

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language has a very important role in everyday life. By having good language skills, a person can communicate with other people more easily. In other words, mastery of a language is very important. English is the first foreign language in Indonesia which is used to transfer and acquire knowledge, science and technology, arts and culture, as well as building international relations. This is the basis for teaching English from elementary to tertiary level.

In studying English, Firmansyah Diyata, M.Pd stated that there are four skills that ideally must be mastered in learning English, namely: speaking, reading, listening and writing. By mastering these four skills it will be easier to achieve learning goals and achieve goals indicators on every available English learning material.

Someone who masters the four aspects of language skills also needs to be supported by good vocabulary mastery. Good vocabulary mastery will make people understand what is heard, read, written, and what is said by others.

English is an international language, meaning that someone who has good English skills will find it easier to communicate internationally. There are several factors in mastering a language. “ One of the very important factors that a person must master in learning a language is vocabulary”

according to the opinion of Alqahtani (2015:21); Erkaya and Drower (2012:81) and Ahmadi, et al (2012:186).

Vocabulary is the only element of language that matters. You can make connections between the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing by developing your vocabulary. As stated by Nunan (1999), "vocabulary is an important part that makes it easier to use a second language, because without the correct vocabulary the language will not be able to function structurally and will be difficult to understand."

Mastering vocabulary well will make language proficiency also better. Delivering spoken language will be easier and clearer to understand if vocabulary is mastered well. So it is clear that vocabulary has an important role in language.

As is the case with learning English at the educational level. Students also need to master vocabulary so that learning English can be done more easily. In this case, English is included in the subjects that must be taught in schools from an early age. However, there are still many problems in Indonesia in learning to speak English, one of which is that students find it difficult to understand this foreign language. This is certainly our task as English educators to find ways to make students have the desire and interest in learning English.

“ Conventional learning is a form of teacher-oriented learning “ Simboloni (2014:228). This is said since the teacher is a key player in this technique. According to Riahipour & Saba (2012), students find traditional exercises including memorization of lengthy vocabulary lists, derivation,

word repetition, translation, and practice filling in the blanks tedious. From this explanation it can be concluded that conventional and traditional teacher-oriented learning makes students feel bored so it is necessary to create fun learning processes and media.

Likewise with things that happen at school that I will research. Based on my observations, learning English using traditional learning methods makes students inactive and even tend not to pay attention to what the teacher explains. This is because students feel bored and even sleepy with monotonous learning media. So here is my current research. By creating new and fun learning processes and media, students will feel that learning English is exciting. So they feel more interested and challenged to learn more English. With a method that is not monotonous, students do not feel bored when learning a foreign language.

Based on the facts that the author found, several factors that are the cause of low vocabulary mastery in grade 8C students of MTs Al-Huda Bandung, Tulungagung can be shown with several characteristics as follows:

1. Students are not yet able to write new words well.
2. Students are not yet able to memorize new vocabulary well.
3. Students are not yet able to translate new vocabulary well

Knowing the problems above, it is known that the cause of students' difficulty in learning English is due to the use of inappropriate learning methods. So, the author tries to use other methods to overcome the problems faced by students. The method chosen is the method of learning by playing.

And the Words Scramble Games will be the introductory media for the author in the learning method that will be implemented.

Efforts that can be made so that students can master English are that effective teaching and learning strategies are expected of teachers. Teachers have the responsibility to present interesting and attractive ways of teaching and motivating students (Bakhsh, 2016: 120). A good teaching and learning process can be created by using methods that are interesting and appropriate to the way students learn. A fun way to learn, teachers can help students understand the teaching material more easily. Therefore, using appropriate and interesting English teaching methods will really help students increase their enthusiasm for learning and even understand the lessons with high motivation.

In previous research, I also found in several similar cases that if English learning continues to use the old method, students will feel bored and not interested in this second language. So teachers are tasked with how to make learning English, especially increasing vocabulary, easier and more enjoyable for students to learn.

At Al-Huda Islamic Junior High School Bandung Tulungagung itself has implemented the Independent Curriculum. Where students and educators have freedom in teaching and learning activities, with more and optimal activities so that students have more time to understand concepts and strengthen their competencies. Here I want to apply English learning to increase vocabulary using game learning methods. Based on observations I made, teaching using this method makes students more enthusiastic about

learning, so that the class no longer feels monotonous, quiet and boring. Because with this game method students are instructed to be active in learning in class.

With the English learning method using games in class 8C which I will discuss, it can create a class atmosphere with learning that is more relaxed and enjoyable. So students become more active in asking questions and learning. Apart from that, students will no longer feel afraid or bored if we as educators are able to create a pleasant learning space and atmosphere. So, in this case it becomes easier for 8C students to understand and remember the learning material presented. Apart from that, this game method can also improve students' English vocabulary, because they no longer feel pressured to remember all the vocabulary.

Teaching methods and learning strategies have developed throughout the world where the aim is to improve students' English language skills (Wang, et al. 2011: 128). The application of teaching and learning methods that are interesting but still contain basic skills that are very useful for supporting communication skills, both oral and written, are very important to pay attention to. The learning method used in this learning is in the form of a game. The use of games in learning can make it easier for students to master the material with high enthusiasm. According to Fauzi (in Harsono's book, 2014) "games are a form of entertainment that is often used to refresh the mind from feeling tired due to our activities and routines."

“ Teaching using games can not only motivate students but can also increase their interest in using the language they are learning ” by Bakhsh

(2016:123). Therefore, by considering the important role of games in the teaching and learning process, the application of teaching methods can be maximized. Beyond that, educators also need to think about the kind and format of game that would best accomplish learning goals (Allshop & Jessel, 2015: 15). According to Donmus (2010) in a journal written by Chalak and Ahmadi (2017:78) educational games are an activity that provides students with the opportunity to strengthen previous knowledge by repeating it in more enjoyable conditions.

Mastery of English can be assisted through learning methods that suit students' needs and can attract their desire to learn effectively. A learning method that is able to bring students into their world so that they can achieve the targets set by the teacher and students. It is hoped that this interesting English learning training program can help students motivate themselves and optimize their potential.

By using Words Scramble Games based on the media as explained above, it is hoped that it will be able to overcome the problem of vocabulary mastery in students, so that students can use vocabulary well in every aspect of language, especially in English.

B. Research Question

The author describes in this section how students of class 8C MTs. Al-Huda Bandung, Tulungagung, will be taught vocabulary through action research using the game method. So the problem in this study is formulated as follows:

How can Word Scramble improve the students' vocabulary mastery?

C. The Objective of The Research

The purpose of this study is to find out and provide solutions to teachers that by implementing English learning with a game method using the "Word Scramble Games" media can help improve vocabulary mastery in class 8C students of MTs Al-Huda Bandung, Tulungagung. As well as efforts to change and build students' enthusiasm for learning so that they are more enthusiastic about learning English.

D. Significance Research

The benefits of this study are that it can show and provide information about the use of game methods in learning English to improve vocabulary in students as follows:

1. For Teachers

Teachers can increase creativity in developing various learning models, especially by using game methods. And teachers can create an effective and creative learning process for students.

2. For Students

With this learning method, students can improve their vocabulary mastery according to what has been determined in the curriculum. Students are also expected to have high motivation in learning many new vocabulary. And students are expected to be able to communicate well and correctly so that they can increase their insight into language.

3. For Schools

This can improve school achievement, especially in learning English

E. Definition of key term

a) Vocabulary

Words that are commonly used in a person's language make up their vocabulary. The ability to communicate and learn is facilitated by one's vocabulary, which is typically developed with age. One of the main obstacles to learning a second language is building a large vocabulary.

In its literal sense, the definition of vocabulary is "a list or compilation of words, or of words and phrases occasionally arranged alphabetically, explained, or defined." This definition suggests that a vocabulary is a list of words and phrases with definitions that are organized alphabetically. All of the words that are contained in anything that a person has heard, spoken, read, or written are collectively referred to as their vocabulary.

b) Word Scramble Games

Word Scramble is a game of rearranging each word that has been scrambled into the actual word form. How to play this game is, by first determining the theme that will be used, then we make a list of words that match the determined theme.

The term "Scramble" itself comes from English which means "struggle, fight, struggle". Word Scramble Games are usually used as games to train the development and improvement of vocabulary mastery in the letters provided, especially in learning English.