

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The essence of teaching learning process on instruction is a process of communication, it is the process of sending information from the teacher to the students as the receiver.

In learning English, students have to deal with some aspects, such as the vocabulary that has difficulties in each its level.

Vocabulary is a component from language in learning English. So that, vocabulary is very important for the students to communicate through writing or oral, the students have to be able to write with the material that is given appropriate, and be able to speak English well.

The development of rich vocabulary is an important element in the acquisition of English. The students must develop vocabulary mastery by learning a lot of materials as much as possible. Dealing with the curriculum in the second grade of junior high school, the dominated material in this level stresses on various texts or genres such as short essay and simple written functional text. The various texts and genres provide a vast vocabulary to increase the students' vocabulary skill and score in English.

In teaching and learning process, there are many vocabulary problems. It can be caused by the existence of individualized teacher, by the method that is used, by the less motivation of the students in learning English or perhaps the students having difficulties in mastering vocabulary.

In fact, the students' score in vocabulary are unsatisfying. When the teacher gives tasks or homework about vocabulary, most of them didn't do it seriously and they feel reluctant to learn or ask more about the new vocabulary. The Students only learn about the vocabulary in the classroom and depend on the exercises or homework from the teacher.

Nowadays, the teachers rarely use some media or technique to teach vocabulary, whereas media or technique can support the achievement of teaching learning process.

There are some many ways to make students more interested in learning English and the teacher can choose one media or technique that is suitable to teach vocabulary. One of them is by using Flash Cards in teaching activities.

Flash cards is a cardboard consisting of a word, a sentence, or a simple picture on it. It should be noted that the letters on it must be visible and large enough for everyone sitting in the front and the back of the classroom.

By using Flash cards, the writer hopes that the students will memorize vocabulary easily, and they can communicate well with others in English. Not only can communicate well, but also they can improve the four basic skills in learning English namely reading, speaking, writing and listening if their vocabulary is good.

Based on the statement, the writer is interested in conducting the research on the title "THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FLASH CARDS FOR TEACHING VOCABULARY"

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

There are some reasons why the writer choose this topic, namely:

1. Flash Cards is a fun card providing the picture on it that can make students more interested in learning vocabulary and memorize vocabulary easily.
2. English teachers rarely use this medium in teaching vocabulary, so it is necessary to find the effectiveness of this media.

C. Problem of the Study

The problem of the study is formulated in the following questions:

1. Is the flash card effective to teach English vocabulary for Junior High School students?
2. Is teaching English vocabulary using flash card can improve students English vocabulary?

D. The Aim of the Study

The aim of the study is to find whether or not flash card is effective to teach English vocabulary for Junior High School students.

E. Clarification of the Terms

Clarification of the terms can help the reader to get a clear explanation and specific perception dealing with the research. It was also important to avoid mistake and misunderstanding the term which were stated in the title above. The definition as follows:

1. Effectiveness

The word Effectiveness comes from word “effective”. According to As Hornby the word “effective” means producing the result that is wanted or intended; producing a successful result (Oxford University Press, 2000: 422).

Based on that, it can be concluded that the Effectiveness is an effect of the teaching English vocabulary using Improvisational Exercise.

2. Flash Cards

Flash cards are picture cards that are equipped with words, introduced by Glenn Doman. Based on Arsyad (2007 : 119) flash cards means a small card with picture, text, or symbol sign that reminds or guides learners to something related to that picture.

Flash Cards are teaching aids as picture paper which has 25x30. The pictures is made by hand, pictures or photo which is stucked on the flashcard.

It can be concluded that flash card is effective card which has two sides. The one side is containing images, text, or symbol. The another side is containing the definition or information of the picture that can help the students to remember information of the picture.

3. Vocabulary

Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (2000: 1506) stated that vocabulary means a great number of words that person knows or uses; the words

that people use when they are talking about a particular subject; all the words in a particular language; a list of words with their meanings, especially in a book for learning a foreign language.

Based on those explanation above, Vocabulary is English words that used by a group in classroom or an individual to make a communication in the students' daily activities. Especially the English vocabulary related to past experiences.

F. Contribution

Hopefully this research will have a great contribution to optimize the English teaching and learning process in SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Purwokerto are as follows:

1. For students

The students know how to use flash card in learning vocabulary, so they can increase their vocabulary achievement.

2. For the teacher

The teacher can use flash card in learning vocabulary, so the students will be more interested in learning vocabulary.