

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is primary instrument of the communication among human being in community or personal. Language is used to communicate ideas, thoughts and experiences. We can express ideas, thoughts or experiences if we have known the vocabulary of a language. It is impossible for us to communicate without mastering vocabulary of a language.

A study of language is very important because it includes the four skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It is impossible that one master one of them without mastering vocabulary. Vocabulary is one of the basic elements in achieving language skills. Students usually have many problems in mastering English words. They have limited vocabulary to comprehend the meaning of a text: they do not know the context of word used in the text: they cannot recognize the meaning of each word; they are not able to hear English words from the speakers; they cannot compose their writing task successfully; and they get difficulties to state some sentences in English. Those problems cause them difficult to communicate receptively or productively in English. So, it can be concluded that vocabulary is the most cause of difficulty for the students.

In communication, the students need vocabulary which can support them to produce and use meaningful sentences because vocabulary provides organ of sentences. That's why vocabulary is very important to be mastered. Harmer (1991: 153) classifies that "Then it is vocabulary that provides the vital organs and

flesh”. For that reason the students have to develop their vocabulary and master it in order to be able to communicate with the other. Vocabulary is not only sign of symbol for ideas but also apart of how to improve language skills in the target language. The more vocabulary students learn, the more ideas they have, so they can communicate by using their ideas more effectively.

However, students sometimes get what kinds of difficulties to use or apply the vocabulary. Teacher as facilitator in the teaching and learning process should design a learning strategy in order to encourage students to master vocabulary effectively. Teacher needs to teach students based on their learning needs. Their difficulties in using vocabulary which have been studied can be caused by some reasons. One of the reasons could be in the media which is used by the teacher in presenting the lesson in the classroom.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The topic of the study is specified into some problems. They are formulated in the following questions.

- 1) What is the mastery level of the eight grade students of SMPN 14 Kupang in vocabulary of human body parts domain?
- 2) What are the difficulties encountered by the eight of SMPN 14 Kupang in vocabulary of human body parts domain?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The Objective of the study is stated as follows are actually the aim revised purposes of what the study wants to find out or to know. Thus the objectives of this study are formulated in the following statements.

- 1) To find out the mastery level of the eight grade students of SMPN 14 Kupang in vocabulary of human body parts domain?
- 2) To find out the difficulties encountered by the eight of SMPN 14 Kupang in vocabulary of human body parts domain.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study has some benefits for the following persons: the teacher of English, the students, and the writer himself.

#### **1) For the Teacher**

The result of this study might make the teacher of SMPN 14 Kupang know the result of his/her teaching learning process whether he/she is successful or not in teaching English in general and on the vocabulary mastery in particular, especially the vocabulary of human body part domain.

#### **2) For the Writer**

This study will give the writer many experiences particularly in accomplishing a research and also will enrich his understanding on how to improve student's vocabulary.

#### **3) The Writer**

Doing this study gives some benefits to the writer himself. The writer is motivated in studying the grammar and vocabulary of English in general and

the vocabulary of human body part domain in particular. The writer is also trained in how to conduct and report a scientific research.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

There are many domains of vocabulary. Among them include vocabulary of things in the classroom, things at home, days and months, parts of human body, etc. This study focuses on the vocabulary of human body parts domain. Human body parts have been taught to the students of junior high school, even elementary school students.

### **1.6 Definition of the Key Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding and confusion on the parts of the readers concerning the key terms used in the context of the present study, the researcher needs to give a clear understanding of terms used in this study. Thus, some operational definition of the key terms is as follows:

#### **1) Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is total number of words in a language (Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, 1995: 461).

Vocabulary is teaching words from phrase and sentence and they have meaning and function.

#### **2) Mastery**

Mastery means great skill or knowledge, complete control (Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, 1995: 256). In this research, mastery means the students mastery in their vocabulary.

Vocabulary mastery is the mastery of the eighth grade student's of SMPN 14 Kupang on vocabulary.

**3) Vocabulary of Human Body Part Domain**

Vocabulary of Human Body Part Domain is the vocabulary that refers to parts of human body starting from the top: head up to the lowest part: toes.

**4) SMPN 14 Kupang**

SMPN 14 Kupang is one of the state or governmental junior high schools in Kupang. It locates at Jl. M. B. Mail Alak No Tlp. (0380) 8081820 Kupang.