CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an introduction of the study. It is divided into several parts: background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

English is one of the important languages today. Most of people in this world use it as an international language to communicate with other people from different countries. In Indonesia, the government determines that English must be taught in every educational institution such as Junior High School, Senior High School, and University as a compulsory subject.

English at Junior High School has been taught as priority subject because English is one of the subject in the Nation Examination. The aim of teaching English is to develop English communication competence with other people both spoken and written. It means that the aim of teaching English at junior high school is the students are able to master all four skills in English language. These four skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Based on Richards and Renandya (2002: 255) vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and much of the basis for how well learners listen, speak, read, and write is provided by vocabulary. The statement

above shows how the important vocabulary in learning English. The amount of vocabulary that students have influences other language components and skills. It means that vocabulary also influences the success of mastering in English. It should be taught to the student before the students are being able to listen, speak, read, and write.

In learning English, one of the problems is the poor mastery of vocabulary. The students are lack of the words. They have little knowledge of vocabulary will face some difficulties to understand the written language and oral language. Dellar and Hocking (in Thornbury, 2002:13) say, "If you spend most of your time studying grammar, your English will not improve very much. You will see most improvement if you learn more words and expressions. You can say very little with grammar, but you can say almost anything with word." The students may get some difficulties in learning language when they have limited number of vocabularies.

In this study, researcher chooses MTsN Gresik. The researcher had observed when the researcher was doing *Field Experience Program (FEP)* in this school. The subject of the study is the eighth grade students because they have less vocabulary. It is caused by the students' low ability in memorizing some words, less motivation, and unuseful computer laboratory as media in teaching English.

To support the researcher's opinion about the problem, the researcher interviewed with the English teacher and direct observation to identify the existing problem in the field. The researcher found that the students have low

ability in mastering the vocabulary. The low vocabulary mastery is shown in their difficulty in memorizing new vocabulary, difficulty in pronouncing the word correctly, and difficulty in writing the word in correct spelling so that they have limited vocabulary. During the teaching and learning process, when teacher explains the lesson using English, many students ask the meaning of the word. They do it many times and show the expression that they do not understand about what the teacher saying. Some of them also prefer to keep silent.

Second factor is the students often forget the vocabulary that they get in the previous meeting. Thus, the students need a good memorization to master vocabulary. The indicators of low motivation are the classroom atmosphere is not conducive which the students prefer to talk to their friend when the teacher explain the lesson and the students do not participate actively in the classroom which if they do not understand they just keep silent.

The last factor is unuseful computer laboratory. The teacher never use it as media in teaching English. Based on Hartoyo (2008) computer can be an effective and efficient tool to be used to learn English grammar, vocabulary, writing, reading, speaking, listening and etc. By using computer the teacher gives a new role to teaching material. Certainly, computer is not an alternative media but complementary tool in the teaching learning process.

To solve the problem, the teacher has an important role during teaching learning process. The teacher should give motivation and encouragement to the students in learning vocabulary and create the classroom more motivating by

providing various medias in order that the students enjoy learning vocabulary, for example using computer software in order to create English vocabulary material.

Dealing with the discussion above, the researcher assumes that there must be a media which is new and interesting in teaching vocabulary with joyful process to improve students' vocabulary mastery. The researcher tries to apply a media to teach English in the class (if there is Liquid Cristal Display), and in the computer laboratory called J-Cross program. This program is simple and free software that is useful to educational materials. It creates crossword puzzle that can motivate the student to learn, to try, to make mistakes, to explore, and try again.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the problem statement is how to develop English vocabulary material by using J-Cross program for the eighth grade of MTsN Gresik.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is is to develop English vocabulary material by using J-Cross program which is applied for the eighth grade of MTsN Gresik.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes that this research will have some benefits in the English teaching learning, especially in teaching vocabulary. There are two kinds

of benefits in this research; theoretical and practical.

Theoretically, this study can contribute to the development of teaching vocabulary in school. Secondly, the result of the study is expected to give contribution in the development of TEFL and this study will contribute to the development of teaching media especially for English teaching.

Practically, the result of the study is useful for teacher, students, readers and school. First, for the teacher, this product could help to provide better technique and new media for teaching vocabulary in junior high school. Second, for the students, it could be fun media whereas hopefully they would not bored and improve their motivation in learning English. Third, for readers, it could give information related to develop English vocabulary material by using J-Cross program. The fourth, for next researchers, it could motivate them to develop the material into another media.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

In order to make the discussion more specific, the researcher gives scope only in developing English Vocabulary material by using J-Cross program for second semester of eighth grade in MTsN Gresik. There are eight classes, A until G and special class called U. The researcher conducts in A class because the problem comes up in this class room.

The limitation in this research is developing English vocabulary material by using J-Cross program. It is on three stages: *1) Pre activities*: This step where the program shows some topics then the students choose the topic one of them.

Each topic contains several activities such as: a) Look at the pictures, listen to the words, repeat and memorize them, b) Match the words with the pictures, c) Read the text, match the words with its synonym *2) Whilst activity*: This step is present crosswords puzzle. The clues can be in form of words, pictures, and sounds. *3) Post activity*: The last step is about how the students develop their vocabulary to the sentence.

Based on the syllabus and curriculum in second semester included of three topics, these are celebration, legend, and friendship.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- **Material Development** is a process to develop English vocabulary material for eighth grade at junior high school by using J-Cross program which is integrated from reading, listening, speaking, and writing activities.
- **J-Cross Program** is one part of hot potatoes which to create digital crossword puzzle simply by typing the list of word. The clues can be in form of words, pictures, and sounds.
- **Vocabulary** is a list or collection of words which is taken by integreted from reading, listening, speaking, and writing activities.