A. Vocabulary

1. Definition of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of the four language components, which are spelling, grammar, phonology and vocabulary. It is an important element that cannot be separated from each other in language learning process.

According to Van Gobel (2013), vocabulary is the knowledge of words and word meanings. It means that vocabulary is not only knowing about words but understanding about the meaning.

The definition of vocabulary is also stated by another expert. Hatch and Brown say (1995: 1), vocabulary can be defined as a list or set of words for a particular language or a list or set of words that might be used by individual speakers of a language.

Another definition of vocabulary is stated by Neuman and Dwyer as cited in Bintz. Bintz (2010: 1) says that vocabulary is the words that need to be known to communicate effectively either words in speaking (expressive vocabulary) or words in listening (receptive vocabulary).

Based on the definitions stated above, it can be concluded that vocabulary is a group of words which have been mastered by the language
learners in supporting an effective communication, either in speaking or listening.

2. Aspects of Vocabulary

According to Lado as cited in Mardianawati (2012: 11), there are some aspects to learn vocabulary, such as meaning, spelling, pronunciation, word classes, and word use.

a. Meaning

In learning foreign languages, students should know the meaning of the words. Knowing the meaning of the word will make students easier in using it to communicate in written or oral.

b. Spelling

Spelling is one of most of important aspect in learning foreign language, by knowing the spelling of the word will make students in writing. In the teaching learning process, there are some students that can not spell the word well, because there are some words that have different from what is written. Thus, English teacher should guide the students to pronounce and spell the words correctly.

c. Pronunciation

The most students want to be able to speak English well. It needs a good pronunciation since not all of English words are pronounced based the spelling words.

d. Word classes
Word classes are categories of words. Word class is an important feature in semantic analysis. The class of word are: nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives and prepositions. Based on Hatch and Brown (1995: 218), the classification of the words of a language depends on the function in communication. Nouns can occur in certain places in sentences and serve certain functions. Verbs also occur in certain places and have special functions. Thus, word classes are an important feature in semantic analysis.

e. Word meaning

- **Synonym**
  
  Synonym is words that share a similar meaning (Thornbury, 2002: 9) for example: sadness = unhappiness, fine = good

- **Antonym**
  
  Antonym is a word expressing an idea directly opposite to that of another word in the same language. For example: accept >< refuse, like >< dislike

3. The Importance of Teaching Vocabulary to Young Learners

Vocabulary is the basic thing that should be mastered by the young learners. By mastering vocabularies, young learners will find it easy to understand the language. If learners do not know the meaning of words, they will have difficulties in understanding what they see, read, and learn.

Young learners learn differently from adults, especially in learning vocabulary. Referring to the characteristic of young learners in learning
vocabulary, such as: they respond to meaning even if they do not understand individual words; they often learn indirectly rather than directly; they learn everything around them rather than only focus on the precise topic they are taught; they have curiosity and enthusiasm about the world around them; their understanding comes not only from explanation but also from what they see, hear, and interest every day.

The importance of mastering vocabulary also becomes an important thing dealing with the communicative competence in language learning. Based on Balci and Cakir (2012: 2), it is believed that having a large vocabulary is the indicator of communicative competence, and it is one of the important aspects of language learning.

Based on the statement above, the writer concludes that learning vocabulary is very important to young learners because vocabulary is the most important thing in teaching English. By having a sufficient stock of vocabulary, it will be easier to have a good competence in learning English since vocabulary is a basic component that needs to be mastered and it also make the learners easier to understand the language.

4. The Word Classification of Vocabulary

There are some aspects that should be mastered in learning vocabulary. One of them is by understanding the class of words. By understanding the class of words, it will be easier for us to comprehend and as result master the vocabulary.
Based on Hatch and Brown (1995: 219), the classification of words classes based on the functional categories are called parts of speech. They are:

a. Nouns

Noun refers to a person, place, or thing. Nouns can be divided into subclasses, they are as follows:

- Proper nouns, like *Betsy*, *Ohio*, and *the Mormon Tabernacle Choir* differ from the common nouns (*woman*, *state*, and *choir*).
- Abstract nouns, like *hope*, *understanding*, and *love* differ from concrete nouns (*dish*, *table*, and *chair*).
- Count nouns, like *books*, *birds*, and *pianos* differ from mass nouns (*applesauce*, *gravy*, and *rice*).
- Group nouns, like *bank*, *government*, *club*, and *choir* differ from other nouns that refer to people because they refer to the group as a unit ("The choir performs every Sunday" versus "The singers perform every Sunday").

b. Verbs

Verbs are words that denote action. Verbs can be divided into four classes, they are as follows:

- Activities, such as; run, walk, write, and seek.
- Accomplishments, such as; paint a picture, draw a triangle, write a letter, and run a mile.
- Achievements, such as; recognize, find, lose, and understand.
c. Adjectives

Adjectives are used to highlight qualities or attributes. Adjectives can be pointed out into:

- Positive quality, such as; good, diligent, smart, and beautiful.
- Negative quality, such as; bad, lazy, stupid, and ugly.

d. Adverbs

Adverbs typically assign attributes to verbs, to clauses, or to entire sentences rather than to nouns. For example: here and there (locative adverbs); now and tomorrow (time adverbs); always and never (frequency adverbs); slowly and quickly (adverbs are used to modify verbs).

B. Card Sort

1. Definition of Card Sort

Card Sort technique is one method of active learning contained in 101 books written by the Active Learning (Silberman, 2006: 157). Card sort is a technique to get students involved and arouse their interest in the topic and make students active in learning process. Active learning is a teaching that invites students to learn actively, meaning those who dominate the learning activity. With card sort method they are actively using the brain, either to find the main idea of the material, solve problems, or just apply what they learned into a problem that exists in real
life. With active learning students are invited to participate in all the learning process, both mentally and physically.

Card sort technique is active and fun way to review the course material. This method allows students to pair up and give a quiz question to his friend.

2. Function of Card Sort

The function of the strategy and media of learning to use card sort is to reveal the memory of the subject matter learned students (Hamruni, 2011: 167).

The function of the strategy and media of learning to use the “pick and choose a card”. Card sort is to reveal the memory or recall of the subject matter student has learned. So that students truly understand and remember the lesson that have been given (Zaini, 2008).

Puji Hidayati (2011: 9) said that card sort can make students more active in learning process because it is a collaborative learning. It is an visual representation of written and printed on a surface of paper or card.

3. Types of Card Sort

Based on Puji Hidayati (2011), there are traditional two types of card sort exercises used. They are:

a. Open Card Sort

In an open card sort exercise, participants are given a stack of cards and are asked to group them together as it makes sense to them (no
right or wrong answers). After they have grouped the cards, they are asked to name each group of cards.

b. Closed Card Sort

In a closed card sort exercise, participants are provided group names, and are asked to place each of the cards into one of the pre-established groups. A variation of the closed card sort is a semi-open/closed card sort exercise. In a semi-open/closed card sort, participants begin with a closed card sort, with the exception that they are allowed to make changes to the group names, and may add new groups, rename groups, and remove groups.

4. Procedure of Card Sort

Based on Silberman (2006: 169), the procedures of card sort activity as follows:

1. Giving each students index card containing of information or example that match with one or some categories, for examples; noun, verb, adjective and adverb.

2. Asking students to go around the classroom and seek other students that have the same card category.

3. Asking students that have the same card category to offer themselves to another students.

4. When each category is offered, tell some important learning points.

According to Zaini, Munthe and Aryani (2008: 50-51) explains about the procedures of card sort activity as follows:
1. Each student is given a set of cards containing information or example covered one or more categories.

2. Ask students to move and go around in the classroom to find the same card category. (Teacher can tell category before or let students to find it).

3. Ask students that have the same card category to present it in front of the class.

4. When the students do presentation, tell the important points about the lesson.

5. **Advantages and Disadvantages of Card Sort**

   In doing this research, there are some advantages and disadvantages that can be taken, as mentioned by Silberman (2009: 151). The advantages of card sort activity are 1). Card sort is able to review the material given effectively 2). Card sort is able to test the knowledge and ability of the students well 3). Card sort activity can give more energy in a boring class. Meanwhile the disadvantages of card sort activity are 1). The class will be noisy so it needs to be monitored intensively 2). Confusion in the activity inside 3). Consuming time.

C. **Procedures of Card Sort for Teaching Vocabulary**

   The procedures of card sort activity in teaching vocabulary are as follows:
1. Making cards based on the number of the students where all of the cards contain some words in different class of words such as book, pretty, write, slowly, etc.

2. Telling students that they will have a classification activity where there will be 4 groups in that class namely noun, verb, adjective and adverb.

3. Asking students to look for other friends that have the same class of words and tell them to group themselves.

4. Asking all of the students to look for the meaning of word on their card.

5. Asking one students in each group to write their work on the paper.

6. Asking one of the student in each group to present the result in front of the class.

D. Basic Assumption

Vocabulary is the key in learning language. It is impossible for students to use English without mastering vocabulary. Learning vocabulary has always been a difficult process for students and teachers. The classical problem is that students are bored and unmotivated in their learning process. Considering this problem, teachers should have a set of guiding principles that can be applied in a variety learning situation. It is believed that learning vocabulary through card sort make students more active in teaching learning process where they have to find out their partner to answer the question in grouping. Moreover, they also get new vocabulary in the learning process through card sort activity. Through those activities, it can be used as a good
way to learn vocabulary where they should learn English active. So, their vocabulary mastery will improve as well through card sort.

E. **Hypothesis**

Based on the explanation before, the writer has hypothesis that card sort is effective to teach vocabulary.