

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of six points to be treated. it is background of the study, statement of problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and the last is definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

English is one of important languages in the world. It connects people from different countries through many purposes. English becomes the international language, so many people learn English for many purposes, such as for economic purpose, English teacher, tourism etc. So, English is very important in communication process internationally. Therefore mastering English important for students around the world include Indonesian students. Mastering English is not a pleasure or prestige, but it is the key to the international communication and also for technology and commerce globalization era (Hutchison, 2004: 195).

The importance of learning English could be seen from the fact that most scientific books are written in English and the students are supposed to comprehend those books. According to the curriculum, English teaching covers four skills, namely listening, speaking reading, and writing. The four skills are supported by the learning of language elements. They are structure, vocabulary, pronunciation and spelling.

Vocabulary is one language components which should be mastered by SMP or SMA students. Vocabulary is the most important component that will become the basic competence in order to successfully master the four language

skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. If the students have mastered a number of English vocabulary required at their level, it will be easier for them to master other elements in English learning.

Hardjono defines “From all aspects foreign language should be mastered by the students in the learning process, vocabulary is the most important aspects because the students cannot use foreign language without vocabulary.”(1998: 71). It means vocabulary is an essential element that has to be learned by the students in order to master English well.

Hatch and Brown (1995: 1) state that vocabulary is the foundation to built new words which plays a fundamental role in communication. It means that vocabulary is the first priority in learning English. Vocabulary mastery has always been an essential part of English as a foreign language. From the importance of vocabulary above, the teacher seriously pays attention in teaching vocabulary especially to SMP students, because it is a crucial component in learning English.

Teachers have their own priority to manage their classroom, Richards (1994: 97) states “teachers have primary responsibility for how they teach; they may assume very different roles within their own classroom”. So teacher should make their classroom comfortable and interesting, especially teaching English in junior high school.

According to Hatch and Brown (1995: 1) there are several difficulties of mastering vocabulary. The first is such a test may be used with classes of learners who speak different first languages and thus translation is not practical approach. Second, there is the likelihood that some learners will be poor in reading skills and thus the test needs to be able to be given orally if necessary. And the third is that

the contexts for the tested words must not cause too many problems for the learners.

The difficulties that faced by students of SMPN 10 Kupang are their vocabulary mastery is low. It is because the students get difficulties in mastering vocabulary mastery. They are: (1) the students got difficulties in grasping and memorizing the meaning of the words; (2) they found it hard to spell the words correctly; and (3) they got difficulties in pronouncing the words correctly; (4) they got difficulties in using vocabulary in a sentence (Brown 1995: 1).

Based on discussion with teachers and students, the researcher found some psychological barriers from the students. They feel shy and afraid to ask the teachers if they find a difficulty. These problems may give a great influence to their learning process.

The writer chooses to use Flash cards as the media to improve students' vocabulary mastery. According to Cross (1991: 119), Flashcards is a simple picture on a piece of card or paper, which is probably the most widely use visual aids in language teaching. It means that flash card is one of the media which can help teacher to teaching English easily. Flash cards in teaching vocabulary are a simple visual aids and teacher can make the students more active during the teaching learning process. According to Haycraft (1978: 102), flashcard can be used for consolidating vocabulary, practicing structure and words order or variety of games. The use of flashcards is related to the characteristic of junior high school students as children who commonly feel interested something with attractive shapes and color.

Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to use the Flashcards as the method to improve students' vocabulary mastery. The writer is interested in carrying out a study entitled **“The Use of Flash Cards to Improve Vocabulary Mastery of The Eighth Grade Students of SMPN 10 Kupang in The School Year 2017/2018.**

1.2 Problem Statements

There are three problems of the study:

1. How is the implementation of Flash Cards to improve vocabulary mastery of the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year of 2017/2018?
2. Is the implementation of Flash Cards effective to improve vocabulary mastery of the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year of 2017/2018?
3. What is the mastery level of English vocabulary of the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year of 2017/2018 after being taught by using Flash Cards?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the question in the problem statement, the objectives of this study are formulated in the following statements:

1. To find out whether the implementation of Flash Card effective to improve vocabulary mastery of the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2017/2018.

2. To find out the implementation of Flash Cards to improve vocabulary mastery of the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year of 2017/2018
3. To find out the mastery level of English vocabulary of the eight grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2017/2018 after being taught by using Flash Card.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Significance means the importance or main central points of something. This study has some significance, as presented in details in the following part;

1. For the English Teacher.

- a. Teachers know the level of students' mastery in vocabulary.
- b. The result can become an input to determine the step and strategy for teaching learning vocabulary. So, the teacher can reach the good teaching as a feedback to improve the quality of English teaching learning vocabulary, and it can be as important information in using Flash Cards as method to improve the quality of teaching vocabulary.

2. For the Writer.

The writer is an English teacher candidate. Seeing the result of this study above, the writer is motivated to study hard so he would be able to improve his knowledge and skills in teaching English especially teaching vocabulary using Flash cards technique.

3. For the Students.

This research can enrich students' knowledge about Flash Cards as a technique of learning vocabulary and then they always use this technique as their method when they try to enrich their vocabulary.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is a classroom action research where the writer focuses on the use of Flash Cards to improve students' vocabulary mastery. This means the writer hopes that the result research can be used as a reference for those who want to conduct a research in teaching English and for students to improve their vocabulary mastery.

In this study the writer will focus on 3 domains of vocabulary namely:

1. Things in the classroom
2. School environment
3. Teacher and school subjects.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms used in this study that should be defined. The definition may help the readers understand the study as a whole. The terms that should be defined are as follows:

1. Flash Cards

Flashcards is a simple picture on a piece of card or paper, which is probably the most widely use visual aids in language teaching.

2. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the basic language aspects that must be mastered before mastering English skills. According to Hornby (2006:1645) dealing with this study vocabulary is all the words that a person knows or uses and it is all the words in a particular language.

3. Mastery

According to Merriam Webster dictionary 1828 mastery is a comprehensive knowledge or skill in a subject or accomplishment. It is meant that an ability/skill of someone to know something by well.

4. Vocabulary mastery

In oxford learner's pocket dictionary, vocabulary is list of words with their meanings, especially in a book for learning a foreign language. Mastery is command or control through knowledge and skill in specific field (the new lexicon Webster's dictionary of united stated American, 2000:615). Vocabulary mastery is the knowledge understanding the words.

5. SMPN 10 Kupang

This is the name of a public junior high school in Kupang East Nusa Tenggara province. It is a public school that located on Prof. Dr. Herman Johannes Street, Lasiana, Kupang