

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about six points: for the first is background of the study, the second is problem statement, the third is purpose of the study, the fourth is significance of the study, the fifth is scope and limitation of the study and the last is definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Vocabulary is one of important aspect in learning a foreign language. It is as a major component of learning English. Without enough vocabulary students will get trouble in their speaking, reading, listening and writing. Because of that, vocabulary plays an important role to them. It gives contribution to the learners to perform or practice their skills better. It means that by mastering the vocabulary, the learners will be able to produce so many sentences easily either in spoken or written one. It is impossible for the learners to perform their English well if their vocabularies are very poor. They will find any difficulties in expressing or mastering their language skills because of having too limited vocabularies. Therefore vocabulary mastery must be on the first priority in English language teaching and learning. Without mastering the vocabulary, the learners will be difficult to master the other language skills.

Vocabulary will help the students to enhance, understand their English subject and easy to communicate with people in other country. Nation, (1990) in Lotfi Ghazal, (2005) said that the learner cannot convey meaning and communicate with each other in a particular language without vocabulary. It means that the learner must understand about vocabulary subject, to make easy their skill in English subject. Beside knowing a word, they also can be defined as knowing its spelling, pronunciation, collocation and appropriateness.

In teaching a language, the teacher might realize that he or she cannot apply only one or two strategies to all levels. Therefore he or she must recognize the characters of his or her students and must choose the appropriate strategy for them. So whenever he or she teaches, he or she has to be selective in choosing a strategy to introduce the learning material. A good teaching strategy will automatically facilitate him or her to get students' interest in learning process.

In this study the writer has observed by interviewing the English teacher of first grade in Elementary School of Al-Ishlah Pedurungan. The English teacher said that she was difficult to teach the first grade, because they were still young. They still liked to play so the teacher felt difficult to hold the students and to manage the class. Beside that the young learners have low ability in English subject especially in vocabulary. They are easy to forget with the vocab that has been studied. When the first meeting they can memorize the vocabulary well, in the second meeting when the teacher reviewed the last lesson, some of them forgot with the vocabulary that have

memorized the day after. But, the students still followed the teacher if the teacher asked them to write, read and do the exercise.

The writer has observed in the class also when the teacher taught, most of the students did not give attention for the teacher because the teacher just explained the lesson, invited them to imitate to read the vocabulary, and also ordered them to memorize the vocabulary. Therefore, the teacher should be creative to teach the young students and she should have an extra energy to teach them.

Actually the teacher ever used a strategy to teach the students, so the teacher drew a picture in the blackboard and she asked to the students to guess what the picture is. Many students snatch away to answer it, but all of them answer in Indonesian language. However this strategy could give a spirit for the students to study. From the explanation above, I conclude that pictures could motivate the students to study English especially at the first grade in Elementary School of AL-Ishlah Pedurungan.

According to piogeat's theory, a child at the age of 7 – 10 years is always interested in recognizing and knowing new words, he stands to repeat new words repeatedly so that he will memorize them. There are essential steps of learning vocabulary. So the teacher should choose an appropriate teaching method, which is suitable with subject matter in teaching learning process. There are many strategies to do for improving learning quality and developing students' activities by applying learning method interestingly, especially for vocabulary teaching. One of methods to English learning in improving vocabulary is Circle Game.

Circle game is a game or activity that involves the whole class, sitting in a circle, drawing and listening music. This game is a great way to encourage the whole class to work together.

It became important to innovate and be creative to use it. So, the writer did research and observation about improving students' vocabulary through circle game in Elementary School. This strategy is suitable to help the research, because object of research was children. As known, children like to play and games. I hope that this strategy will make the students feel something pleasant and feel it different from what they used to get it in the class.

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the description from background of the study above, the writer formulated the problem statement of this study: "How does the circle game improve the students' vocabulary in elementary school of Al-Ishlah Pedururungan?"

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is based on the statement of the problem above that this is to give meaning of game in teaching vocabulary to young learner and to explain how the use of game (circle game) could improve the students' vocabulary.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The researcher hoped that this study would have some benefits in the English teaching learning, especially in teaching vocabulary. There are two kinds of benefit in this study, they are: theoretical significance and practical significance.

For theoretical significance, this study could contribute to the development of teaching vocabulary in school. This study also could give information about how to teach vocabulary using circle game. Besides, this study could generate the idea on the difficulty of using circle game at Elementary school and the teacher could solve the difficulty of teaching vocabulary at elementary school.

For practical significance, the result of this study is useful for teacher, students, readers, and school. First, this study could be used by the teacher to provide a better technique for teaching vocabulary in elementary school. Second, it is hoped that circle game could help the students enjoy in learning and could remember English vocabulary easily. Third, this study would be useful for the readers who were interested in analyzing English teaching especially in teaching vocabulary. The last, this study could be a reference for the school in supplying the devices that support the use of teaching media in English teaching especially for teaching vocabulary.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study conducted in the first grade of Elementary School exactly in Elementary School of Al-Ishlah Pedurungan. It examined the students' vocabulary. The researcher limited the vocab to be focused on noun that the topics had been present in the book.

There are some kinds of circle game but the researcher limited on chain drawing; because the tools would be used were some picture, crayon and the music. It was appropriate with the students that like with the picture and like to draw.

This study did not order the english teacher to do this strategy, but the researcher will conducted this strategy and then it analysed the improvement of students' vocabulary.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order not to have wrong perception or get misunderstanding, the important terminologies would be used in this study was defined as follows:

a. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a list or collection of words arranged in alphabetical order and explained.

b. Circle Game

Circle game is a game that played by some of students who sitting in a circle in each group, doing chain drawings together with listening to the music and guessing the picture.