

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Vocabulary is the first and foremost important aspect in language acquisition. In Rosova (2007), Kamil and Hiebert state vocabulary is knowledge of words and word meanings. However, vocabulary is more complex than this definition suggests. First, words come in two forms: oral and print. Oral vocabulary includes those words that we recognize and use in listening and speaking. Print vocabulary includes those words that we recognize and use in reading and writing. Second, word knowledge also comes in two forms, receptive and productive. Receptive vocabulary includes words that we recognize when we hear or see them. Productive vocabulary includes words that we use when we speak or write. Receptive vocabulary is typically larger than productive vocabulary, and may include many words to which we assign some meaning.

In order to have a good communication, the students especially in Junior High School should be able to understand words meanings, words form, and use them. Vocabulary is the most important in learning a language. With vocabulary, the people will understand what someone speaks. Authentic material gives the students' interesting to improve their vocabulary skill because it provides the real example of using the language.

In the pre-observation in SMP N 2 Kembaran on February, the teacher used text from LKS and textbook to teach English. The teacher usually asked the students to read and comprehend the text from LKS. The students' score is below the minimum standard score. Whereas, students need something to make them interested in vocabulary. The teacher should be able to make the students interested in teaching vocabulary because the students' problems will make the students difficult to understand the vocabulary. It can obstruct the learning process, so the learning process cannot run well.

To make learning process run well, the teacher needs the right material, which can support the learning process. There are many kinds of materials to support learning process in vocabulary; one of them is by using authentic material. Authentic material can help the teacher in teaching vocabulary because authentic materials give the students interesting to know the implementation of the English vocabulary in surrounding; it provides the students to have new learning experience.

According to Nuttall in Berardo (2006: 64), authentic material show how language is used for real-life purposes by real people, so it can motivate students because they will feel that they are like native people and they can understand the material easily. It offers many kinds of text material. It in the form of text material shows the interesting information and usually appears in real life. For example: magazine, newspaper, and internet, songs. The teacher can choose one of the sources of the authentic material to support teaching vocabulary.

In this case, teacher has a very significant part to make learning vocabulary become easier. There is a research about authentic materials that is conducted by Soliah (2009). The research showed that the authentic material is effective to teach vocabulary. It is used to motivate the students to learn more.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The writer chooses this topic based on the considerations as follows:

1. Vocabulary is the most important part of learning English.
2. Authentic materials have capability to make the students become motivated in learning vocabulary.

C. Problem of the study

Based on the explanation above, researcher stated that: can authentic materials improve vocabulary to the students of VII B in SMP N 2 Kembaran?

D. The Aim of the Study

According to the problem above, the aim of the study is to improve students' vocabulary through authentic materials to the students of VII B in SMP N 2 Kembaran.

E. Clarification of the Term

It is important to know about the definition of the term of this study, in order to get better understanding of the variable in this study.

1. Authentic material/ authentic printed material/ authentic text material

Authentic material is for real speaker and not for pedagogic purpose. According to Harmer in Agustina (2009: 38), authentic texts (either written or spoken) are those which are designed for native speaker; they are real texts designed not for language students, but for the speakers of the language in questions.

2. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the bridge between the word-level processes of phonics and the cognitive processes of comprehension (Kamil & Hiebert:2006)

F. Contribution of the Study

The result of this research can give valuable contributions, as follows:

1. For the Teacher

- a. Using authentic material helps the teacher in finding certain vocabulary because authentic text provides a lot of vocabularies.
- b. Using authentic material helps the teacher in creating the students' exercises by using authentic text.

2. For the Students

- a. Authentic material makes the students to be motivated in learning English.
- b. Authentic material makes staying longer in the students' mind.

3. For the Researcher

The study brings knowledge for the researcher on the term teaching vocabulary using authentic material. Besides, for the other researcher is able to develop this study into other subject and material.

