CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

In Indonesia, English is one of the compulsory subjects which is taught in
junior high school, senior high school and university as the first foreign language.
In addition, it is taught in elementary school and some kindergartens.

English at Junior High School has been taught as priority subject because
the English is one of the subjects in the Nation Examination, so English at junior
high school is very important to the students. The aims of English at junior high
school are to give knowledge in understanding the spoken and written explanation
and also simple utterances emphasizing on the communication. Furthermore,
teaching learning process of English in junior high school includes listening,
speaking, reading and writing in a simple way. It should cover the components of
language integrated i.e. structure, vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation. Those
components are learned in order to gain the target language. It means teaching
English in junior high school is to facilitate and motivate students to be able to
communicate English with other people both spoken and written.

We know that the students who learn English feel that English is very
difficult and sometimes they don’t have motivation to learn English. In teaching
learning process, the interaction between the teacher and the students happens.
The students should be active in learning process. Student learning activities do
not happen in the classroom only, but may happen outside the classroom such as,
studying at home, individually or in groups. Due to the reason, the teacher needs suitable teaching method to give motivation for students to be active. So that, the result of study will be better.

Teaching English in Junior high school especially in the first grade, the teacher plays important role since she has to be able to set students’ interest and motivation in learning English. Teacher of this level needs to plan a range of activities for a given time and be flexible enough to move on the next exercises when they see his students are getting bored. In order to make the teaching English successful some factors should be considered such as the quality of the teacher, students’ interest, motivation, condition of the class, teaching method, material etc which are involved together in teaching and learning process.

As a priority subject, English is still considered a difficult subject in junior high school. Consequently they have difficulties in understanding the material, this problem may happen since they are lack of motivation to learn English. To make the teaching of English meaningful and to raise the students language learning motivation, the teacher as a material present, should be clever in presenting their lesson material, for example, by using suitable teaching method.

So far, our English teachers are very reluctant in creating attractive and interesting techniques to teach English to students. They are very reluctant to use impressive and interesting technique. Mostly, they focus only on textbooks, which seem to be too rigid for students. They teach their students in a passive way. The students only sit and listen carefully to the teacher and they follow the teachers’
instruction to do some written structural exercises. The other problem is that the students have difficulties in memorizing the material.

To support the writer’s opinion about the problem, the writer interviewed the English teacher in SMP N 7 Purwokerto to identify the existing problem in the field. The writer chooses this school because SMP N 7 Purwokerto was the writer’s PPL place. So, this is the reason why the writer chooses this school. The writer and the English teacher agree to apply the 7A class in SMP N 7 Purwokerto because in this class most of the students are inactive or passive. So that, they are difficult to understand the lesson because it seem that they are lack of motivation in learning English. The students only sit and listen to the teacher and just following the teachers’ instruction to do some exercises.

To overcome the problems, the writer collaborate with the teacher to do Classroom Action Research (CAR). The writer and the teacher try for using the total physical response to overcome these problems because it is a good method to be used. Its mean that the total physical response is dynamic method to children because the students in the first grade in junior high school is the transition point from children to be adult and it is interesting and enjoyable and able to help students to be active in learning process especially in English subject. The relevant previous research to prove the originality of this research, the research is Zhang (2002) who conducted a research entitled Improving Students’ Motivating in Middle School Students by Using Physically Active in order to prove the previous research. Therefore, the researcher will focus in applying TPR in
teaching English to improve students’ participation in the first grade of junior high school in order to prove the previous research.

By using the Total Physical Responses, it is hoped that the teacher will be able to motivate them to learn and pay attention to the material presented by the teacher and finally, they are able to participate in learning English.

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

There are two reasons why the writer chooses total physical response to improve students’ motivation to be active:

1. To solve the problem that students inactive or passive to be active in following the lesson.
2. To make students easy to understand in learning process especially in English subject.

C. Problem of Research

Based on the explanation above, the problem of research is “HOW FAR IS THE TOTAL PHYSICAL RESPONSE (TPR) ABLE TO IMPROVE STUDENTS’ PARTICIPATION IN TEACHING LEARNING ENGLISH“

D. The Aim of Research

The aim of this research is to know how far the TPR can improve students’ participation in teaching learning process especially in English learning process.
E. Clarification of Terms

To understand the topic more easily, essential terms of research classification are explained:

1. An Effort

Smoke (2008: 122), “effort” is an exertion of strength or power, whether physical or mental, in performing an act or aiming at an object.

2. Improve

Kellerman (1976: 483), “improve or improving” is to bring, to make more desirable and an excellent condition. This improving is to make someone or something better than before.

3. Participation

Abtavia (2010:7) Participation is an activity to add emotional and behavior altogether in taking part to some condition.

4. Total Physical Response (TPR)

Asher “Total Physical Response is a “Natural Method”. Asher states that “most of the grammatical structure of the target language and hundreds of vocabulary items can be learned from the skillful use of the imperative by the instructor” (1977: 4).

F. Contribution of the Study

1. For Teacher

The researcher expects that the result of the study could give the teacher an alternative method in teaching learning English.
2. For Students

The researcher suggests that the physical use in teaching learning English could encourage them to be more active and understand more in following teaching learning process especially in English learning process.

3. For Writer

The researcher hopes to understand more about apply Total Physical Response for teaching.