

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this Chapter consists of the background of the study, research question, object of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. The Background of the Study

English is becoming more and more important in Indonesia as it is used for different purposes, such as teaching, cultural and among others. In Indonesia, English is as a one of foreign language which is taught in elementary school, junior high school, and senior high school. For many years the material of English is emphasized in the structure of language, the students are hoped be able to recall the pattern of tenses. It is too hard for the students, it makes the students are lazy to learn English. Beside that the students are unable to speak English, it is caused the students are less vocabulary.

Vocabulary is one of aspects in English. It is very important for studying English. Learners who just learn grammar without vocabulary will be difficult to convey what he or she wants to say. However, learners who just learn vocabulary or just read text or open dictionary will be able to say something.¹ Vocabulary is

¹ Jeremy H, *The Practice of English Language Teaching*, (London: Longman, 2001), Page 13.

needed to improve the four English skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This means that the vocabulary plays an important role for the study in their field of study. The students, who are less in vocabulary, will be difficult in understanding the text, unable to speak English, and difficult to write their own idea. In addition, students with a small vocabulary also read slowly because they do not understand many of words or have to stop and look them up in dictionary.²

In my view, some of students in SMP Islam Gedong Sari still have less vocabulary. Most of students did not understand what the teacher said in English, students still have difficult to translate a word when asked by the teacher and they are difficult to remember new vocabularies that they have learned. Moreover, the students are still difficult to communicate using English. It can make the students lazy to learn English. The students don't give attention when the teacher is explaining the material in the class. Furthermore, they just keep silent if the teacher asked them in English. So, most of students just acquire a few vocabularies. The researcher needs to implement a method that can make students interested in learning.

In improving the student's achievement in teaching learning process, the teachers have an important role. Teachers are in constant search of essential activities that allow students to improve their learning abilities of foreign language. The teachers must know the condition of the students. In the other

² Edwards, *50 Ways to Improve Your Study Habits*, (Golden Book Centre.2006), Page 177.

hand, method has an important role in teaching learning process. Method which is used by the teacher can make students enjoy in learning. The teacher must use the appropriate method in teaching learning process that can make students is easy to acquire the new vocabulary. Game is one of method that can make students feel enjoy in learning. The students can do both of learning new vocabulary and play game. In addition, games are helpful because they can make students feel that certain words are important and necessary.³ Without those words, the students can not finish the game. There are many games which can be used in teaching learning process.

One kind of game is crossword puzzle, by using this game the students can get new vocabularies and improve their vocabulary. According to Edward there are some of activities that will help build vocabulary that are using words in conversation and doing crossword puzzle. Therefore, the researcher suggests crossword puzzle in teaching vocabulary. Crossword puzzle can train the student's brain to recall the new words. Moreover the students will learn English by sharing with their friends to finish the crossword puzzle.

All of above explanation create inspiration to the writer to make an action research, because the writer wants to know how crossword puzzle can improve students' vocabulary mastery in SMP Islam Gedong Sari? So the writer makes an action research with the title Improving Students' Vocabulary Mastery Using

³Allen V.F, *Techniques In Teaching Vocabulary*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1983), Page 54.

Crossword Puzzle(A classroom Action Research of The First Year Students in SMP Islam Gedong Sari in the Academic Year 2016/2017).

B. Research Question

In reference to the background of study, identification of problems and limitation of problems, the researcher problem is formulated as: How can crossword puzzles be implemented to improve the students' vocabulary mastery at the eighth grade students of SMP Islam Gedong Sari?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem above, this study is aimed to improve the vocabulary mastery through the use of crossword puzzle for their teaching and learning process at the eighth grade students of SMP Islam Gedong Sari the second semester of 2017. The number of the students in this class is 18, and 10 the students is female, 8 the students is male.

D. The Significance of the Study

The researcher selected the strategy above in consideration that it will give advantages for some related research members who were involved, as elaborated below.

1. The students

It is expected that the students improve their vocabulary mastery through the use of the variations of technique. Therefore, they learn English easier and become more motivated in the English class.

2. The teacher

It is expected that the teacher will enrich her knowledge of how to vary and improve her ability in conducting classroom teaching and learning by using the technique. As the result, it increases the teaching learning quality in facilitating the student in learning English.

3. The researcher

This study gave the researcher an experience of conducting a teaching and learning research which basically important for the development of the researcher's competences. This research gave opportunity for the researcher to apply what had been earned from academic learning and gave contribution to solve real problems in the field. Moreover it will also give advantage to another researcher who takes the same topic to use this research as a reference to conduct the research.

E. Limitation of the Study

In order to avoid any misinterpretation of the problem, the writer would like to limit the scope of the study. The writer wants to know whether crossword

puzzle can improve the students' vocabulary mastery. The material is limited to that is taught at first grade of junior high school in the second semester.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The writer wants to clarify and explain the terms of the title to make understandable meaning, they are following:

1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of three language components that are important in learning English as a foreign language. Without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. It means that, it is impossible to learn a language without vocabulary because the language itself consists of vocabulary.⁴

2. Crossword Puzzle

Crossword is one game that can be used in teaching in learning process, because this game will make brain get the stimuli through the letters that becomes the some word.

⁴Scott Thornbury, *How to Teach Vocabulary*. (Longman Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Crossword is a puzzle in which checkered square with blank spaces must be filled in with interlocking words (reading horizontal and vertical) deduced from clues.⁵

Puzzle is to perplex with a question, to discover or resolve by long cogitation, puzzle also can give the definition as a toy, problem, or other contrivance designed to amuse by presenting difficulties to solve by ingenuity or patient effort.

⁵Darnbury, *The New Lexicon Webster's Dictionary Of The English Volume 1*. (United States Of America : Longman, 1994).