

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In modern era people are demanded to have more than one languages. Language as tool for communication takes important roles in daily activities. With communication we can express ideas and feeling, to others. Without communication we are left behind. Communication in foreign language is a bridge to get information, knowledge, and culture.

Indonesia as a developing country has realized that English as an international language is needed to be mastered by Indonesian people. English is essential to be taught to students from elementary school, the first year of junior high school up to university. According to the English curriculum, English teaching covers four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. The four skills are supported by sub skills. They are grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling. Vocabulary is one of major problems being confronted by the learners in learning English, it can be the measurement of student's understanding in English.

Vocabulary is one of the important language elements the students should master. As Rivers (1968: 42) said that it is impossible to learn language without vocabulary or without words. Mastering vocabulary is one of the major problems being confronted by the learners in learning English as a foreign language.

Vocabulary plays an important role in the four skills of learning language. So, vocabulary should be taught in class. The problem faced by the teacher is the students might find some difficulties in developing their English vocabulary,

especially in getting the meaning of the words. This problem leads to another problem that students cannot fully improve their ability to use English.

English teachers at Junior High school should be able to motivate the students to learning English. They have an important duty to facilitate their students by using interesting technique in teaching learning process, which acts as stimuli to arise the student's interest in English.

Occasionally, in teaching learning process, students feel afraid of following the teaching learning process of English because they do not understand the meaning of English words. To avoid that condition and to motivate the students in learning English, teachers can use teaching aids to give different atmosphere to classroom situation that makes students love the subject.

Considering the importance of teaching vocabulary to the students, the writer wants to give a solution especially in improving the student's vocabulary mastery, so that later the students will be able to speak in English well. One of the solutions is by teaching vocabulary using *word wheel*. The *word wheel* offers a challenge that will motivate the students to try to learn vocabulary by finding the word on the wheel. Word wheel is a kind of games that will make the teaching learning process more attractive than before. The students will feel fun, relaxed and enjoyable, and they will memorize the vocabulary in different way that is by rewriting it. Based on the background above, the writer would like to conduct a study under the title **'The Use of Word Wheel Game in Improving Vocabulary Mastery of the Seventh Grade Students at SMPN 8 Kupang in the School Year 2013-2014.'**

## **1.2 Problem Statements**

This study is conducted in order to answer the following questions.

1. Is the use of word wheel game effective in improving vocabulary mastery of the seventh grade students at SMPN 8 Kupang in the school Year of 2013/2014?
2. To what extent does the word wheel game improve the vocabulary mastery of seventh grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang in the school Year of 2013/2014?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The objective for doing the study is to clarify some knowledge need that specific audience has concerning the problem (Eichelberger, 1989:241). Based on the problems above, the objectives of this study are formulated in the following statement:

1. To find out whether word wheel game is effective in improving the vocabulary mastery of seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Kupang in School Year 2013/2014 or not.
2. To find out to what extent the word wheel game can improve students vocabulary mastery of the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Kupang in school Year 2013/2014.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Significance of the study is actually the result of the study for the development of the science. The significance of the study are as follows:

1. For the English Teacher

From the result of the research, the English teacher can get information about the media word wheel is alternative technique used to teach vocabulary to students.

2. For the Student

By using media, especially **word wheel game** the students become more interested in learning English, so that their vocabulary mastery will be improved.

3. For the Writer

The result of the research can , be used as a reference for those students who will conduct the same research.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This study deals with a technique used to teach vocabulary. There are a lot of techniques that can be used to teach vocabulary, for example: flash card, crossword puzzle, vocabulary card, etc. This research is focused on the students' mastery on the vocabulary through word wheel in which the writer chooses noun and adjective with the ten question of every test, and this research that consist of two parts, pre test and post test. This research was conducted on the seventh grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang.

### **1.6 Definition of Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding of some words in this research, it is important to give some explanations or definitions as follows:

1. Vocabulary

Hornby defines vocabulary as a total number of the words, which make up a language and that person, know or use. (Hornby 1995: 1331-1506). In this study the writer teaches vocabulary using game word wheel in SMPN 8 Kupang.

2. Improving

Improving comes from English word “improve” and based on the *other dictionary* (2007), *improve* is become or make something better. In this study the writer means improve students vocabulary using word wheel

3. Mastery

Mastery is the level of knowledge of certain group of the students obtained after the course (Hornby 1974: 523). Here, in this study mastery means the ability on vocabulary of the seventh grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang in the school year 2013/2014.

4. Word wheel

Word wheel is kind of game that normally takes the form of a wheel/ circle that the writer gives to the seventh grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang.

5. SMP Negeri 8 Kupang

One of state Junior High Schools in Kupang, in which the writer chose as the location of the study. The writers consider the students in this school are in needed to use the word wheel method in increasing their vocabularies.