

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Vocabulary is one of essential aspects in learning English, which can improve the basic skill in learning English such as speaking, reading, listening and writing. Vocabulary is one of the basic components of language, there is not any languages exist without words (Nunan, 2005:130). Knowing appropriate vocabulary is very important to understand language and express their own ideas precisely. Without knowing vocabulary people cannot communicate each other.

Teaching vocabulary is one of many ways to develop English competence of person who are learning English. The difficulty in learning English is not only because the ineffective method that teacher applies but also the aspect of the vocabulary itself. Other difficulties in learning and using English vocabulary include understanding the meaning, the spelling, pronunciation, etc. in vocabulary usage. Those can make the students confused and think that vocabulary is too difficult to master.

Based on the observation done at the first grade students of SMK Muhammadiyah 3 Purwokerto, the researcher got a problem. There was a problem which made the students poor in mastering vocabulary. The researcher found the problem in learning vocabulary. The students had none ability of vocabulary. Based on the observation done at the students

in class X. The researcher selected this class because of X TKR A had the lowest vocabulary of all class at first grade. It could be seen from the data that there were only 9 out of 27 students (33.3%) students that passed from KKM (70). Again, the average score of the students' test result was only 46,24.

Considering the fact above, the researcher and the English teacher should work hard to solve the problem. There are some advantages of Snakes and Ladder game. Firstly, the students will get new vocabulary while learning process by using this game. Secondly, the students will interact with their friends used english. The last, students can be active and happy in studying vocabulary.

Snakes and ladders game is a very useful, easy and entertaining game to practice any set of vocabulary. It contains of one side picture and the other side of word. Students have to find the correct matches of the grid squares. It forces the students to learn easily the vocabulary, store it in memory and recall it. It also makes the student remember vocabulary faster and better.

In correlation with Snakes and ladders gamen, there were some researchers who conducted a research with the purpose of implementing this learning strategy in some subjects. A research result conducted by Kusriani, E. (2012) developed make teaching and learning grammar more fun and meaningful and it was good way for language practice.

The research result by Yuliana, I. (2012) revealed that snakes and ladders game was appropriate media to teach vocabulary, especially for young learners. Based on the result of hypothesis testing, the researcher findings was snakes and ladders game is more effective than Translation in teaching vocabulary.

Therefore, after knowing those research results, the researcher wanted to find out further information about whether or not snakes and ladders game could improve student's vocabulary mastery for the X TKR A students of SMK Muhammadiyah 3 Purwokerto. The vocabulary could be mastered through the process of teaching and learning, and the result of learning depended on the process of it. In case, the teacher should pay attention about the techniques. The researcher was interested in conducting a research which focused on increasing the students' vocabulary mastery entitled "Improving Student's Vocabulary Mastery by Using Snakes and Ladders Game"

B. Reason For Choosing The Topic

In this thesis, there were some reasons of choosing the topic. They are as follows:

1. The lack of students' vocabulary mastery needs to be improved.
2. Vocabulary is important aspect in learning English which the students must understand it. It is also a very fundamental component of English, as it can be the core of exchanging idea in communication.

3. Snakes and Ladders game is regarded as one of attractive teaching techniques since it gives more chance to the students to learn new vocabulary by playing Snakes and Ladders game, the students will enjoy in learning English especially vocabularies. When the students enjoy, they will be happy to learn English and they will master vocabulary well.

C. Problem of The Study

Based on the background of the research, the problem was:

“Can snakes and ladders game improve students’ vocabulary mastery in the X TKR A students of SMK Muhammadiyah 3 Purwokerto in the academic year 2015/2016?”

D. The Aim of The Study

In this research, the researcher wanted to improve students’ vocabulary mastery by using snakes and ladders game to the X TKR A students of SMK Muhammadiyah 3 Purwokerto in the academic year 2015/2016.