CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Language plays an important role as means of communication and through communication we can share ideas, thought and opinion. Therefore we have to master the language well. In fact, the students got difficulty in managing it when they did communication in teaching learning process. Jan Comenius (in Dian 2009:1) says that the improvement of teaching a foreign language can be done through imitation, repetition and plenty of practice in both reading and speaking, while grammar is taught inductively through picture.

Applying an appropriate media in teaching learning process will improve the students in teaching learning process and make the students be active in learning English. Picture is one of the examples of visual media that can interest students’ participation in learning English, especially in learning Degrees of Comparisons. A degree of Comparisons is one of the parts of English grammar which consists of positive, comparative and superlative construction.

Based on the researcher’s pre observation in SMP Purnama Kesugihan on June 2011, the researcher knew that most of classroom in that school consisted of about 35 students that made the teacher get difficulty to manage the class. Besides that, the students were busy with themselves and also the
teacher still used Grammar Translation Method (GTM) in teaching learning grammar process. In this method, the teacher explained pattern of Degree of Comparison one by one and mentioned the example without any media, so that some students got difficulty in mastering the material, lack of motivation and other bad behaviour because students there was not activity or interaction among the students in class. Some of them sometimes didn’t understand the lessons even only kept silent and were confused about the teacher’s instruction. These problems caused the learning process run badly.

The students’ participation in English teaching in SMP Purnama Kesugihan, especially in learning Degrees of Comparisons was still low, it is about 22.85% got from pre-observation. There were some causes of the low students’ participation in learning process. First they didn’t focus on the lesson; second they were confused about the materials; third they were bored with the lesson; and the last they were not interested in the materials.

Based on condition above, students should not be blamed for the problems. Teacher should consider the use of appropriate media, technique or approach in the classroom, in order that the learning process runs well.

Based on the problems previously mentioned, researcher decides that the problems are solved through the implementation of Classroom Action Research by using picture as a media in learning Degrees of Comparisons.
B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The reasons why the writer is interested in choosing the topic and doing the research are:

1. The students’ participation in learning Degree of Comparison in SMP Purnama Kesugihan need to be improved.
2. Degree of Comparison is a basic knowledge of English grammar. In fact, they still had problem in this material especially with their participation in the classroom.
3. Picture is one of media that is interesting for the students especially in learning Degree of Comparison.

C. Problem of the Research

The problem of the research is stated by a question: Can picture improve the students’ participation in learning Degree of Comparison?

D. Aim of the research

The aim of the research is to improve students’ participation in learning Degree of Comparison using picture.

E. Clarification of Terms

In order to understand the title, below are the clarifications of terms used in this research:

1. Degree of Comparison

Degree of Comparison is a part of structure consists of positive, comparative and superlative construction.
2. Picture

Picture is everything showed visually in two-dimension form.

F. Contribution of Study

1. For the students
   a. They can improve their participation in learning Degree of Comparison.
   b. They can get new learning experience which can give more positive view about learning English. Therefore, they can be more active in getting involved in every class activity.

2. For the English teacher
   a. The result of this research can help teachers find out the must suitable media for the success of their teaching.

3. For the school
   a. The result of the research would be an input for the school to improve the English teaching learning process, especially in learning Degree of Comparison using picture as a media.