ABSTRACT

**THE USE OF CROSSWORD PUZZLES TO IMPROVE
THE ELEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY IN
THE DESCRIPTIVE TEXTS AT SMA YP UNILA**

By

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This study investigates the use of crossword puzzles as a learning tool to improve the eleventh-grade students' vocabulary mastery in descriptive texts at SMA YP UNILA. A one-group pre-test and post-test design was employed within a quantitative research design. A total of 30 students from class XI.10 participated in the study. The sample was selected through purposive sampling. The research instruments included vocabulary pre-tests and post-tests focusing on content words such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. The pre-test and post-test results were analysed using SPSS to determine the improvement of students' vocabulary mastery. The findings revealed a significant improvement in students' vocabulary mastery with the Sig. (2-tailed) value <0.00, below 0.05, and the mean of pre-test scores increased from 58.52 to 82.47 in the post-test, resulting in a mean difference of 23.95. All aspects of vocabulary, nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, showed significant improvement, with nouns achieving the highest. These findings show that using crossword puzzles significantly improved students' vocabulary mastery. It can be concluded that crossword puzzles effectively improve vocabulary mastery in the eleventh-grade students at SMA YP UNILA.

Keywords: *Crossword Puzzle, Vocabulary Mastery, Content words, Descriptive texts, Quantitative research. eleventh-grade students*.