

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about the background of the study, the research problems, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, and the definition of the key terms.

A. Background of the Study

English mastery is very important in this Era. Many sources of knowledges in this world using English, such as Internet, newspaper, books, novels, and others. So, the students are expected to be mastery in English in order to avoid less in this globalization era. However, one of the most important things to be mastery in English is vocabulary.

Vocabulary is central language and critical importance to typical language learner. Without a sufficient vocabulary, students cannot communicate effectively or express their ideas in oral and written form.¹ Vocabulary is an important component of language because it is enable students to use their language well. Students cannot express their ideas without enough vocabulary. Therefore, learning vocabulary is an obligation in learning language. It is not easy to know how to start learning new words in other language. The students have to study vocabulary word by word, one by one and step by step to be able to know more about vocabulary. There are four skills in English, those are Listening, Speaking,

¹Endang Fauziati, *Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)*(Surakarta:Muhammadiyah University Press,2005),155.

²Suyanto, *Teaching of English Vocabulary* (Jakarta: Universitas Islam Press. 2001),64.

Reading and Writing. But before learning any further about the four skills, it necessary to know the vocabulary.

According to Suyanto (2007:118), the definition of vocabulary is “collective word owned by one language and gives the meaning if we use the language. Learning new words or vocabulary is important part of learning new language. Learning some words and phrases in a new language allows people to start communicating at once. As Wilkins wrote (1972:111) “the fact is that while without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed”.³ So, as beginner of language learner, learning vocabulary is the first step on learning English language.

Vocabulary is one component of learning English that is important to study. This is because students without enough vocabulary mastery, their ability for communication and to convey messages cannot be established, so English Teachers must find out various ways and media in teaching English. The students have to know the importance of English vocabulary. many students find difficulties in learning vocabulary. Moreover, they cannot read and understand about a text because they do not have a good vocabulary. This problem appears at the first grade students of MTs Manba’ul Afkar Sendang – Banyakan-Kediri.

Knowing that young language learners seems to pick up another language very quickly just by exposure, media are needed to be used in the classroom. There are many medias can be used for teaching vocabulary, for example like

³Harmer Jeremy, *The Practice of English Language Teaching* (New York: United States of America), 21.

using games, song lyrics, and even pictures. Pictures especially are believed very effective to improve students' vocabulary. Picture is visual, it is very effective to stimulate the eagerness of students in learning language. Using pictures in teaching and learning will help students pay attention to things they have not seen which related to their subject. Teacher can use any picture like posters, paintings or any printed pictures as they are very easy to find. As a good teacher we can filter kind of pictures that appropriate and related to the topic chosen before bring them in the class room. Appropriate and interesting pictures are very effective for teaching vocabulary.

Teachers should concern that teaching vocabulary is something new and different for students of foreign language. They need to prepare the good techniques and suitable materials in order to gain the target of language teaching. Usually students are interested in something funny and interesting for them, It is easy to learn when they learn with something that can impress them. Therefore, using picture dictionary that related to the learning materials can help students in understanding the material given.

According to Jeremy (1991: 23), "picture can be board drawings. Wall picture and charts, flashcards, magazine picture and any other non technical visual representation."⁴ Pictures can be use to explain the meaning of vocabulary items. Teacher can draw things on the board or bring on pictures. Picture dictionary can help the students to increase their vocabulary. When everyone have drawn a picture of scene, they will know what is the meaning of English words although

⁴Harmer Jeremy, *The practice of English Language teaching* (New york, united stated of America), 23.

the students are often getting trouble of their vocabulary. By using vocabulary dictionary, the students can take a lot of benefit.

A picture dictionary or pictorial dictionary is a dictionary where the definition of a word is displayed in the form of a drawing or photograph. Picture dictionaries are often organized by topic instead of being an alphabetic list of words, and are almost always minimizing dictionaries, which only include a small corpus of words.⁵

One of ways in learning or mastering vocabulary is by employing vocabulary dictionary. Vocabulary dictionary is the short ways for the first level to improve the students' ability. Words of vocabulary dictionary involve knowing form and meaning and easier to remember it. According to Seller, by using pictures dictionary the students will find learning English enjoyable. By using pictures dictionary, the students will be interested and more enthusiastic in learning English. It will be easy to learn speaking, reading, and writing that is illustrated by pictures⁶.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting a Classroom Action Research (CAR) that use picture dictionary to improve the students' vocabulary mastery. The researcher decides to conduct a study under the title "Improving Students' Vocabulary Mastery by Using Picture Dictionary of the First Year Students of MTs Manba'ul Afkar Sendang – Banyakan - Kediri in Academic Year 2013/2014".

⁵http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Picture_dictionary Access on 6/3/2014

⁶William Sellers (aces on internet 24/3//2014)

B. Problem of the Study

Based on the statement above, the statement problem is formulated as follow: How can picture dictionary improve the students' vocabulary mastery at the first grade students of MTs Manba'ul Afkar Sendang – Banyakan- Kediri?

C. The Objectives of the Study

The objective of the research is : to find out how the use of picture dictionary is able to improve students' vocabulary mastery at the first grade students of MTs Manba'ul Afkar Sendang – Banyakan – Kediri.

D. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to give a significant contributions to the following parties :

Firstly, the researcher expects the result of this research will be useful for the English teachers especially in teaching vocabulary.

Secondly, the result of this research was hopefully giving contribution to the students. The researcher also hopes the students are motivated in learning English by using picture Dictionary so that they will get more spirit to study English harder.

This research is expected to help English teacher to conducting an English teaching and to inform the English teachers of MTs Manba'ul Afkar Sendang-Banyakan-Kediri to promote the method of using picture dictionary so that the students can be more active in studying English.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research is focused on improving the student's vocabulary mastery by using picture dictionary. The subject of the research is the first grade students of MTs Manba'ul Afkar Sendang – Banyakan - Kediri.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

In this study, the researcher defines some of the key terms to avoid misunderstanding as follows:

1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is total number of words in language which an individual knows and those words are used as vehicle of the language to express one thought. Vocabulary is a list of words with their meanings, especially which accompanies a text book in a foreign language.⁷

2. Picture Dictionary

- a. Picture dictionary is the technique used for teaching English vocabulary to the students in improving their vocabulary mastery.
- b. Picture dictionary is a dictionary that use photos or drawings to illustrate what the words mean.^{8]}

⁷Departement of the University of Oxford, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 4th edition*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), 1425.

⁸<http://dictionary.sensagent.com>