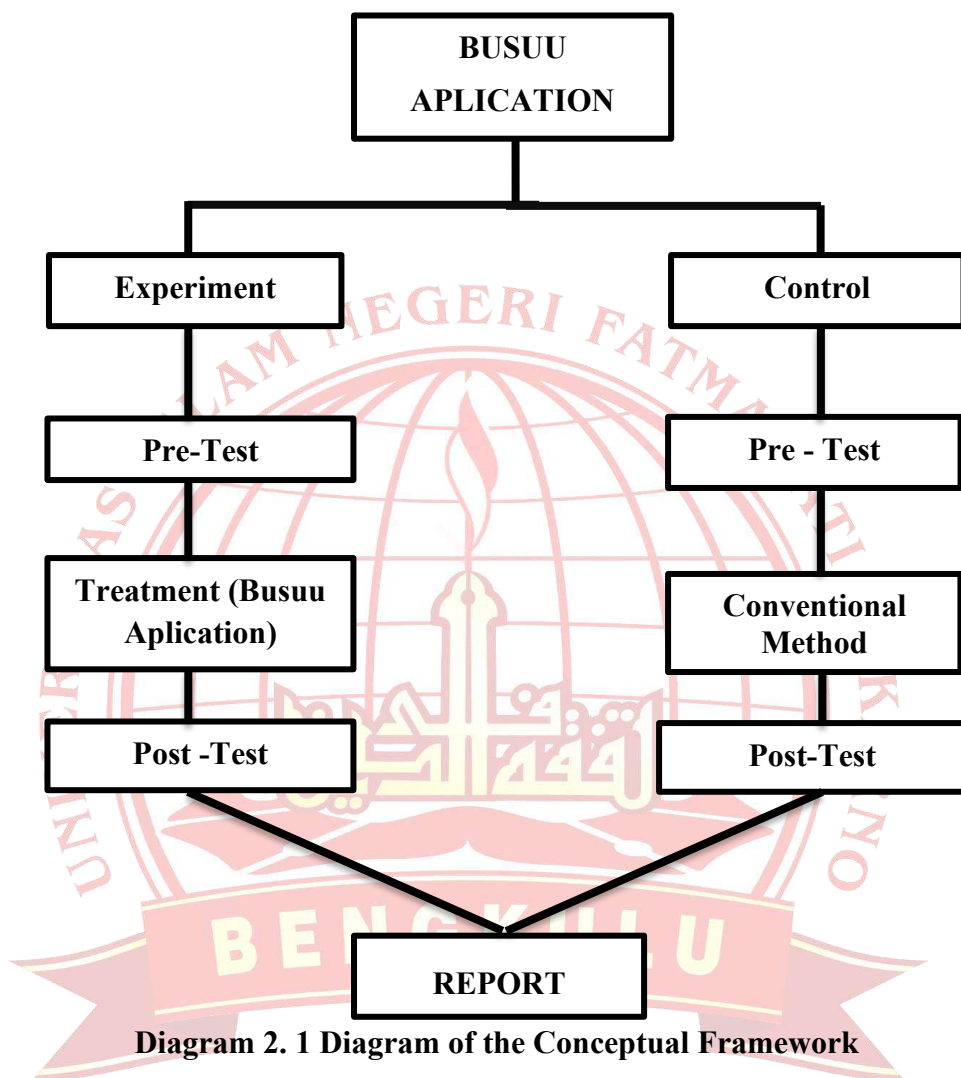
In the context of improving vocabulary, the use of technology-based ELTs such as Busuu provides various benefits. First, the app helps students expand their vocabulary through structured exercises, including a list of new words categorized by a specific theme. Second, the

speaking and writing practice feature allows students to apply new vocabulary in a real-world context, so they not only memorize words but also understand their use in sentences.

H. Theoretical framework

The conceptual framework is an important part of a study that serves to describe and explain the researcher's train of thought. In this case, the conceptual framework helps researchers to convey the reasons or rationale underlying the existing assumptions, which are then outlined in the form of hypotheses. This framework acts as a conceptual model that shows how various theories are interconnected with various factors or variables that have been defined as the main problems in the research. In other words, the conceptual framework is a synthesis that connects one variable to another based on the knowledge gained from the theories previously described. This process aims to provide a clear understanding of the relationship between variables and how these factors influence each other in the context of the research being conducted. As a result, this framework provides a strong foundation for researchers to formulate hypotheses and carry out further analysis in their research.

A scheme for applying learning using the busuu apk as shown below:



Students are sometimes not interested in the material being taught because teachers use traditional teaching methods to transfer material to students. Students find it difficult to learn English due to a lack of vocabulary and the ease of forgetting it.

Several studies show that the use of mobile applications and collaborative learning strategies play an important role in enhancing the vocabulary mastery of EFL learners. Klimová (2021) reveals that mobile applications can accelerate the process of learning English vocabulary as a foreign language by providing easier access to learning and instant feedback to students. These features allow students to learn more flexibly, anytime and anywhere, and to quickly identify their mistakes, making the correction process faster and more effective. Meanwhile, Polakova (2020) found that students feel applications like Busuu bring significant benefits in improving vocabulary acquisition. This positive perception is supported by the ease of use of the application, attractive design, and context-based exercises that reinforce the understanding of new words. In addition to technology-based approaches, collaborative learning strategies have also proven effective. Syahrir et al. (2021) demonstrate that the Think Pair Share strategy can increase student engagement in the learning process, which ultimately has a positive impact on their vocabulary mastery. Through collaboration, students are more active in discussions, exchanging ideas, and building a shared understanding of vocabulary use in real contexts. Thus, both technology-based approaches through applications like Busuu and collaborative learning strategies

such as Think Pair Share play important roles in strengthening vocabulary acquisition for EFL learners.

I. Some Related Previous Study

A study by Rahmat (2020) examined the effectiveness of the Busuu app in improving the vocabulary of high school students in Jakarta. The study showed that students who used the Busuu app for 6 weeks experienced significant improvements in vocabulary skills, especially in the noun and verb categories. This was attributed to Busuu's interactive features, such as context-based exercises and word pronunciation. Research conducted by Rahmat (2020) aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the Busuu application in improving the vocabulary skills of high school students in Jakarta. In this study, students used the Busuu application for 6 weeks. The results show that students who used Busuu experienced a significant improvement in their vocabulary skills, particularly in the categories of nouns and verbs. This improvement is attributed to the interactive features in the Busuu application, such as context-based exercises and word pronunciation, which help students understand the use of words in sentences and enhance their pronunciation accuracy. Thus, this research emphasizes that application-based learning utilizing interactive features can have a positive impact on students' vocabulary mastery, especially in specific

categories of words that are frequently used in daily communication.

Nurmala et al. (2021). this study involved 50 EFL (English as a Foreign Language) learners. They considered the community features and vocabulary exercises as the most helpful aspects in improving their vocabulary. The study focused on students' perceptions of the Busuu app as a vocabulary learning tool. It proved that features such as gamification and community interaction play an important role in improving learning motivation and outcomes. The research conducted by Nurmala et al. (2021) aimed to explore EFL learners' perceptions of using the Busuu application for English vocabulary learning. A total of 50 participants were involved in this study. The results showed that the majority of participants considered the community features and vocabulary exercises in the Busuu application as the most helpful aspects in improving their vocabulary mastery. The community feature, which allows users to interact and receive corrections from native speakers or fellow learners, was evaluated as effective in creating a more contextual and interactive learning experience. This enhanced students' confidence and engagement in the learning process. Additionally, the vocabulary exercises provided in the application proved to enrich participants' knowledge of new vocabulary in a more structured and sustainable way. These

exercises facilitated repetition and memory reinforcement, which are crucial in the vocabulary acquisition process. The study also found that the gamification elements in Busuu, such as achievement systems, points, and rewards, provided additional motivation for students to learn consistently. The competitive and recreational aspects of gamification made learning feel more enjoyable and less tedious. Overall, the motivation to learn and the learning outcomes of the participants improved due to the combination of interactive features and community-based learning strategies offered by the Busuu application. This research underscores the importance of utilizing community-based technology and gamification in supporting foreign language learning, particularly in vocabulary mastery.

Alkamel, M. A. A., & Chouthaiwale, S. S. (2022). This study shows that Busuu can be an effective alternative for vocabulary learning in an EFL context. The study involved 40 EFL learners at a university. Busuu improved vocabulary acquisition through a structured and technology-based learning approach. Learners who used the app regularly experienced a significant increase in vocabulary compared to those who learned with conventional methods. The research conducted by Alkamel and Chouthaiwale (2022) aimed to assess the effectiveness of the Busuu application as an alternative for vocabulary learning in the context of English

as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners. The study involved 40 students as participants. The results indicated that the structured and technology-based use of Busuu significantly improved the vocabulary achievement of the participants. Those who used the application regularly showed a greater increase in vocabulary compared to participants who utilized conventional learning methods. Busuu, with its systematic learning features, provides a more organized and interactive learning environment, allowing students to acquire new vocabulary more effectively. The learning structure within the application, such as step-by-step exercises and the use of engaging digital media, has been shown to accelerate the vocabulary acquisition process. Thus, the study concludes that Busuu can be an effective alternative for vocabulary learning for EFL learners, especially with regular and consistent use.

This research is different from previous studies, both in terms of methods, objectives, and research subjects. This study uses a quantitative method with an experimental design in the form of pre-test and post-test to directly measure the influence of the use of the Busuu application on the improvement of vocabulary mastery of junior high school students. Meanwhile, Rahmat (2020) researched high school students with a focus on improving certain vocabulary categories, Nurmala et al. (2021) used a qualitative approach

that more highlighted EFL students' perception of Busuu features such as gamification and community, and Alkamel & Chouthaiwale (2022) conducted a study on university students to assess the effectiveness of Busuu as an alternative technology-based learning method. In addition, this study aims to provide empirical evidence regarding the effectiveness of Busuu in improving vocabulary mastery at the junior high school level in the context of formal learning in the classroom, in contrast to previous research which was more focused.

J. Hypothesis

Based on this opinion, it can be concluded that the hypothesis provides a provisional answer to the formulation of the research problem, the truth of which must be tested first, which serves as a clear direction for the research to be carried out.

1. Alternative Hypothesis (H_a): There is a significant influence between the application of learning using the Busuu application on students' English vocabulary at SMPN 20 Bengkulu City. ($H_1 = p \leq 0.05$)

2. Hypothesis Zero (H_0):

There was no significant effect between the application of the Busuu application in improving vocabulary