

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusions derived from the findings and discussion of the research regarding the use of crossword puzzle technique in teaching vocabulary to the sixth-grade students of SDN Wates 4 Mojokerto. It summarizes the main results obtained from the implementation of the technique. These suggestions are expected to contribute to the improvement of English vocabulary teaching and learning, at the elementary school level. The structure of this chapter consists of two main subchapters.

#### **5.1 Conclusions**

To answer the research questions concerning the effectiveness, implementation, and challenges of using crossword puzzle technique in vocabulary teaching, this study was conducted with the sixth grade students of SDN Wates 4 Mojokerto. The research employed classroom implementation and a questionnaire to collect responses.

##### **5.1.1 The Significance of Crossword Puzzle Technique in Improving Students' Vocabulary Mastery**

The findings of this study indicate that the crossword puzzle technique significantly improves students' vocabulary mastery among sixth grade students of SDN Wates 4 Mojokerto. Looking at the result, the significance value (two-tailed) is 0.000, which is much lower than the 0.05 level. This calculation shows that students' scores increased significantly from their pre-test to their post-test. This shows that using the crossword puzzle method actually helps students learn vocabulary, especially adjectives. This improvement can be seen from students' active participation and their ability to recognize, recall, and use vocabulary during the learning process. The questionnaire results showed

that most students agreed or strongly agreed that crossword puzzles helped them understand new words more easily. Students also felt that learning vocabulary through crossword puzzles made the lesson more enjoyable and less monotonous. This positive perception reflects that the technique supports both cognitive and affective aspects of learning. Therefore, crossword puzzle technique can be considered an effective strategy for vocabulary development.

The effectiveness of crossword puzzle technique is closely related to its interactive and problem-solving nature. Crossword puzzles require students to think critically, recall prior knowledge, and connect meanings with correct word forms. This process helps students strengthen their memory of vocabulary items and enhances long-term retention. In addition, the repetitive exposure to vocabulary through clues and answers allows students to internalize new words naturally. These findings align with theories of vocabulary learning that emphasize meaningful practice and active engagement. Consequently, crossword puzzle technique provides an alternative instructional strategy that supports vocabulary mastery in young learners.

Based on these findings, it implies that the crossword puzzle technique has strong pedagogical value in improving vocabulary mastery for elementary school students. The significant improvement in students' vocabulary achievement indicates that learning activities which combine enjoyment and cognitive challenge can enhance both understanding and retention of new words. It also implies that students are more likely to engage actively in vocabulary learning when instructional techniques encourage participation and problem-solving. Furthermore, the positive responses from students suggest that crossword puzzles help reduce learning anxiety and increase motivation in

vocabulary lessons. This implication highlights that vocabulary instruction should not rely solely on memorization but should incorporate interactive learning media.

### **5.1.2 The Implementation of Crossword Puzzle Technique in Teaching Vocabulary**

The implementation of crossword puzzle technique in teaching vocabulary was conducted through structured and guided classroom activities. The teacher introduced new vocabulary related to the lesson theme before distributing the crossword puzzle worksheets. Students were guided to understand the instructions and work individually or collaboratively to complete the puzzles. During the activity, the teacher facilitated learning by giving hints, explanations, and feedback when needed. This implementation created an interactive classroom environment in which students were actively engaged. As a result, the structured implementation of the crossword puzzle technique not only supported students' understanding of new vocabulary but also promoted cooperation, increased learning motivation, and encouraged active engagement.

These findings suggest that the crossword puzzle technique is a practical and effective instructional approach for teaching vocabulary to sixth-grade students. The structured stages of implementation allow students to follow the learning process more easily and reduce confusion during classroom activities. It also implies that teacher guidance plays an important role in ensuring that the technique runs smoothly and supports students' understanding. Furthermore, the interactive nature of crossword puzzles encourages active participation and peer collaboration, which are essential for young learners. This implication suggests that integrating game-based learning activities can create a positive and engaging learning environment.

### 5.1.3 Students' Problems in Implementing Crossword Puzzle Technique

Despite the positive findings, this study also identified several problems faced by students in implementing crossword puzzle technique. The results showed that the overall mean for the motivation problem was 4.12 (low category), self-confidence was 4.04 (low category), and the anxiety problem was 3.89 (low category). Some students experienced difficulty understanding unfamiliar vocabulary clues without additional explanation from the teacher. Limited vocabulary knowledge caused a few students to rely heavily on guessing or peer assistance. Time management was also a challenge, as some students required more time to complete the puzzles. In addition, students with lower English proficiency sometimes felt confused when encountering complex clues. These issues indicate that crossword puzzle technique requires appropriate guidance.

Another implication that can be drawn is that the crossword puzzle technique is useful for vocabulary learning and supports students' affective needs. The technique has been developed to increase motivation, develop task-specific self-confidence, and decrease anxiety. However, because the findings showed the remaining difficulties in the area of public performance, teachers should create a supportive learning context by reducing the pressure felt by the students while presenting in class, providing them with positive feedback, and allowing them to display what they know about the topic in a variety of ways such as group discussions or written responses.

### 5.2 Suggestions

Based on the results and conclusions of this study, the researcher proposes several suggestions for relevant parties. These suggestions are intended to enhance the effectiveness of vocabulary teaching using crossword puzzle technique. The recommendations are directed toward English teachers, students, and future researchers.

Each suggestion is formulated based on the findings of this research. It is expected that these suggestions will contribute to the improvement of English learning practices.

### **5.2.1 For English Teachers**

English teachers are encouraged to use crossword puzzle technique as an alternative method in teaching vocabulary, especially at the elementary school level. This technique can make vocabulary learning more interactive, enjoyable, and student-centered. Teachers should carefully design crossword puzzles that match students' vocabulary levels and learning objectives. Clear instructions and examples should be provided before the activity begins. Teachers are also advised to combine crossword puzzles with other teaching strategies to maximize learning outcomes. In doing so, teachers can create a more effective and engaging vocabulary learning environment that supports students' active participation, accommodates different learning abilities, and improves overall vocabulary mastery through meaningful learning experiences.

### **5.2.2 For Students**

Students are encouraged to actively participate in vocabulary learning activities using crossword puzzles. They should view crossword puzzles as a fun learning tool rather than a difficult task. Students are also advised to practice vocabulary regularly, both inside and outside the classroom. Actively asking questions and collaborating with peers can help them overcome learning difficulties. Developing a positive attitude toward learning English vocabulary is essential for improving language skills. Consistent practice through enjoyable activities can enhance students' confidence. Consistent practice through enjoyable activities can enhance students' confidence, motivation, and vocabulary mastery while also helping them develop greater interest and positive attitudes

toward learning English both inside and outside the classroom. Therefore, the crossword puzzle cannot stand alone to improve students' vocabulary mastery. They still need to build motivation to be independent in their learning.

### **5.2.3 For Future Researchers**

Future researchers are encouraged to conduct further studies on the use of crossword puzzle technique in different educational contexts. Similar research can be applied to different grade levels, schools, or language skills. Researchers may also explore the combination of crossword puzzles with digital media or technology-based learning tools. Using experimental designs with control and experimental groups can provide more comprehensive results. In addition, future studies can investigate long-term effects of crossword puzzle technique on vocabulary retention. Such research will contribute to the development of more effective English teaching strategies. The study's results will also show that the use of teaching media is highly recommended to support students' learning. Therefore, the researcher hopes to see various positive impacts from the proposed research.