CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Vocabulary is an essential language component that is used in the four skills of language. In speaking, someone needs a lot of vocabulary to be able to speak well and to communicate everything that the speaker wants other people to know. Vocabulary mastery is also needed to make a good paragraph, story, or essay. In addition, to catch correct meaning of what somebody says, it is important to have good vocabulary mastery, too. It can be a misunderstanding if someone can not know the meaning of what people say. Furthermore, reading skill needs vocabulary mastery to make someone able to read some written information and to understand the content. Therefore, to master the four skills of language, everyone needs to have good vocabulary mastery.

In competency standard of English vocabulary syllabus in Senior High School, the students are expected to comprehend every meaning of every word and sentence in a simple essay and conversation text. Moreover, the materials in learning English in SMA such as recount text, narrative text, and daily expressions need vocabulary mastery. This means that the students have to master vocabularies to be able to understand the materials and to give not only good but also correct response in learning English by using productive skills.
In teaching vocabulary, it is needed to apply a good medium that is used to make the process of learning vocabulary easier and more effective. A medium in learning process can help the students comprehend the material given. Furthermore, the existence of media in teaching learning process is also able to make the students willingly learn in an enjoyable atmosphere. The media can give something unusual in their class. So, a good medium of teaching learning process can succeed the students’ learning.

Comic strips can be used as a medium in teaching learning process. The form of the comic that is episodically displayed is expected to be able to make the students easily memorize the English vocabularies. Moreover, comic strips including the English dialogues and pictures (visual) can provide interesting learning for the students. Therefore, this kind of medium is expected to make the students learn vocabulary in an enjoyable atmosphere.

Comic strip is still rarely used by English teachers to teach English. It might be there some who use comic strips as a medium to teach English, but for teaching English vocabulary comic strip is a medium rarely used by the teachers.

From the reasons, the researcher supposes that it is needed to undergo an experiment to know if comic strips are effective to teach English vocabulary, and the writer tests it at the tenth year students of SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Purwokerto in academic year 2013/2014.
B. **Reason of the Research**

The writer has chosen this topic for some reasons as follows:

1. Vocabulary is an essential language component that is used in the four skills of language.
2. Comic strip is a series of pictures displayed episodically which is interesting for teenagers, so the students will memorize the English vocabulary easily in an enjoyable atmosphere.
3. Comic strip is a medium that is still rarely used to teach English vocabulary to tenth year students of senior high school, so it is regarded that it is needed to know the effectiveness of comic strips to teach English vocabulary to those subjects.

C. **Problem of the Research**

The problem of the study is formulated in the following question:

“Is the comic strips effective to teach English vocabulary for tenth year students of Senior High School?”

D. **The Aim of the Research**

The aim of the study conducted is to find whether or not comic strip is effective to teach English vocabulary for tenth year students of Senior High School.