CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Vocabulary is the basic element in learning English that should be mastered by the students in every level. In learning English, the students have to get great number of words to be applied in English skills. They have to know how to implement each skill accurately so they can master all the English skills. Vocabulary is important to be learnt because when the teacher teaches all the English skills, automatically the students are taught vocabulary by the teacher (John and Mario, 2004: 18). When they get the English skills, it underlines the importance of vocabulary to be learnt.

Vocabulary plays an important role in teaching and learning language. When the students communicate using English language, it is necessary for students to master vocabulary of language. It is supported by Wilkins as cited in Thornbury (2002:13) who said that without grammar very little can be conveyed, and without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. It means that students can say very little with grammar, but it will be difficult for students to speak or write something without vocabulary. By mastering vocabulary, the students will be able to produce so many sentences easily either in spoken or written one. Without mastering the vocabulary, it will be
difficult to communicate in English language well. Therefore, vocabulary mastery must be the first priority in English language teaching and learning.

In learning vocabulary, there are some aspects of vocabulary which should be learnt by the students. Learning it is important because in order to be able to speak, write, and listen, the students have to know vocabulary first.

As stated by Brown (2011: 83) there are some aspects of vocabulary: the first is word meaning, its including definition, synonyms and antonyms. The second is word form, that is pronunciation and spelling. The third is the word use, where the students also need to know how a word, phrase, or concept is used in a language. Based on the explanation, teacher should make the teaching and learning vocabulary process clear and easy for the students. The selection of words which are to be taught to the students is a very important in the language learning process. The teacher should be aware of the vocabulary the students need. In this way, the students can use words effectively.

Based on the pre-observation in SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Cilacap, many problems which faced by students in learning vocabulary, so that the material is difficult to be understood well. The first is understanding the meaning of word. Most of students have found difficulties in understanding the meaning of word because the words have not been
known. So that, the lesson is hard to be understood well. The second is differentiating the foreign word’s-spelling. The students have found some similar words and sounds in English, so that it might make the students feel confused. The third is using the words. The students forgot the words that have been learned before, so that it could not be easy to memorize the words well.

Another problem is the implementation of teacher centered learning. It makes the students did not have interaction among them in the activities. Therefore, the teacher should have a good and interesting technique to make the students interested and motivated. The technique or media must be able to make the students active in teaching and learning process. There are many techniques or medias of teaching English vocabulary to attract of the students to follow the lesson well, one of them is word wall media.

The use of word wall can help the students in learning the vocabulary because it persuades the students to be active in finding the new words on the wall. They can make the sentences by themselves based on the topic that is learned. They write the word on a piece of paper and make it bigger, then they have to put their word on the wall. It is an interesting activity for the students because it is one of the chances to explore their understanding about the word they have known or they have not known before. Based on the explanation mentioned previously,
“Teaching Students’ Vocabulary Through Reading Text by Using Word Wall” is chosen as a topic to be observed.

B. Reason for Choosing The Topic

“Teaching Students’ Vocabulary Through Reading Text by Using Word Wall” is chosen as the topic because vocabulary is difficult for the students to be understood. Word wall is also chosen to be one of the teaching medias because it can help the students to understand the vocabulary and the use of the vocabulary itself easily. The students can expose the new word which is taken from the text so that students can enrich their vocabulary. By using word wall, the students are expected to understand the vocabulary easily.

C. Problem of The Study

The problem of this study is stated by the question:

“Is word wall effective to teach students’ vocabulary through reading text?”

D. The Aim of The Study

The aim of the study is to find out whether or not word wall is effective to teach students’ vocabulary through reading text.
E. Contribution of The Study

This study will give contribution for all English teachers especially the English teachers of SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Cilacap to solve the problems in the teaching and learning vocabulary by providing a media that will increase the students’ motivation and achievements. Hopefully, it can be used to be one of the medias that can be applied by the English teacher during teaching and learning process.

F. Clarification of The Term

The title of this study is “Teaching Students’ Vocabulary through Reading Text by Using Word Wall”. The terms which are stated in the title above need to be defined in order to get some insight or perception of the key terms.

1. Teaching

Pikulski and Templeton (2004) defines teaching as showing or helping someone to learn how to do something, giving instruction, guiding in the study of something, providing with knowledge, causing to know or understand.

2. Vocabulary

Allen (1983: 2) states that the term of vocabulary refers to a lists or set of words for a particular language or a lists or set of words that individual speakers of a language might use.

3. Reading
Leu and Kinzer (1987: 9) explain that reading is a developmental, interactive and global process involving learned skill. It is the activity that can be done by understanding the content of the text.

4. Word wall

Allen (1983: 4) states that word wall means that the assembly of meaningful words that is placed in one large place or paper that can be seen clearly.