CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Research

Vocabulary is words used to communicate in language. Vocabulary is a list of words, usually in alphabetical order and with explanation of their meanings (Wu, 2009: 5). It can be said that vocabulary is a list of words including their meanings and it can be used to communicate in a language. The list of words can be used by the learners to learn vocabulary of a language.

Further, vocabulary has an important role and vocabulary acquisition is the largest and most important task faced by the language learner (Swan & Walter, 1984) as cited in (Shejbalova, 2006:1). It is because that vocabulary links the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. The students should master vocabulary and know how to use vocabulary accurately so that they can communicate well in English as a foreign language.

Moreover, there are five essential steps in learning vocabulary: (1) having source for encountering word, (2) Getting a clear image, either visual or auditory or both, for the forms of the new words, (3) learning the meaning of the words, (4) making a strong memory connection between the forms and the meanings of the words, and (5) using the words (Hatch & Brown, 1995: 372). By crossing those five essential steps, it makes students easier to master vocabulary. In order to retain new vocabulary longer, the vocabulary has to be
recycled. Recycle vocabulary means that the students use the vocabulary again or retrieve it. One of the techniques that can be used for recycling vocabulary is *Traffic Word* game.

Based on some interviews with several students that were done on 6th December 2014 at one of junior high schools in Banjarnegara. There are several techniques have been applied by teacher in teaching learning vocabulary, such as; role play, translation and discussion. Another variation to give new experience in teaching and learning process, *Traffic Word* game is selected for teaching and learning vocabulary. This game of techniques to teach vocabulary which will creates an interesting and enjoyable atmosphere where the students are motivated to be active in teaching learning process.

Word ‘game’ to mean an activity which is entertaining and engaging, often challenging, and an activity in which the learners play and usually interact with others (Wright, 2006:1). Those are word games concerned primary with developing skills, but some of them are more actively oral and will give better situation where the teacher wants to provide the relief. The word game considered to be modified to be a new game called *Traffic Word* game. By using traffic, teaching and learning process will be more live and students become more active. *Traffic Word* game will be done in class and outdoor. In these game students observe the real object or things that moving directly. Furthermore, the kinds of word game are technique that is generally used in the teaching process. Meanwhile, a good innovation in teaching learning should be developed, so need a new way in order to teach vocabulary.
Traffic Word game is a game of observing and arranging words. It is played in teams. This game will be done outdoor and in class. First, each student work individually outdoor to write down as many words based on real object or traffic that they see. Then, they back into group and change the result to arrange into sentences. Finally, each group presents the result. In playing it, teacher gives the learners a time limit in each activity. Therefore, students have to compete with other teams. Working as individually makes the student concentrate and working as a team and competing with other teams makes the students interest in following the teaching and learning process because they will not feel worry since they work in team.

In playing Traffic Word game, the students will recycle the vocabulary when they arrange word after that present and listen the result from other team. The best way to learn vocabulary is when the meaning of the word is illustrated for example by a picture or real object (LuuTrong Tuan, 2012) Phillips (1993) as cited in (Rohani, 2013:2). Real object that represents the word will make the students memorize the vocabulary easily and it encourages them to retain vocabulary longer. Recall is influenced by events or process at various stages of memory (McDonough, 1981:66) as cited in (Lynch & Anderson, 2012:1). It can be concluded that the unforgettable moments in playing Traffic Word game will encourage the students to memorize vocabulary longer. Moreover use game not only fun but also should make the learners interesting and enjoyable. The students can remember concrete noun, adjective etc easily. It is because they have image of real object about certain
vocabulary learned before. The traffic created by them helps them to remember the vocabulary easily.

On the contrary, there also some limitations of using Traffic Word game as a teaching learning process. Because of traffic word game here is the representation of real objects; it limits the elaboration of the vocabulary that can be found in the Traffic Word game. Students can only observe all in the Traffic Word game however, there are many things outside. This is the beginning for students to learn vocabulary from Traffic Word game that will be used here is real object without caption on its. Indeed, with all the restrictiveness of the Traffic Word game the numbers of vocabulary students get will be better than before.

By conducting this research, it is expected that it contributes to curriculum and pedagogy. In terms of curriculum, Traffic Word game can be included as a technique for teaching vocabulary so that it can give something new in educational sector. Moreover, the teacher can apply Traffic Word game for teaching vocabulary after the teacher understands the theories of traffic word game. Traffic Word game should be able to be used not for teaching vocabulary but also other language skill, and aspect, such as writing and speaking.
B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

There are some reasons why this topic is chosen. First, vocabulary is one of the important elements in language. In order to communicate English well, the students have to master English vocabulary because it links the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Then, Traffic word game is a technique in learning English vocabulary to recycle words given before. It is an interesting way to learn English vocabulary since it is kind of game.

C. The Problems of Research

The problem of this research is as follows:”Is Traffic Word game effective for teaching vocabulary?”

D. The Aim of research

Based on the problem described previously, the aim of the study is to examine the effectiveness of Traffic Word game for teaching vocabulary.