
The Identification of EFL Students' Vocabulary Mastery Problems in a Lexical Studies Class

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Abstract

The purpose of the research is to identify the vocabulary mastery problems faced by some Indonesian EFL students. The descriptive method was employed in this research. This study involved 6 first-semester students of the English Education Department of Universitas Nasional Karangturi. The data was collected by using a vocabulary test and questionnaire. The test result was used to identify the students' vocabulary mastery problems, while the questionnaire result was used to investigate the causes behind the students' problems in vocabulary mastery. The study findings reveal three major problems of students' vocabulary mastery faced in a lexical studies class: mastering the use, meaning, pronunciation, and spelling of English words. The problems were mainly caused by the multiple meanings of English words and the different spellings, pronunciations, and grammar systems in the English language from those in the students' first language (L1).

Keywords: vocabulary mastery, vocabulary mastery problems, descriptive study