

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This introduction chapter contains six sub chapters, they are the background, problem statement, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of terms. They are explained in detail bellow.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

English is one of the languages that is most widely used in international communication in the world. Those who are involved in international affairs should learn this language. Through English they can extend friendship with ones from different countries. For this purpose, they are demanded to have mastery in some basic elements of language namely vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

In Indonesia, English is learnt specially in formal school, and it is treated as a formal subject for students of Junior and Senior High Schools. Even, many elementary schools made it as an extra lesson when the Competence Based Curriculum was being implemented.

There are four skills someone should have before s/he could use English well. They are listening, reading, speaking, and writing. These four skills are supported by some elements of language, namely vocabulary, structure, pronunciation and spelling. Concerning to this elements, Harris (1996) stated that vocabulary and grammar are two very important elements shared by all the four skills. Paralell with the statement, it can be said that, in order to learn the four skills well, someone has to master first the vocabulary. Therefore, mastery of the vocabulary is assured to be the basic part in learning English skills as a whole.

Vocabulary mastery is very important for someone using language. Each language in the world own thousand or more words or vocabulary. The more words someone knows by heart, the more eloquently s/he could communicate her/his ideas to other people. Being able to effectively communicate ideas to other people, someone can open up a number of doors, especially when it comes to her/his career.

In the process of teaching and learning English in Junior High School, the mastery of vocabulary is very important. Cited by Schmitt (2000:19) “One of language elements in learning a foreign language is mastering the vocabulary“. By mastering vocabulary, they can shape their ability in using English.

From time to time, English is taught in classical method using classical media such as books; while in fact, there exists other innovative and effective media that technology offers. Nowadays, teachers have started to be acquainted with technology. One kind of technology that is very often used as a presentation media is the software computer program called Power Point. Power Point is one kind of computer program invented by Microsoft. It is wonderful media technology for teaching. By using the media, a teacher can easily transfer knowledge or information to students, and students will also be easier in accepting what their teacher teaches or explains.

Using this media in teaching English is a good and proper one. It will raise the atmosphere of classroom activity, and will raise also the motivation and spirit of students in joining the lesson. There are also many existent features in Microsoft Powerpoint that make students become more interested such features covering animation on picture, text and slide, etc definitely chosen to be able to give stimulus to the student. Glenn & Gentry (2008:3) state that computer software such as power point is very useful and helpful for students to learn how to

present visual materials (words, graphic and pictures) in a dynamic and interesting way. The software offers a more interesting option where we can mix text and visuals with video/audio tracks, music, speech and film can be integrated into the presentation. Besides that, by using this media, students undeliberately learn an amount of new words as shown by the media screen.

In the reason to have the answer of how significant the media is in English class, and especially in raising the vocabulary mastery, the writer did this action research. There are some theoretical and practical reasons why the writer chose the topic concerning English vocabulary mastery, they are (1) vocabulary mastery is a vital part of effective communication, besides as a basic part to learn other English skills; (2) Based on the previous experiences when the writer taught Junior High School students, the writer found that the students' English vocabulary mastery was too limited; and (3) the writer believed that the result of research would be useful for the students and their teacher. It would give them the information about the students' English vocabulary skill that is useful for them to re-evaluate their way of teaching and learning English vocabulary in general.

Based on the descriptions and reasons above, the writer finally decided to conduct this research under the title **“Optimizing the Use Of Power Point To Improve Students' Vocabulary Mastery”. A Classroom Action Research at The Eighth Grade of SMP Katolik Santo Yosep Kupang in Academic Year 2013-2014.**

## **1.2 Problem Statements**

As described on the background, this research was done in the aim to find the answers of the two following questions.

1. Is the use of microsoft Powerpoint effective in improving the students' vocabulary mastery ?

2. What is the students' level of vocabulary mastery improvement after being taught using Microsoft Powerpoint?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the questions in the statements of problem above, the writer states the objectives of study below.

1. To find out whether the use of microsoft Powerpoint is effective in improving students' vocabulary mastery or not.
2. To find out the students' level of vocabulary mastery improvement after being taught by using Microsoft Powerpoint.

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

This study is useful for the following people.

#### **1. Students' English Teacher**

The English teacher of the researched school could get information about his/her student's mastery regarding vocabulary. The result of research could be a reference for him/her, whether to keep on improving his/her vocabulary teaching, or to keep up his/her good work.

#### **2. The Writer**

Through this study, the writer could implement her knowledge in doing research, besides could also know more about English vocabulary. She also could apply a new way to teach the students with computer program called software presentation.

#### **3. The Researched Student**

The students could get outcome from presentation practice through power point. They could learn with fun when the teacher performed a sum of beautiful power point slides and conveyed the talks sequentially and systematically.

#### **4. The Reader**

By knowing the results of study, the readers could get few beneficial information concerning English vocabulary teaching using Microsoft Powerpoint Computer.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

The scope of study concerned to four basic skills of English as learnt in English lesson in general. Because those skills are too wide and the lesson of English probable to be held in various media and methods, the writer limited research just in the vocabulary element and especially on three domains of vocabulary namely **information technology, family relationship, and feelings**. The writer also focused on the usage of the power point media. The research was conducted at SMP Katolik Santo Yoseph Kupang, and the subjects of research are the grade eight students in the academic year 2013-2014. The writer deliberately limited the domains, media and subjects in order to get the significant and meaningful answers of study.

### **1.6 Definitions of the Terms**

In order to make the reader easy to understand this study, the writer needs to clarify the terms used in this thesis title.

#### **1. Mastery**

Mastery means great skill or knowledge, complete control (Hornby, 1995: 256). Mastery is the level of knowledge of certain group of students obtained after the course (Hornby,

1974:532). The term ‘mastery’ in this research means the students’ vocabulary comprehension after having the English lesson using Power Point media.

## **2. Vocabulary**

It is a set of lexeme, including, single words, compound words, and idioms (Richards, et al . 1989 : 307). Vocabulary in this study is a group of words in the domain of school, parts of body, and public places .

Vocabulary is total number of words in a language (Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary, 1995: 461). Vocabulary as total number of words (with rules for combining them) makes up a language (Hornby, 1985:959). The term “vocabulary’ in this research means an amount of words learned during the English lesson. Vocabulary researched in this study limited in three domains, namely information technology, family relationship and biography.

## **3. Power Point**

Power point is a type of presentation software that allows one to show coloured text and images with simple animation and sound. (Radanov, 2008). Powerpoint is a software program commonly used in the classroom to create instructional slide show presentation. The term ‘Powerpoint’ in this research means a software computer program that allows one to show coloured text and images with simple animation and sound and that is used as a presentation media in classroom.

## **4. SMP Katolik Santo Yosep**

SMP Katolik Santo Yosep is a Private Junior High School which is located at Jl. E.R Herewila, No. 27 Naikoten II – Kupang

## 5. Optimizing

According to Oxford English dictionary, The word “Optimizing” comes from the word “op-ti-mize” (ɒp'tə-mīz') is defined as:

1. To make as perfect or effective as possible.
2. *Computer Science* To increase the computing speed and efficiency of (a program), as by rewriting instructions.

In the new Lexicon Webster's Dictionary (2010), the verb “optimize”

is a Verb gerund or present participle: **optimizing**, defined as:

1. make the best or most effective use of (a situation, opportunity, or resource).
2. make optimal; get the most out of; use best; "optimize your resources"
3. Computing: rearrange or rewrite (data, software, etc.) to improve efficiency of retrieval or processing.

## 6. Improve

Actually there is a definition of improving. Improving comes from English word “improve” and based on *Oxford Dictionary (2007)*, *improve* is become or make something better. or to bring into a more desirable or excellent condition So, improving is kind of effort with the purpose to make something better than before.

Oxford. 2007. *Oxford Learners Pocket Dictionary, New Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.