

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Research

English subject is an important subject and becomes the difficult subject for young learners. Young learners learned English to make them knew from the basic until the difficult materials. One of the basic materials that the young learners learned is vocabulary.

According to Hornby (2006) as cited Aprilia (2015: 7) state vocabulary is as all the words that a person knows or uses when they are talking about particular subject in particular language. Without mastering vocabulary, the students cannot write anything creatively because they did not know another vocabulary. Thus, the students should improve their vocabulary as soon as they can. The learners should improve vocabulary as soon as they can because without mastering vocabulary, the students cannot write or speak something with vocabulary.

Vocabulary material that is taught for students is still basic and easy. No matter how well students learn grammar or how fluent students are in speaking English it will be useless if they lack of vocabulary. It is because, vocabulary mastery is the most important factor to convey our message. Therefore, if students want to master English better, they have to improve their vocabulary.

Based on the pre-observation done at SMP N 1 KEBASEN, it was found that the students faced difficulties when the teacher asked them to write something like a short story or descriptive text according to the material being studied at that time. For example, when the teacher asked the students to write some sentences to make a paragraph, the students asked the teacher what is the English name of those words. They knew those English names but they did not want to try to remember it. They just wanted to shorten the time by asking without trying to find out by themselves. Before the learning process, the teacher provided some dictionaries to be used by students. If the students still do not understand about the word, the English teacher explained deeper than before but teacher gave some clues to make the students guess the meaning.

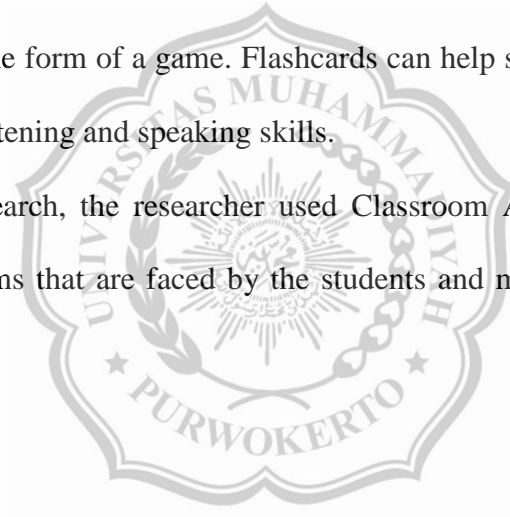
The researcher and the English teacher have found that it is caused by their lackness of vocabulary, laziness to open a dictionary and to practice or study. When the researcher did the observation, the teachers provided facilities such as providing dictionaries in the library, several English books or novels and several media to help the students easy learning English. The teacher also mentioned that the students faced difficulties at remembering and spelling the vocabulary.

The researcher used flashcards to help the students to improve and remember vocabulary, spelling and meanings. Flashcards are small card consisting of picture and words in English and Indonesian. The researcher thought flashcards are good media to solve student's problem in

remembering, spelling and mastering the vocabulary. Flashcards are also the alternative media after book because the students can be easy to get the media and flashcards could make the learning process effective.

Hotimah (2010: 13) wrote that flashcards are considered as a media that could lead to enthusiasm and motivation of students and could present abstracts to be more concrete, drill students' memory, increase enrichment and master in vocabulary. Flashcards also become one of the media that students like, it can lead the students' interest in vocabulary learning and can be delivered in the form of a game. Flashcards can help students to improve their ability in listening and speaking skills.

In this research, the researcher used Classroom Action Research to solve the problems that are faced by the students and make them improve their skills.



## B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

This research was conducted based on two reasons for choosing the topic of this research, they are:

1. Based on pre-observation, the writer found some problems that are faced by the students while studying English subject such as, the students forgot the English words and students did not spell the words well,
2. Flashcard is good medium to help the students to remember the words and the meanings.

## C. Problem of the Research

The problem of the Research is “Can flashcard improve the students’ vocabulary?”

## D. The aim of the Research

The aim of the research is helping students to improve their vocabulary through Flashcards.

## E. Contribution of the Research

This research is conducted to give the following contributions:

### 1. For the teacher

The researcher expects that it will give an alternative way to the teacher in teaching English, especially vocabulary.

### 2. For the other researchers

The researcher expects this study can be a reference for the other researchers, especially in teaching vocabulary through Flashcards.

