CHAPTER II
THEORITICAL REVIEW

A. Vocabulary

1. The Definition of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the total number of words which have been mastered by students to produce a language in communication (Hornby, 1973: 959). In this study, it is a set of words that the students have ever learnt at school. According to Napa (1991: 6), vocabulary has an important role in making up a language. It is one of the basic elements and that is why no language exists without words. Words are signs or symbols for ideas. They are the means by which people exchange their thoughts the more words they learn. The more ideas people should have, so people can communicate the idea more effectively.

From the definition above, it can be concluded that vocabulary are words or list of words with the meaning and which are known by the speakers and which are used to communicate among those speakers and used by a group or individuals. Vocabulary as one of language elements is integrated in the communicative expression. So, vocabulary is the basic element of language learning.
2. The Type of Vocabulary

Richard and Joane (1989 : 299), state that there are two type of vocabulary namely:

1) General vocabulary, which consist of everyday words widely acknowledge meaning in common usage

Example: table, house, etc.

2) Special/technical vocabulary, which is made up words from everybody, general vocabulary which take on specialized meanings when adapted to a particular content area or particular subject matter field

Example: chlorophyll, stethoscope, etc.

3. The Vocabulary Teaching Technique

Vocabulary is a major element of the language and the essential good for teacher at all grade level. As an English teacher, we should know the technique of teaching vocabulary, which are suitable for the students. According to Harmer (1983 : 86) the techniques of teaching vocabulary which can be applied in school class are as follows:

1) Using Realia

Realia mean the use of real subject that can be seen by the students. The teacher gives such a real thing in the classroom, so the word can be easily explained. This technique is effective and satisfying. But it is limited to a certain single thing or a word that can be easily taken into the classroom or easy is found by the students.
2) Showing Picture

Picture is a visual repetition or image painted, drawn, photograph. Pictures can be used to explain the meaning of vocabulary items. Teacher can draw things on the board and bring picture in the classroom. Picture can be wall pictures and carts, magazine picture and the other non-technical visual repetition.

3) Word Association

In teaching new vocabulary, a teacher mentions the things connected words. For example the words: table, students, teacher, chalk and blackboard for the word “classroom” and the words: seller, buyer, vegetables, fruits, fish, meal for the word “market”.

4) Translation

Translation is a quick and every easy way to present the meaning words, but it is not without problems. In the first place it is not always easy to translate words and the second place, even where translation is possible, it may takes it a bit too easy for the students by discouraging them for interacting with the words.

5) Mime, Action, and Gesture.

In this matter teacher can choose mime, action, and gesture. Concepts like running and smoking share easy concept to explain and teacher presents it she/he pretends to run or takes a drug on an imaginary cigarette.
6) Contrast

We saw how words exist because of their sense relations, and this can be used to teach meaning. We can present the meaning of “empty” by constructing it with “full”. We may present these concepts with picture. Mime and by drawing attention on the contrast in meaning we ensure our students understanding.

7) Enumeration

Enumeration is things on a list one by one. We can use this to present meaning. We can say “fruit” and explain this by enumerating or listing various items like banana, avocado, papaya, etc. The words fruit will be clearly understood.

8) Explanation

Explanation the meaning of vocabulary items can be very difficult, especially at beginner. It will be important to give such explanation to make sure that the explanation includes information about when the items can be used. If we are explaining the meaning of “mate” (friend) we have to point out that it is a colloquial word used in informal contexts and that it is more often used males than for females.

9) Cartoon

Cartoons are media, which are easy to understand interesting and they contain humorous aspect that children appreciate. In education field, cartoons also have power to attract the students’ attention. They are so impressive and interesting that the information presented by cartoon will stay longer in the student’s mind.
10) Game

Game is a technique, which helps and encourages many learners to sustain their interest and work. Game also helps the teacher to create context in which the language is useful and meaningful.

We can conclude from the explanation above that to teach English vocabulary needs a technique. The teacher must choose the technique, which make the students easy to understand the material and enjoy in their study. One of technique which can make the students easy to understand the material and enjoy their study is through game.

4. Learning Vocabulary

We are sure that vocabulary is an important thing in learning English. Based on lado (1972:1) there are several ways to learn vocabulary, those are:

1) The Dictionary

Obviously, students must have a good dictionary perhaps two, one large and one small. Dictionaries can be used effectively is she/he were of words limitation and consult them only to find a quick definition.

2) Note book

One of the most effective ways to control your learning of few words is to keep a vocabulary note book. You may want to keep small one in your pocket so that you can write down some words whenever you hear or see them and a large one in desk for study.
3) Educated Guessing

Especially in reading text the students often find words whose exact meaning is not absolutely necessary for you to know in order to understand the sentence therefore it is not necessary to open dictionary everytime you meet a strange word, wait and see if something else in the context became a clue to its meaning.

4) Study Words in Families

This is the kind of study that you can easily to do by yourself, words that are related in meaning. By this, we can list the items that naturally occur together: part of the human body, articles of clothing, food, etc. Each person can make some list and you can add your words.

5. Problem of Learning Vocabulary

One of the basic which are learning of vocabulary for beginner. According to Harmer (1983:250) there are some problems directly faced by the students in learning vocabulary items such as in pronunciation, spelling and memorizing and also in using words in sentences or in oral communication

Those briefly describe below:

1) Pronunciation problems

The following are aspects, which cause problems in pronunciations:

a. In Sequences of sound in one word.

b. Similar sound in the two word which have different variant.

c. Classification of sound.
2) Spelling Problem

Besides learning pronunciation and learning spelling in important as well because it can improve the learner’s ability of the language skills, especially writing and reading.

The following are some problems, those are:

a. Misunderstanding between speaker and hearer. For example if the teacher said “their”, then some of students write “there”.

b. The students do not know the spelling of a word. For example the First Year of Junior High School students do not know how to spell the words correctly, like “blackboard” tends to spell “blackboard” or “blekbor”. The students make mistake in the spelling which is influenced by pronunciation.

3) Memorizing problem

There are some memorizing problems. The students do not always use the words they have known to communicate in daily activities. The longer they meet the words, the faster they forgot them, those are:

a. The students have low motivation learn vocabulary.

b. The students are reluctant to memorize the new words.

c. Some English teacher does not find and use proper teaching techniques, which maintain the students’ ability of memorizing the words.
4) Meaning Problem

It is reasonable that the Indonesian learners are difficult to understand the meaning of English words changes because its function in sentences, whether it is a noun, verb, adverb, or adjective. And also word may have more than one meaning.

B. Constructing Word Game

1. Definition of Constructing Words Game

As it is written in http://www.storyit.com/wgames/word.html, Constructing Words Game is a kind of games where the students should constructs the letters into good words. In this game the teacher has to spend her/his time for preparing the game. One of the preparations is the teacher cut a paper into little pieces which have size 5 cm x 5 cm and write the papers with some letters. The lists of the letters are:

- 10 letters E
- 10 letters A
- 10 letters O
- 10 letters I
- 10 letters U
- 5 letters H
- 5 letters T
- 5 letters for C and R
- 5 letters for B, D, F, G, L, M, N, P, W
5 letters for J, K, V, Y

5 letters for Q, X, Z

The sum of the letters can be changed depends on the goal.

2. The Advantages And Disadvantages of Constructing Words Game

a. The Advantages of Constructing Words Game

1) It makes teaching learning process more interesting for students, so it can wake up the students’ motivation, enthusiasm and excitement.

2) It helps the teacher to teach vocabulary easily.

3) It helps students to memorize vocabulary well.

4) Games encourage the students to interact in communication.

5) Games create a meaning full context for language used.

6) Make easy when the teacher explaining some of material.

7) Give a good point for the teacher where the teacher can make the students active in teaching and learning process in the class.

8) Reduce the students’ bored when they are learning in the class.

9) Develop the students’ solidarity and sportily each other students.

b. The Disadvantages of Constructing Words Game

Beside the advantages, there are also disadvantages in using “Constructing Words Game” at the classroom as follows:

1) Usually “Constructing Words game” needs good preparation.

2) Sometimes using “Constructing Words Game” needs long time.

3) Not all the students are interested in “Constructing Words Game”.
The solution to solve the problems are the teacher should be creative in choosing the right time and offering that game for the students through clear instruction.

3. Reason of Using Constructing Words Game

First, constructing words game can make the students to think quickly when they are facing some letters and their teacher ask them for constructing that letter into a word.

Second, constructing words game will make the students creatively. Here, creatively has a meaning the students will find out a new word that they never hear before. The last reason is teachers can take “constructing words game” as a technique in improving vocabulary to their students. Besides the students have some new vocabularies, they also learn how to write the new word correctly.

As we know that students at junior high school still fell difficult to write the words in English. So if we use “constructing words game” as a technique, students can be better to learn vocabulary and also write correctly.
4. The Procedure of Teaching Vocabulary Using Constructing Words Game.

Some activities can be done by the students and the teacher dealing with the using “constructing words game”:

The Activity of Constructing Words Game

Direction:
- Teacher divides the class into three groups. One group consists of 12 students.
- Teacher ask them to sit in circle on the chair, circling the table.
- Give instruction about the game.
- The students play the game

Activity:
- Teacher prepared some cards in the envelope.
- One by one group choose the envelope.
- The students opens the envelope and takes the cards and put on the table.
- The students in group arrange the letters into good words.
- The students come in the front of the class and stick the words they have been constructed on the white board.
- The group who can quickly construct the letters, know the meaning and pronounce well they will gets score.
- So the winner is the group who gets the highest score.
C. Basic Assumption

Using games in classroom is an interesting way to make the students active in learning. The various games will be very meaningful activities for them. By using “constructing words game” will make the students fell fun and remember the vocabulary more easily.