CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Vocabulary is one of the important aspects in teaching language. It is considered as an important component to be mastered by the learners, especially by the students. If vocabulary is not learnt, nobody can speak or understand English (Allen, 1983: 7). By mastering vocabulary, learners will be able to produce many sentences easily in either spoken or written one. Therefore, vocabulary mastery must be on the first priority in English language teaching and learning. Without mastering the vocabulary, it will be difficult for the learners to master other language skills.

Based on the pre-observation done by the writer in SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Purwokerto, the writer got some fact. There are some problems which caused the students feel bored in learning English. Based on the observation result that is conducted. It showed that the teacher is used lecturing technique focusing on the teacher’s explanation to teach the students. Moreover, the writer also interviewed some students. They assumed that vocabulary is difficult to memorize, understand and use, particularly the words which are seldom used by them in everyday’s speech, so they tend to face the difficulty in learning new words. This indicates that the students’ vocabulary mastery is bad and teaching learning process is passive. From the
facts mentioned, the writer concludes that the student’s vocabulary is very limited, the students feel bored and have not motivation in learning English. This real condition give bad effect to the students in learning English, in term of vocabulary.

So the writer wants to try something different to give a solution for the teacher in teaching and learning vocabulary. The solution is learning vocabulary through card sort. By using card sort, it will make a new atmosphere in teaching and learning process, where the students get set of cards containing vocabularies then they have to categorize words into the same word classes. This activity make students to be more active and interested in learning English. It also make the students remember vocabulary faster and better.

For those reasons, the writer concludes that in teaching vocabulary the teacher should be able to create fun and effective activities. The aim of that way is to make the student easier in understanding the materials, memorizing the new words, and make the students active. So the writer will conduct a research to know whether using card sort in students’ vocabulary is effective or not. In this case, the writer gives the treatment to the students. The treatment is given to the seventh grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Cilacap in academic year 2014/2015". 
B. **Reason for Choosing the Topic**

The reasons why the writer chooses this topic are:

1. Vocabulary is one of the important element in learning language. By mastering vocabulary, the students are able to master four of language skill, there are: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

2. Applying card sort technique, teaching vocabulary can be an effective and fun way to solve the problem both teacher and students in learning vocabulary because this technique uses card. This technique also be able to make students more active in teaching learning process.

C. **Problem of the Research**

The problem of this research is “Is the use of card sort effective in teaching vocabulary to the seventh grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Cilacap in academic years 2014/2015?”.

D. **Aim of the Research**

The aim of this research is to know whether it is effective to teach vocabulary using card sort at seventh grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Cilacap in academic years 2014/2015.
E. Clarification of the Terms

1. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is producing the result that is wanted or intended (Hornby, 2006: 469)

2. Card Sort

Based on Silberman (2006: 169), card sort is a collaborative activity that can be used to teach about concept, characteristic of classification, fact about things, or review information.

3. Teaching

Teaching is a process to transfer knowledge to the students.

4. Vocabulary

According to Van Gobel (2013) states that vocabulary is the knowledge of words and word meanings.

F. Contribution of the Research

Because the topic is an important implication in the area of teaching and learning achievement in English so the writer has deep hope in mind that, this research or study will have meaningful contribution toward the improvement of English achievement. The following are some specific contributions of this research:

1. For English teachers

It is hoped that this research could give new reference for English teachers and improve their teaching skill in teaching vocabulary.
2. For the students

   It is hoped that this research will make the students enjoy in teaching and learning English through card sort technique and give motivation for students to be more active in learning English vocabulary.

3. For other researchers

   This research may be useful as a reference to do the same research more accurately next time.