

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, formulation of the problems, the purposes of study, the significances of the study, scope and limitation, the hypothesis of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of Study

English is taught in Indonesian schools as a foreign language. In Indonesian school, English is one of the lessons which are examined in UNAS (Ujian Nasional). In learning English the students must master language skills and components well. The language skills including reading, writing, speaking and listening while, the language components including grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. In fact, it is difficult to learn language skills. That happened because restrictiveness of students' vocabulary so the learners difficult to express and understand about something in English.

Vocabulary is most important component in learning English. Thornbury (2002:13) wrote that "Mastering vocabulary is a people's necessity to understand a reading material, conversation, or article in English. Without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed". Other people can still understand of ungrammatical formulation sentence in the occasional of conveying ideas, but the wrong use of vocabulary makes miss communication and miss interpretation.

Not only important, vocabulary becomes the central of English language teaching. Jack and Willy (2002: 255) defined vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provides a much basis for how well learners speak, listen, read, and write. It means that vocabulary has an important role in learning English. Students need vocabulary in all language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. So, if students want to improve their English proficiency, they should improve their vocabulary first.

Unfortunately, teaching vocabulary isn't one of the main lessons that must be taught in Indonesian school. The main lesson is English skills including teaching reading, writing, speaking and listening. Vocabulary just is taught as material addition. Base on curriculum that used in Indonesia is KTSP Curriculum, teaching vocabulary was included in reading material. But actually, without extensive vocabulary learners often achieve less than their potential and may be discouraged from making use of language learning opportunities around them such as listening radio, listening to native speakers, using language in different contexts, reading, or watching television.

As the researcher mentioned before that there are many problems faced by the students to learn English. Some of them don't understand about the meaning of the word and lack in vocabularies. It makes the students are difficult to express and convey their ideas. It similar with the students of SMP Al-Kamal, the English teacher of seventh grade at SMP Al-Kamal told when the teacher taught, often the students beefed because didn't understand the meaning of word. It proves that the students are lack in vocabularies.

Not only focus on the students' problem in learning English especially learning vocabulary, teaching English as a foreign language for Indonesian is not easy thing to do. The teacher must ask for then determine method, strategy and procedure according to learning objective for creating a teaching and learning process effectively. In addition the teacher should provide media to help the students understand material easily. The use of media is much recommended especially in teaching vocabulary.

Brown (2001: 257) revealed that instructional media are utilized in learning activities will affect the effectiveness of learning. The media is often used by the teacher as a learning tools to help students get the learning objective. There are several kinds of media the one is visual media. Arsyad (2013: 74) conveyed that a visual media is learning tools which can be used or tasted through eyesight. There are many kinds of visual media including graphs, diagrams, charts, pictures, posters, cartoons, and comics.

In this study, the researcher uses comic as the teaching media. Sudjana and Rifai (2002:27) stated "Comic books can be used effectively by teachers in an effort to generate interest, develop a repertoire of vocabulary and reading skills". The researcher thinks that by reading comic as a teaching media students can study vocabulary easier, because comic presents many words and interesting pictures. Moreover, students will get many new vocabularies and memorize it easily because there are pictures which illustrated the story so that the students can guess it's meaning before know from the teacher.

Sudjana and Rifa'i (2002:64) defines "comic is a form of cartoons in which the same disposition to form a story in the order of the pictures are closely related and are designed to entertain his readers". There are two types of comic, namely comic strips and comic book. The comic strip is a short story usually appears in the newspaper and comic book is a pictorial story corps that consists of story theme and title. The comic book has pages usually 15 pages, 30 pages and 48 pages.

In this study, the researcher uses comic book because comic book contains more of words than comic strips. The use comic as the teaching media to increase students' vocabulary achievement for the seventh-grade students of SMP Al-Kamal are focused on students get new vocabularies, knowing the meaning, easier to understand and memorize the words from the story of the comic. The researcher also wants know how far the use of the comic can help students to increase their vocabulary achievement.

Base on the discussion above, the researcher interested in conducting study on the effectiveness of using comic toward students' vocabulary achievement of seventh-grade students at SMP Al-Kamal Kunir Blitar.

B. Formulation of Research Problem

Based on the background of study above, the researcher formulated the research problems as follows:

1. How is the students' vocabulary achievement before being taught using comic as a media for the seventh-grade students of SMP Al-Kamal Kunir Blitar?

2. How is the students' vocabulary achievement after being taught using comic as a media for the seventh-grade students of SMP Al-Kamal Kunir Blitar?
3. Is there any significant difference of students' score before and after being taught using comic as a media for the seventh-grade students of SMP Al-Kamal?

C. Purpose of the study

Based on the research problems above, so the purposes of the study are:

1. To investigate the students' vocabulary achievement before being taught using comic as a media for the seventh-grade students of SMP Al-Kamal Kunir Blitar.
2. To investigate the students' vocabulary achievement after being taught using comic as a media for the seventh-grade students of SMP Al-Kamal Kunir Blitar.
3. To investigate the significant difference of students' score before and after being taught using comic as a media for the seventh-grade students of SMP Al-Kamal.

D. Significance of the study

In this study the researcher hopes that this result of this study can be useful for:

1. The teachers

The teachers can solve their problems in teaching English especially to increase their students' achievement on vocabulary.

2. Students

Students can use the result of the study as suggestion or idea of learning that is to increase their vocabulary achievement.

3. Other researcher

This result of this study can inspire and add the reference of their study in different subjects.

E. Hypothesis of the Study

1. Ha: There is any significant difference on the students' vocabulary achievement before and after being taught using comic as a media for the seventh-grade students of SMP Al-Kamal.
2. Ho: There is no any significant difference on the students' vocabulary achievement before and after being taught using comic as a media for the seventh-grade students of SMP Al-Kamal.

F. Scope and Limitation of the Study

Based on the background of the study, this study has scope and limitation. The scope of this study is studying at junior high school. And the limitation of this study is using comic as teaching media to increase students' vocabulary especially on the meaning, furthermore this study specifically for SMP Al-Kamal.

G. Definition of Key Terms

1. Vocabulary Achievement

Vocabulary Achievement is an understanding of words including single words, compound words, and idioms that must be achieved by the students to develop their skills.

2. Comic

The Comic is a book or piece of papers that contains story and many interesting pictures.