CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

To master a language, the students have to master four language skills first, listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Those four skills will be supported by other components to make the language skill is good. One of them is vocabulary. Which is one of the language elements. Language has three elements to be mastered in language learning, the more words you know, the more you will be able to understand what you hear, and read, and the better you will be able to say, what you want to speak or write. People cannot speak without vocabulary, cannot express the ideas, difficult to communicate with others, and the last one people cannot understand anything without mastering the vocabulary. So, vocabulary is the first language element that has to be mastered. Joshi (2005) discusses the Matthew Effect, which states that students who know more vocabulary will continue to learn more. For those students whose vocabulary reservoirs are low, to begin with, it will, unfortunately, stay low.

In learning vocabulary, many students have difficulties in memorizing vocabulary. The initial step that needs to be explored by the teacher is to increase student motivation in learning. To make students motivated and excited in the learning process, teachers must be creative in delivering material. In other words, the teacher must avoid the atmosphere of boredom in the classroom, using appropriate learning media.

A song is an interesting medium that offers a high imagination. Songs are usually easy to understand. It motivates and makes the relationship between
teachers and students closer. And the relationship will make students have the courage to ask the teacher about everything, including new vocabulary in the song they are learning. This is done to help students remember vocabulary. Songs are effective media for memorizing something. Usually, the teacher uses songs in certain concepts and it is easier for students to understand. According to Intani (2012), song become one of the most valuable educational tools that aids the language acquisition as well as the whole learner’s physical and mental development, a song can provide attractive and instructional media in learning activities.

Based on the statement above, the researcher chose song lyrics as a tool for teaching vocabulary. But song lyrics in this media are different, namely by modifying the lyrics according to the material being studied in class so that it can trigger students to the core vocabulary they must master. Song is an interesting medium that offers high imagination. Songs are usually easy to understand. This motivates and makes the relationship between teacher and students closer. And this relationship will make students dare to ask the teacher about everything including the new vocabulary in the songs they are learning. This is done to help students remember vocabulary.

Learning vocabulary using modified song lyrics will be carried out by researchers at 18th Junior High Schools in Jambi City. Researchers chose 18th Jambi City Junior High School as a place to conduct research because the school is a place where researchers carry out teaching and learning programs from the study program. When the researcher practiced there, based on the class taught by the researcher, the researcher found a problem about the vocabulary of students
who were considered low and the researcher also thought that taking data at school could make it easier for researchers to collect data. Based on the researcher’s experience in teaching practice at 18th Junior High Schools in Jambi City, it was found that teaching and learning activities in English subjects still used teachers. This means that the way the teaching and learning process is focused on the teacher. As a result, students do not have the opportunity to express ideas, ask questions and work in groups. Researchers also found that some students at 18th Junior High School in Jambi City were still lacking in vocabulary skills. An English teacher at 18th Junior High School in Jambi City said that most second graders were less able to learn to memorize vocabulary. This condition encourages the writer to manage the class and conduct research to improve vocabulary by using modified song lyrics. So, Researchers are interested in conducting research to find out what is students’ perceptions about song lyrics are modified in improving student vocabulary.

1.2 Research Question

1. What is the students’ perception on modified song lyrics in increasing their vocabulary?

2. How does the male and female perception toward modified song lyrics in increasing their vocabulary?

1.3 Purpose of the Research

This study is proposed to find out the students' perceptions of the use of modified song lyrics on student vocabulary performance. Songs can be an extraordinary medium for natural languages; furthermore, the song will make
students relaxed and fun. By using songs, the learning process of English will be more interesting and enjoyable.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The significances of this research are two folds; (1) for teachers; this research was contribute to teaching strategies in the description of how to teach vocabulary by using modified song lyrics for students in Junior High School. (2) For students, this research was to increase students can give enthusiastic in learning English. Therefor teaching and learning process is not boring in the classroom.

1.5 Limitation of the Research

The researcher limits the scope of this research to only discuss students’ perceptions of modified song lyrics on the vocabulary of students in VIII A grade students at 18th Junior High School in Jambi City in the academic year 2019/2020.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In this section, the researcher provided several critical terms related to research. The definition of key terms are as follows:

- Vocabulary: Richard (2001:4) states that vocabulary is one of the most components of language and one of the first things applied linguists turned their attention to. It means that the vocabulary is key of language, because without vocabulary can't convey.

- Modified song lyrics: Harmer (2007), song lyrics can change the atmosphere of the classroom, prepare students for new activities, delight feelings, and connect the world of entertainment with the world of learning
in the classroom. However, some teachers choose to ignore song lyrics as a learning tool due to various considerations.

- Perception: According to Oexport Dictionary A way of regarding, understanding, or interpreting something; a mental impression.