A. The Background of Research

Vocabulary is one of the basic elements that make up language. According to Hatch and Brown (1995: 1), vocabulary is a list or set of words for a particular language or a list or set of words that individual speakers of a language might use. Words are signs or symbols of ideas. It means that words tell our ideas, feelings, thoughts, either spoken or written.

In learning vocabulary, the students should not only know the meaning of new vocabulary, but they should also be able to retrieve the new vocabularies when they need it (Kaprowski, 2006:1). However, it often happens that students commonly have problems in retrieving words which have been studied when they need it. Thus, to make vocabulary stays longer in students’ memory, vocabulary has to be recycled. Recycling vocabulary here means that the students use the vocabulary again and again. Therefore, the teacher should facilitate the student to recycle their vocabulary. One of the ways that can be used for recycling vocabulary is the use of games.

Game is a technique which helps and encourages many learners to sustain their interest and their work. Games also help the teacher to know which language is useful and meaningful (Wright, 1984: 1). A game is defined by Hadfield (1990: 5) as an activity that with rules, the goals and
an element of fun. Games can be used in learning English especially vocabulary because it can make the students understand better and easier to memorize the material. Furthermore, games also help to create a context in which students’ attention is focused on the completion of the task without necessarily realizing those language items are being practiced. As a result, language learning takes place in the context that students can directly relate to. The emphasis of game is one of successful communication rather than in correctness language.

Sentence Race game is a game in which every player from both teams has to race a sentence containing a specific word given by teacher in a short time. The sentence should be clear and correct. Adams (2013) states that Sentence Race game can be used by teacher to reviewing vocabulary and grammar.

Furthermore, Adams (2013) stated that Sentence Race proceed through some steps. Here, teacher provides the same two sets of words that can consist of noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. Then, she or he gives a set of words for each team, so that every player acquires one or two words. Moreover, Adams (2013) states that the purpose of this game is every player in a team can write a sentence having a specific word in it.

In teaching vocabulary, this game can also make the students interest in learning vocabulary. This game is very challenging because to play this game each team should compete to make a sentence within a limited time, so that they can win the game. Playing this game can also
makes the students feel fun when they learn vocabulary because this is a very lively activity that can give the student new experience in learning vocabulary.

Finally, based on the explanation, the researcher wants to know whether Sentence Race game is effective or not for teaching vocabulary. Therefore, the researcher decides to carry out an experimental study entitled “The Effectiveness of Sentence Race game for Teaching Vocabulary”.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The researcher has several reasons in choosing this topic, they are:

1. The writer sees that the teaching and learning vocabulary in SMP Negeri 1 Kalibagor is still need improving. Therefore, the teacher should provide an effective learning in which students are actively involved in the teaching and learning process.

2. The use of vocabulary in junior high school is very important because vocabulary is the basic knowledge for someone to master all language skill in a higher study for the further knowledge.

3. Sentence Race game can help teaching and learning vocabulary becomes more effective and meaningful. Using Sentence Race game, the teacher help students increase motivation to learn and make them enjoy in studying.
C. Problem of the Study

The problem that will be analyzed in this research is stated by question as follows: “Is Sentence Race game effective for teaching vocabulary?”

D. Aim of The Study

The aim of this study is to find out whether Sentence Race game is effective or not for teaching vocabulary.

E. Clarification of Term

In order to give clear understanding about the topic of this research, it is necessary to give the definition of some terms of the study as follows:

1. Effectiveness

   This is measure of the match between stated goals and their achievement. It is always possible to achieve low standard goal (Faster, 1994 : 104).

2. Teaching

   According to Brown (2000: 7) teaching is guiding and facilitating learning, enabling the learner to learn, setting the conditions for learning. Teaching cannot be defined apart from learning. Teaching is giving instruction to somebody to know or able to do something to give somebody (knowledge, skill, etc).

3. Sentence Race Game
Sentence Race game is a game in which every player from both teams has to race in writing a sentence containing a specific word given by teacher in a short time Adams (2013).

4. Vocabulary

The term of vocabulary refers to a list or set of words for a particular language or a list or set of words that individual speakers of language might use (Hatch and Brown, 1995:1).

F. The Contribution of the Study

1. For the teachers
   a. The information of research founding will contribute to teacher as access to improve better of technique of teaching vocabulary for junior high students.
   b. The teacher can motivate the students in their learning to master vocabulary.

2. For other researcher

   This research may be useful as a reference to do same relevant research especially the topic related to the use of effective teaching technique of vocabulary for junior high school students.

3. For the school

   Sentence Race game can be used for various purposes of English learning to develop the students’ skills and competence.