CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Vocabulary is the basic element of every language. It includes every word that is listed in a language. Crow (1991: 111) states that, vocabulary is a total number of words that make up language, words known to a person or used in particular book, list of words with their meaning. As in learning English, vocabulary becomes important to all learners since it is used in all skills in English lesson. That is why the learners should increase as many stocks of vocabulary items as possible.

Learning vocabulary is a major part in learning English. It is the very first step to do if one wants to study a language. It is due to the fact that learning a language requires someone to know the meaning of the words he wants to say and how to use them first. Another thing like grammar comes next; it means that grammar can be learnt along with the more vocabulary items one can learn. Mastering a large number of vocabulary items helps the learners understand the material well; including receiving teacher’s explanation of the materials and it also helps them express their thoughts or ideas in the lesson. The lack of vocabularies mastery will make the learners difficult to comprehend the material.

Although they realize that mastering vocabularies will make them able to absorb the material well, yet most learners still find it difficult to
learn vocabulary. They tend to learn the material passively or in other words, teacher explains the material while the learners sit there in the classroom repeating what the teacher says. This kind of learning will lower their motivation in learning vocabulary. Then this will also have an effect on students’ achievement as well. A good teaching method is required to encourage the learners to study the material. The use of media is also necessary for applying teaching method.

Media is an instructional tool to improve the quality of teaching and learning process. While Arikunto (1987:13) states that, media are all things, which are used by the teacher to explain the instructional material. Some media have been known to be involved in teaching vocabulary; they are pictures, poster, diagram, and video. The use of media in teaching and learning process offers a more creative classroom activity. Using media can also attract students to pay more attention to the material. This will trigger their motivation in learning and their achievement will also increase as well.

In this research, a subtitled video is chosen by the researcher because of its value that lies in its combination of sound, images, and subtitle. The essence of studying vocabularies is by memorizing the meaning and the usage of a word. A subtitled video helps the learners to memorize the words better. Besides, video allows us to introduce any aspect of real life into the language learning environment, contextualizing
the learning process (Sherman, 2003: 1). This media would make the learners able to recognize vocabulary from motion picture.

In teaching vocabulary by using subtitled video, teacher will provide a video of word classes and their use. This way, the learners will be able to recognize the class of words and their use. The research at the seventh grade of SMP N 1 Binangun aims to examine the effectiveness of teaching English vocabulary using subtitled video.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The researcher is interested in this topic because:

1. Vocabulary mastery is an essential element in learning a language because without mastering enough vocabulary items, one will find it difficult to comprehend the material provided by teacher. This will also make him/her difficult to communicate with others verbally.

2. A subtitled video is a complex and entertaining media that can be used in teaching language. This media provides sound, image, and also subtitle that make it a very comprehensible tool to be used in teaching and learning process.

C. Problem of the Study

The problem of this study could be stated as follow: “is a subtitled video effective in teaching students’ vocabulary mastery for the seventh graders of SMP N 1 Binangun in the academic year of 2014/2015?”
D. The Aim of the Study

This research aims to find out whether video is effective for teaching vocabulary for the seventh graders of SMP N 1 Binangun.

E. Contribution of the Study

The result of the study will hopefully be useful for;

1. Theoretically
   Teachers will find it possible to teach vocabulary through subtitled videos. Besides, it can also help them to gain knowledge of teaching media.

2. Practically
   Teaching vocabulary using a subtitled video will hopefully provide an alternative way of teaching vocabulary which is more interesting and be able to encourage students to study vocabulary.