

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Vocabulary is very important in learning English Language because vocabulary is the first basic in learning English. Rivers in Nunan (1983: 125) writes that vocabulary is the basic for study of the second language, vocabulary functions as a cornerstone without which any language couldnot exist without vocabulary. If language structures make up the skeleton of language, then it is vocabulary that provides the vital organs and the flesh (Harmer 1993: 153). That is why vocabulary is the most important aspect in learning English Language , for example : when the learners were speaking English with few vocabulary, they did not know what they will say and write in English.

The first year students of middle are hoped to memorize a lot of words to support their skills in reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Therefore, the English teacher has to be able to organize teaching and learning activities, it will be more effective in give teaching material by using a suitable technique and media. In learning vocabulary, teachers try to teach students how tomemorize the words, understand the meaning of words, and how to use it in sentences or in texts. It means that vocabulary is important to teach and teachers must try to find the more effective way to teach it.

Based on the pre-observation in SMP Muhammadiyah Banyumas of the seventh grade students, there are some problems in vocabulary acquisition those are :

1. It is difficult for students to say certain words in English, it means that the students still lack vocabulary.
2. The teacher in school mostly uses a textbook, there is no variation in learning vocabulary so the students feel bored.

Based on the fact above, it is necessary for teachers to find out and apply an efficient and effective media which enable students to easily understand and remember the meaning of the words that they have ever heard, read, or known. One of the media that teacher can use to teach vocabulary is photographs. Photograph is a common media used in teaching and learning language, by looking the photo that show something, it makes the material more real than words. Photographs also stimulate students' interest, because of their color and forms. The use of photographs is more practical and interesting than words so the students can easy to recall and remember what the material that teacher wants to teach especially vocabulary.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The writer has reasons of choosing this topics those are :

1. Students cannot communicate their ideas clearly because of their vocabulary constraint.

2. Students need something interesting to make them easier in learning vocabulary.
3. Teaching vocabulary using photographs has not been done maximally in SMP Muhammadiyah Banyumas.

C. Problem of the Research

Based on the reason above the problem is formulated as follows : “ Is using photographs effective to teach vocabulary at the seventh grade of SMP Muhammadiyah Banyumas?”

D. Aim of the Research

To find out the effectiveness of using photographs to teach vocabulary at the seventh grade of SMP Muhammadiyah Banyumas.