A. Background of Research

Vocabulary is an important component in learning a foreign language. According to Napa (1991: 6), vocabulary is the basic element of language, and that is why no language exists without words. Words are signs or symbols for ideas.

In learning a foreign language, vocabulary plays an important role. It is one element that links the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Based on the syllabus in Junior High School (2013: 6) especially in the seventh grade, the objectives of teaching vocabulary are identifying the vocabulary, understanding the meaning and using the vocabulary in daily communication.

Eventhough students realize the importance of vocabulary in learning language, most students learn vocabulary passively due to several factors. First, the students consider the teacher's explanation for meaning or definition, pronunciation, spelling and grammatical functions boring. In this case, language learners have nothing to do in a vocabulary learning section but to listen to their teacher. Second, students only think of vocabulary learning as knowing the primary meaning of new words. Therefore, they ignore all other functions of the words. Third, students usually only acquire
new vocabulary through new words in their textbooks or when given by teachers during classroom lessons. For example, learners find many new words in a text and then ask the teacher to explain the meanings and usages. Fourth, many students do not want to take risks in applying what they have learnt. Students may recognize a word in a written or spoken form and think that the students already know the word, but the students may not be able to use that word properly in different contexts or pronounce it correctly. Teaching vocabulary is one of the ways to develop English because one of the keys to succeed in learning English is vocabulary mastery.

Based on the observation, students think that English is difficult. Their difficulties in learning vocabulary make their achievement are low. The students are not interested to learn vocabulary. They are bored, afraid to learn and still passive in learning English. The students also do not understand the teacher’ explanation because the students do not know the vocabulary that the teacher said. Besides that, the teacher is being the center of teaching and learning process. The teacher does not give a clear explanation, and that is also because of lack of media and real examples.

Teaching and learning process and medium are completed each other. Teacher has a responsibility to investigate and to find out the reason for the students’ failures. The teacher must be able to organize the students in teaching learning process. If the teacher can not teach the students properly, the students will not enjoy their learning. The selection of words which are to be taught to the students is a very important in the learning process. The
teacher should be aware of the vocabulary the students need. The teacher should provide media of teaching by making more use of teaching aid in the classroom and selecting material. Teacher should apply appropriate media to make the students more interested in learning English because English has become a compulsory subject to be learnt by the students. Teaching English vocabulary should be various to make the students get fun and active in learning.

There are several vocabulary teaching media. One of the media that can be used for teaching vocabulary is using Word Wall. It is an organized collection of words prominently displayed in a classroom. Word Wall can help the students to find out the meaning of new vocabulary easily. It is interesting for the students because of their size, kind, and color. Word Wall will ease the students in mastering the spelling because of Word Wall has large fonts and many colors, so that all the students in the class are easy to read and also understanding the meaning of the words.

For that reason, the writer is interested in conducting a research with the topic “The Effectiveness of Word Wall in Teaching Vocabulary at the Seventh Grade Students of SMP Negeri 2 Ajibarang in Academic Year 2013/2014”.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

There are some reasons why the writer chooses this topic are:

1. Vocabulary is one of the important elements that should be mastered by the students.
2. The students face many problems in teaching vocabulary. The students still confused in mastering the spelling and understanding the meaning of the words.

3. Word Wall is one of interesting media which helps the students to be active and develop their vocabulary mastery.

C. Problem of the Research

The problem of the research “Is Word Wall effective for teaching vocabulary at the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Ajibarang in academic year 2013/2014?”

D. Aim of the Research

The aim of the research is to find out whether Word Wall is effective or not for teaching vocabulary at the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Ajibarang in academic year 2013/2014.

E. Clarification of Term

The title of this research is “The Effectiveness of Word Wall in Teaching Vocabulary at the Seventh Grade Students of SMP Negeri 2 Ajibarang in Academic Year 2013/2014”. To make clear, the writer wants to clarify the terms as the follows:

1. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is a measurement of the match between stated goals and their achievement (Fraser, 1994: 104).
2. Word Wall

According to Trisha (2011: 3), Word Wall is an organized collection of words written in large print and displayed in an area of the classroom where it can be easily seen.

3. Vocabulary

According to Napa (1991: 6), vocabulary is the basic element of language.

F. Contribution of the Research

The writer hopes that this research will give some contributions to the teaching and learning process for both of students and teacher, especially in learning vocabulary using Word Wall.

1. For Teacher

The teacher will soon recognize the most effective medium in developing students' vocabulary capacity. It gives valuable experience about the use of medium in teaching and learning process.

2. For Students

The writer hopes the students will get a new experience in learning English. It also provides learning atmosphere for the students, so that they enjoy their learning activity.