CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Vocabulary is one of the important elements in English. Napa (1991) stated that vocabulary is one of the language components and no language exists without words. Therefore, learning vocabulary is fundamental to support some learners to master English, because the ability of students to read and to comprehend the subject is relatively determined by desirability to master vocabulary itself. Nation (2008: 66) says that vocabulary is central of language. By having vocabulary we will know the meaning of words in context and they will know what other people are talking about. It can help the student increase their in learning English achievement.

It is generally among language teachers and learner that vocabulary is considered by both first-language and second-language researcher as an essential factor in language mastery. One approach to facilitate the students to increase their vocabulary is using vocabulary learning strategies (VLS). Interest in VLS has paralleled a movement away from a predominantly teaching-oriented perspective to one that includes interest in how the actions of learners might affect their acquisition of language (Schmitt, 2000: 132). Therefore, learning vocabulary is important for understanding English well.

Although vocabulary is a crucial part in language learning and communication, learning vocabulary is not easy. Sometimes the learners were
difficult to find how to discover the meaning of the word, how to remember the vocabulary in their memory, and how to use the vocabulary by practicing and develop their vocabulary. Therefore, to make the students easy to learn vocabulary, they need some strategies in learning vocabulary.

Strategies are tools for students can learn vocabulary easily. Strategies are essential tools for developing vocabulary competence. Without strategies, the students’ will be difficult to find the meaning of a new word, to remember them in their memory and use the vocabulary in appropriate situations, or to develop their vocabulary. Twinning (1992) states that to be successful in learning, students should know some factors influencing the success in learning language such as characteristics as a learner, the nature of materials to be learnt, the critical task of learning, and the variety of learning strategy. From the statement above, it can be concluded that students who want to be success in learning vocabulary they must have strategy. From the statement, we know that the strategies are one important aspect for students to be successful in their learning vocabulary in order that the students find it easier to master vocabulary.

Therefore, it is unavoidable for the learners who learn language have strategy to learn vocabulary. Because of those reasons the writer is interested in taking the title “Students’ Vocabulary Learning Strategies” investigating the second semester students of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in the academic year 2016/2017”.
B. The Reason for Choosing the Topic

The writer chooses the topic “Students’ Learning Vocabulary Strategies in second semester students of English Education Department Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in the academic year 2016/2017” because vocabulary was included to language elements for supporting the students’ success of learning language. Besides that, strategy is one of the factors that influences on the students learning vocabulary and everyone has his/her own strategy in learning English especially vocabulary. So, the writer intends to find more what the strategy they use to learn vocabulary.

C. The Problem of the Research

The problems of this study can be formulated as follows:
1. What strategies do the students use to learn vocabulary?
2. What is the most frequent strategy used by the students?

D. The Aim of the Research

Considering of the problem the aim of the research are:
1. To know the vocabulary learning strategy used by the students
2. To know what the most frequent strategy used by the students in second semester students of English Education Department Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in academic year 2016/2017”.

E. Clarifications of the Terms

To understand the title more easily, essential terms of the research are classifies as follows:
1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a having complete knowledge of sum of words that are used in any language skill (Hornby, 2005). Vocabulary is word as units that a part of grammatical patterns (Lado, 1977: 182).

From the definition above, it can be concluded that student who learning vocabulary they can easy to use or understand the words.

2. Learning

Learning is process to increase their ability to be better and the effort to achieve success. Hakim in Sutikno (2007: 3) states that learning is a process to change in the human personality, and the change is shown in form increasing the quality and quantity of behavior such as increased proficiency, knowledge, attitudes, habits, understanding, skills, power of thought and other ability.

3. Strategy

Strategy is defined as a particular method of approaching a problem or task mode of operation for achieving a particular end, or planned design for controlling and manipulating certain information. Learning strategy in this research focused on vocabulary learning strategy used by students. In language, strategies can be interpreted as tactics, tricks, tips or ways. Strategies are the ways how someone learns vocabulary in English easier and faster. With strategy students can motivate them self to increase their ability in learning vocabulary.
F. Contributions of the Research

Hopefully, this thesis gives some positive contribution for learning process, especially in learning vocabulary. The teacher has to know that every student has different strategy based on their characteristics in learning vocabulary. So that, the teacher must have be able the student to make having motivation in learning language.

For the students, the students can use various strategies to help them in learning vocabulary with their own strategies. Based on the strategy that they have, the students can be successful in learning vocabulary.

For the others researcher, this study can be a reference for other writers in their paper.