A. Background of Study

Since English is considered a very important subject and becomes one of the most difficult materials in elementary school, the Indonesian government issued a policy that English can be taught from Elementary School. As a response toward the government’s policy, English is also taught at SD N 1 Talagening Purbalingga at the first until sixth grade.

One of the main or basic materials given for students is vocabulary. For this level, vocabulary is concentrated on the function of words and more frequently the use of vocabulary items. The purpose of teaching English especially vocabulary in elementary school is to introduce English to young learners. The material which is given to young learner is still very basic because English is still new in their life. To make them easy in learning, teacher should be creative in delivering the material, so the students feel enjoy in learning English and can master all of skills in English.

Vocabulary mastery is very important, and it is necessary to bring the language to the real communication. According to Nurgiyantoro (2001: 166), in order to be able to communicate in language, it is needed to master the vocabulary in adequate numbers. Vocabulary mastery enables a person to receive and transfer greater extent and complex information. From the statement above, vocabulary is one of the important components in language
learning. Learners have to master vocabulary to support their language skills. It will also help to improve their achievement.

As a new subject, English becomes one of the complicated subjects for students because it is seldom used in daily life. Most students have problems in learning English, especially in learning vocabulary. It is not merely because of the difference style in pronouncing and spelling the word, but also because of the difference in written and spoken one. The problems are remembering the meaning of words and using the words in sentences.

These problems also happened at the fourth grade of SD N 1 Talagening Purbalingga in the academic year 2011/2012. Based on the observation, the writer finds some problems dealing with students’ vocabulary mastery. First, the students often forget the meaning of the words. Second, the students could not pronounce the English words well. Third, the students could not spell the words well. Fourth, the students could not use the words or create sentence from the words provides.

Furthermore, the writer and the English teacher discussed how to improve students’ vocabulary mastery and students’ interaction in the classroom. The writer thinks that the objects (toys, replica, and miniature) are suitable for teaching English vocabulary because

1. they are fun,
2. they are close with young learners,
3. they are interesting to the young learners, and
4. playing with that objects (toys, replica, and miniature) encourages to develop young learners’ brain.

From the explanation above, the writer and the teacher plan to make a research to improve students’ vocabulary mastery. The writer and the teacher try to use objects (toys, replica, and miniature) to help students in improving their vocabulary mastery and to motivate the students in learning English.

Related with the explanation above, the writer conducting the Classroom Action Research (CAR) entitled Improving Students’ Vocabulary Mastery Through Telling Objects (Toys, Replica, and Miniature) at the Fourth Grade of SD N1 Talagening Purbalingga in the Academic Year 2011/2012.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The writer has some reasons to choose this topic.

1. Based on the writer’s pre-survey, it was found that most students had difficulties in learning English. First, the students easily forget the meaning of the words. Second, the students could not pronounce the English words well. Third, the students could not spell the words well. Fourth, the students could not use the words or create sentence from the words provides.

2. The writer thinks that the objects (toys, replica and miniature) can help the students to improve their vocabulary mastery, and it can motivate them in learning vocabulary.
3. The objects (toys, replica and miniature) are interesting media that can make the students interested in learning English and make them easy to illustrate the meaning of words. So, the writer thinks that it can help the teacher and students in teaching and learning process.

C. Research Problems

The problem of this study is

“Can telling objects (toys, replica and miniature) improve the vocabulary mastery of the fourth grade students of SD N 1 Talagening Purbalingga in the academic year 2011/2012?”

D. The Purpose of the Research

Based on the problem formulation above, the research is aimed at knowing whether the objects (toys, replica and miniature) as media in teaching English vocabulary can improve the fourth grade students’ vocabulary mastery of SD N 1 Talagening Purbalingga in the academic year 2011/2012.

E. Clarification of the Terms

The writer takes the topic of the thesis is: “Improving Students’ Vocabulary Mastery Through Telling Objects (Toys, Replica and Miniature) at the Fourth Grade Students of SD N1 Talagening Purbalingga in the Academic Year 2011/2012” there are some clarification of the terms:
1. Improving

Pei (1971: 483) states that the term of *improving* means bring to more desirable or excellent condition to better or increase value or excellent. It means an effort brings to become something better.

2. Students

In Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, *a student* is a person who is learning at a college or university, or something at a school.

3. Vocabulary

Hatch and Brown (1995: 1) state that the term of *vocabulary* refers to a lists or set of words for a particular language or a lists or set of words that individual speakers of a language might use.

4. Describing

In Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, *describing* is to say or write what someone or something is like.

5. Objects

In Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary, *object* is a solid thing that can be seen and touched.

6. Toy

In Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, *Toy* is an object which is used by an adult for amusement rather than for serious use.

7. Replica

In Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, *replica* is a close or exact copy of something.
8. Miniature

In Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary *miniature* is something which is a very small copy of an object

F. Contribution of the Research

By doing this research, it is expected that the result will bring contribution both for English elementary school teacher and for school principals

1. For English elementary school teacher, the result of this research can be one of the resources of information about how they should improve the students’ ability, especially in teaching vocabulary. Hopefully, this insight will affect their teaching performances and classroom management.

2. For school principals, the result of the research will provide them information about the efforts to improve the students’ mastery in vocabulary so that they can support the teacher in improving the students, especially in mastering vocabulary.