CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Vocabulary is one of basic components of language and there is no language exists without it (Napa, 1991:6). Furthermore, it is very difficult for learners when they learn languages without vocabulary acquisition. Nunan (1991: 7) argued that acquisition of an adequate vocabulary is essential for successful second language learners, without extensive vocabulary the learners will be unable to use the language communicatively.

The components of learning language involves teacher, method of teaching, language teaching, and materials. As the important factor, teacher should be able to use various ways in learning English to make the teaching and learning process meaningful, for example by using suitable teaching technique. It is believed that by applying appropriate teaching technique can improve students’ mastery of English, especially English vocabulary.

Based on the observation done on Friday, August 31st 2012 in VII D grade of SMP N 3 Purwonegoro, it was found that the students’ vocabulary was still low. It can be seen from their daily test. Most of students got bad score and the result of their daily test is under the KKM which is 75. It was found some possible factors influencing this case. First, the students felt bored or uninterested when the teacher only delivers the material using conventional teaching, in which the students only used textbook as their guidance. Second,
the students’ motivation to learn vocabulary was not high, moreover the class was so noisy and the students sat at the back and chatted each other regardless teacher instruction. The students also found difficult to remember, spell, and understand the meaning of English words they got. Third, the students did not pay attention to the teacher and less participation in the class activities. In addition, most students were passive and silent in the classroom. The students were not confident, shy and doubtful to mention vocabularies and to speak English. The students also rarely asked to the teacher when they got difficulty. Fourth, there was not any communicative teaching method in delivering the material.

Regarding to these problems, the teacher needs an alternative teaching technique which is more innovative, fun, enjoyable, and involving students. One way to reach the idea is the use of game in the classroom. Games fulfill those requirements for it is fun, interactive and involving the class without ignoring the teaching material itself. It is recommended that Word Wall Game fulfils all those requirements as an alternative teaching to help students in improving their vocabulary mastery.

Word wall game is a systematically organized collection of words displayed in large letters on a wall or other large display place in the classroom. Harmon, et all (2009) confirmed that word walls have the potential for enhancing vocabulary learning in seventh grade students in conjunction with other instructional methods. This game is a challenging and interesting activity which stimulates the students’ motivation in learning vocabulary.
Further, word wall game is familiar game that most of children can play this game especially for junior high school.

In short, “Improving Students’ Vocabulary Mastery through Word Wall Game” is selected as the title of this research.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The basic reason is the competence at the VII D grade students of SMP N 3 Purwonegoro in academic year 2012/2013 in learning vocabulary was still low. That is why Classroom Action Research (CAR) is chosen as an appropriate research to solve this problem. Choosing Word Wall Game is based on the fact that Word Wall Game is something interesting and challenging for the students. Word Wall Game can help the students to overcome the problem in learning vocabulary.

C. Problem of the Research

Based on the explanation above, the problem of the research is “Can Word Wall Game improve the students’ vocabulary mastery?”

D. The Aim of the Research

The aim of the research is to know whether or not Word Wall Game can improve students’ vocabulary mastery at the VII D grade of SMP N 3 Purwonegoro in academic year 2012/2013.
E. Clarification of the Term

To understand the topic easily, the key term of the study are classify as follows:

1. Improve

   Pei (1971: 483) states 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. Vocabulary

   Hornby (1995: 571) noted that vocabulary is a total number of words, which (with rules combining them) make up language. In this study, it is a set of words that the students have ever learns at school. In a set of words has meaning that can develop into a sentence.

   Moreover, Nunan (1974: 6) stated that vocabulary is a set list of words for particular language or a list of words that individual speaker of a language might use.

3. Mastery

   In the Oxford (1998:1050), mastery means worthy of a master very skill full, mastery skill, use or knowledge.

   Based on the both definition, it can be concluded that vocabulary mastery is great skill of list of words.
4. Word Wall Game

In Oxford Advance Learners dictionary it is stated that the “words” mean a sound or combination of sound (or the written or printed symbols) containing a unit of the grammar or in vocabulary of language. Webster’s Dictionary it is written that word means a sound meaning, a certain thing idea and forming a grammatical a part of speech (Webster’s Dictionary, 1975: 315)

Word wall game is a systematically organized collection of words displayed in large letters on a wall or other large display place in the classroom.

F. Contribution of Study

By doing this research, it is expected that the result will bring contribution both for the writer, teacher and then students, such as:

1. For the writer
   It is an opportunity to practice the knowledge and skill, to manage the teaching learning process in the real classroom situation directly, to try to work collaboratively in the Classroom Action Research, to find out the problem in the class and the solution and to practice in efforts to improve the students’ motivation in learning vocabulary.

2. For the teacher
   To make the teacher more creative in teaching vocabulary, teacher should give other media in delivering material.
3. For the students
   
a. The students will have experience and different activities by using Word Wall Game.
   
b. The students will have different class atmosphere in learning vocabulary by using Word Wall Game.
   
c. The students will be motivated and interested in learning English especially in learning vocabulary.