# CHAPTER I
# INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer will present about Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Significance of the Study, Scope and Limitation of the Study, and Definition of the Key Terms.

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Vocabulary is an important part of language as well as the basis of linguistic abilities. For many students in learning a second language, the first difficulty they meet is usually remembering words. Without adequate vocabulary knowledge, a second language learner's conversational fluency and reading comprehension will meet difficulties. In English class, most of students do not understand the meaning of some words. Students are still not able to express themselves adequately and fluently in English or understand what the people say easily. Nation (1994) indicated that what most interferes the student's reading is their poor vocabulary mastery.

In learning foreign language, vocabulary plays an important role. It is one element that links four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing all together. In order to communicate well in a foreign language, student should acquire an adequate number of words and should know how to use them accurately. Even though students realize the important of vocabulary when learning English, most students learn vocabulary passively.

Nowadays, teacher concerns more in the acquisition of vocabulary. It means there is no more attention to technique to teach vocabulary. The main problem with vocabulary teaching is that only a few words and a small part of what is required to know a word can be dealt with any one time. Teaching can effectively deal with only a small amount of information about a word at a time. The more complex the information is, the more likely the learners are to misinterpret it.

Due to the fact that, especially in Indonesia, most of English teachers still use traditional teaching method in teaching and learning English process. The teacher explains new words one by one, until the students feel bored and exhausted. In introducing new vocabulary, the teacher only wrote some vocabularies on the blackboard and asked the students to write it down to their book. Then, she explained the words one by one. It also happened in fourth grader at SDN Gulomantung, Kebomas Gresik.

Later, a question appears about what strategy of teaching and learning vocabulary is suitable for the students. Because of that, minimally a teacher has to know and understand about the strategy of teaching vocabulary in order to make the class' atmosphere to be meaningful (Active, Creative, Effective, and Joyful), for example: using word chain, game, etc.

In recent years, Word Chain had been applied in Indonesia. It had shown its effectiveness in teaching and learning English vocabulary. Word Chain is a media that helps students be more active in real life situations through the means

of individual, pair and group activities. It can encourage the students to practice the language they learn in meaningful ways.

In this study, the writer tries to describe Teaching English Vocabulary using Word-Chain for fourth grader at SDN Gulomantung, Kebomas Gresik. They are chosen because they had already taught and learnt English vocabulary using Word Chain.

The writer wants to describe word chain in teaching English vocabulary because using word chain is one of the effective ways to teach English vocabulary. Graham (1992) stated that is a good way to begin each class with games and activity. It captures the students' attention and is particularly useful when learning English becomes a little frustrating for the children. It can be used by the teacher when opening the class for five or ten minutes. It can be used to develop English vocabulary. And it also can help the students begin thinking in English and create opportunities for them to develop vocabulary.

## 1.2   Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, then the writer can conclude that the statements of the problems are:

1.   How does the teacher implement word chain in teaching English vocabulary at SDN Gulomantung Kebomas Gresik?

2.   What problem does the teacher have in applying word chain for the fourth grader at SDN Gulomantung Kebomas Gresik?

3. How does the teacher solve the problems in teaching English vocabulary using word chain for the fourth grader at SDN Gulomantung Kebomas Gresik?

## 1.3   Purpose of the Study

Every single activity must have destinations. So, by taking the explanation of the problem statements above, the purpose of this study are:

1. To know how Word Chain implemented in teaching English vocabulary for the fourth grader at SDN Gulomantung Kebomas Gresik

2. To find out what problems the teacher has in implementing Word Chain for the fourth grader at SDN Gulomantung Kebomas Gresik.

3. To know how the teacher solves the problems in teaching English vocabulary using word chain for the fourth grader at SDN Gulomantung Kebomas Gresik.

## 1.4   Significance of the Study

In this study, the writer attempts to describe teaching English vocabulary using word chain. Therefore, the writer divides the significance into two, those are:

### *1.4.1   Theoretical significance of the study*

There are two kinds of theoretical significance of the study, those are:

a. Word chain can use as teaching method or media for EYL (English Young Learner) in teaching vocabulary.

b. It will be useful and effective way in vocabulary classes.

### *1.4.2 Practical significance of the study*

As theoretical significance of the study, there are also two kinds of practical significance of the study, it will be stated below:

a. Using word chain in teaching English vocabulary can help increasing students' vocabulary mastery.

b. It will make teaching English vocabulary more interesting and enjoyable.

## 1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

In order to make this investigation more specific, the writer wants to scope and limit this study. Based on the identification of the problems mentioned above, this study focuses on teaching vocabulary using word chain used by the teacher at SDN Gulomantung Kebomas Gresik. And the writer will limits on vocabulary materials that the teacher taught so far.

## 1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

In order not to have wrong perception or get misunderstanding, the important terminologies, will use in this study is defined as follows:

a. *Vocabulary* is the total number of words which make up a language. (Hornby, 1987:959).

b. *Teaching* is an action of the person who teaches, educates and gives instruction and knowledge.

c.  *Word chain* is a series of different nouns / noun groups or verbs / verbs group that link a text together by describing a same content, word chain can also be achieved by repetition of the same word / words.

d.  *Elementary students are* children of 10-11 years of age, especially grade four.

e.  *Gulomantung is* the name of village in Kebomas sub district.