

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. 1 Background of the Study

English is as an important language in the world because it is used by many people to communication with other people from different countries. They used English because they have different language. So that is why English language be the first important language to learn by students. They use English to make it easier to have conversations with foreigners.

In Indonesia, English language is studied very much and is the first foreign language subject in school from junior high school level until university. As a matter of fact, many students at junior high school level still have problems learning English vocabularies and grammar of English language. Consequently, students must learn vocabulary well, and master English vocabulary so that they can use it easily, whether in oral, written or listening use.

Nowadays, students often find difficulties to master vocabulary. It is based on the researcher's early observation at MTs Nur-Ma'arif. The problems may be caused teachers teach vocabulary by using conventional ways. Such as, teachers asked students to read a text, and wrote down the difficult words and then the teacher would translate the words, or teachers give students vocabulary list and asked them to memorize the words. Furthermore, students have low motivation in learning English vocabulary. It is because they feel bored when remembering vocabulary by using vocabulary list only.

However, the teachers should help students to acquire vocabulary with appropriate teaching strategy. Additionally, the teacher needs to have good materials and well preparation in teaching process. Related to these problems, teacher can give students materials accompanied by visual. The media which can be used in teaching and learning process is flash cards.

In learning a foreign language, especially English, the first thing to learn is vocabulary. Vocabulary is the foundation of English learning. Before moving

on to more serious topics, such as grammar, sentence elements and so on, the first thing to understand and know is what the English word means. Because, when do not know what a word means, it will hinder the effectiveness in learning English. Vocabulary is a very important element before exploring a foreign language more deeply. In the context of my research this time is in learning English. Vocabulary is the foundation of all English learning. Because when do not understand the vocabulary in English, it will not be able to proceed to further learning. According to Hatch and Brown (1995) Vocabulary is the foundation for building language which plays a fundamental role in communication. According to Mohammad Ejad, Nikdel and Oroujlou (2012) vocabulary is the basic element of a language that is used to label things such as objects, traits and verbs to explain the meaning of what is to be conveyed.

Regarding vocabulary that can help students in learning English, of course the teachers have their own way of teaching. In this study, the writer will discuss how to increase students' vocabulary by using flash cards. The definition of flashcard is explained by Susilana and Riyana (2009: 95), namely: "Flashcards are learning media in the form of picture cards measuring 25 x 30 cm. The pictures are made by hand or photos, or make used of images or photos that are there are already pasted on the sheets of flashcards". However, to find out how effective flash cards affect students, of course there must be a comparison.

1.2 Research Question

Based on this problem and to guide the research, the researcher has formulated the following research question: "Is there any effect of using flash cards in learning English vocabulary?"

1.3 Limitation of the Research

This research focused in a finding out the effect of the use flash card in learning vocabulary at MTs Nur-Ma'arif, Jambi City."

1.4 Research Purpose

The main purpose of this study is “To know how the effect of learning using flash card for students in MTs Nur-Ma’arif, Jambi City.”

1.5 Research Significant of the Study

1. For Writer

It is hoped that this study can serve as a valuable experience in an effort to improve the writer's ability, to develop knowledge and provide an overview of the results of research on teaching English vocabulary using flash cards as media.

2. For School

With this research, the benefit for schools is that they have information about the use of media flash cards in the teaching and learning vocabulary.

3. For Advanced Researchers

The results of this study are expected to be used as basic information for further research and as a thought for the development of learning to continue research in teaching and learning English vocabulary.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms:

1. Vocabulary is the total number of words that are needed to communicate ideas and express the speakers (MofarehAlqahtani, 2015:25).
2. Flash cards is a card that has two sides with one side containing images, text, or symbol mark and the other side in the form of definitions, captions, answers, or descriptions which help remind or directing students to something associated with the existing image on the card (Herlina, 2015:118)
3. Treatment Class is Treatment variables can also be defined broadly to cover any manipulable situation variable. All experimental variables, whether manipulated within-or between-subjects, are treatment variables. Educational treatment may vary in pace, methods, media, and/ or styles of instruction (Lawrence A. Pervin, and Michael Lewis, 1978:239-240)

