A. Background of the Study

Dictionary is a tool that people use to learn languages. For non-native speakers or ESL students, the dictionary is much needed. They look for the meaning of words, check the right spelling, and learn the new words. Dictionaries are considered by many EFL learners as useful and helpful tool in learning English and dictionary use is fairly common and probably necessary in language learning. (Huang, 2003)

Dictionaries are the most successful and significant books about languages. Cubillo (2002) says that dictionaries provide learners with useful linguistic and cultural information, especially when teachers are unavailable and the learners are responsible for their own learning.

Dictionaries are good companions to language learners, especially second or foreign language learners because dictionaries can provide a quick and direct access to the meaning of an unknown word (Hamouda, 2013). For students who cannot ask the teacher what is the meaning of the sentence, they can open their dictionary and find the meaning of the words by themselves. Beside that, the students who are interested in English will more explore of what the teacher not given at school. They will have experience to find the new word, meaning, and pronunciation.

Writh (1998) states that dictionary is one of the most readily accessible, most commonly used, and cheapest learning resources. In
English activity we need a dictionary to know the right spelling, meaning, and pronunciation. Dictionary is easy to use a dictionary because it classify the word in alphabet order (A-Z). Not only that, people can buy the dictionary every bookstore, easy to buy and it is not expensive.

Jesun Ryu (2006) states that English dictionaries is important for learners, research on English dictionaries, and dictionary itself has captured the attention of English theorist and education in recent decades. Its different with Hamouda (2014), he states that the most college English learners complain about the confuse of explanation of dictionary consultant and he says that college students are not efficient to use dictionary. From the difference statement between Jesun Ryu (2006) and Hamouda (2013) it makes the researcher want to know more about dictionary use among the English college learners.

Based on Hamouda (2013) observation, he finds that students who enroll in English Department of Qasim University are not sure of what kind of dictionaries are appropriate to their proficiency levels and purpose, what functions of the dictionaries could specially benefit their learning, when and how they should look up a word in a dictionary, which definition give the accurate meaning.

The same problem was observed by hartman (2009), he finds that in many second language or foreign learners, especially Asian learners, are not efficient to use dictionary. He revealed that this problem is mismatch between the role of the dictionary and the use of dictionary in teaching.
learning process. The dictionary, which is a very useful language learning tool, may be neglected by some language learners. It is why the researcher want to observe the dictionary use among the English students.

These problem needs a systematic study relative to various types of dictionaries used, the various activities, and the types of information look up, which may help English learner (non-native) better understand why dictionary-user is not always successful.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

Dictionaries are useful for the learners and teacher, especially for non-native learners and teacher. Dictionary use is a bridge between the non-native and the English language, because when the students want to translate words from English to their language, they use dictionary. Now the dictionary used among the students to help them understand what the appropriate is. Therefore, the researcher chooses this topic to explore more about the dictionary use of English Education Department students.

C. Problem of the Study

The problem of the study can formulate as follows:

1. What are the types of dictionaries used by the students?
2. To what extent is the use of dictionary by the students?
3. What are they reasons of the students to prefer electronic dictionary to printed dictionary?
D. The Aim of the Study

There are some aims in this study. Those are:

1. to know the types of dictionaries use by the students.
2. to know the extent to which students use dictionaries
3. to know the reasons for their preference of electronic dictionary to printed dictionary.

E. Contribution of the Study

I hope that this study will have well significant for students, lecturers, and other researchers.

a. For lecturers

The finding of this study can be used by the lecturers develop students’ vocabulary through dictionary use, the lecturer can find the appropriate dictionary for the students, and the use of dictionary will be more effective in teaching learning process.

b. For other researchers

This study can be a reference for other writers on their paper.