CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

One of the important thing to learn English is "vocabulary" because it has a primary role for all language skills. Vocabulary is one of basic component in language, there is not any language exist without words (Nunan, 2005: 130). If learners can master of vocabulary so they will understand the reading text, they can write some notes, they can speak a language, etc.

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.

Based on the reseacher's experience in PPL (one of UMP's agenda) at SMP N 3 Kalibagor, the reseacher found some problems dealing with student's difficulties in learning vocabularies. It was difficult for students to remember, to spell, and to understand the meaning of English words they got.

Considering the problems above, the teacher had to work hard to solve the problems. Teacher was an important factor in language learning that should be able to use various ways of teaching which can arouse students

interest in learning English by applying appropriate teaching strategies or technique. The vocabulary could be mastered through the process of teaching and learning, and the result of learning depends on the process of it, in case the teacher should pay attention about the level of the students, materials, media, method, and techniques.

We can use a lot of media to attract the student's interest in learning process. One of the media is games. The use of games is very helpful for teachers to bridge the student's motivation and learning interest. There are many kinds of interesting games to teach vocabulary. One of the game is Word Chain Game. Word Chain Game is a game in which players come up with word that begin with the letter or letters that the previous word ended with. This game is a challenging and interesting activity which stimulates the students' motivation in learning vocabulary.

Based on the explanation above, the reseacher will intend to carry out research to solve that problem. It is also implied that Word Chain Game can motivate the students to learning english. Therefore, the reseacher has decided to conduct a research entitled "The use of word chain game to improve vocabulary mastery of eight grade students at SMP N 3 Kalibagor".

B. The Reason of Choosing Topic

In this research, the reseacher wants to improve vocabulary mastery at the eight grade students of SMP N 3 Kalibagor in academic year 2014/2015.

The reseacher is interested in choosing the title because the reseacher has some reasons as follows:

1. Vocabulary is one of the main problems confronted by everyone who learns English as a foreign language. Without mastering vocabulary, they cannot communicate their idea clearly. Therefore, they should be able to overcome the problem by improving their vocabulary mastery.

2. The researcher tries to use Word Chain Game in eight grade (8A) at SMPN 3 Kalibagor to help the students improve their vocabulary and to motivate them in learning English. It is because the vocabulary of the students in this class is very low so their vocabulary need improving. Word Chain Game is regarded as one of attractive teaching techniques since it gives more chance to the students to learn vocabulary by playing the game.

C. The Problem of Research

The students' vocabulary mastery in eight grade (8A) at SMP N 3 Kalibagor is low so they get some problems in comprehending the text, and listening the English audio. According to that explanation, the problem of this research is "Can Word Chain Game improve the students' vocabulary mastery?"

D. The Aim of Research

The aim of this research is to improve the students' vocabulary in eight grade (8A) at SMPN 3 Kalibagor through Word Chain Game.

E. The Clarification of Term

To understand the topic easily, the key term of the study are classify as follows:

1. Improve

   According to Hornby in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2006: 751) improve is become or make. It means that an effort brings to become something better.

2. Vocabulary Mastery

   In Hornby (2006: 1645) vocabulary is all the words that a person knows or uses; all the words in a particular language; the words that people use when they are talking about a particular subject; and a list of words with their meanings, especially in a book for learning s foreign language. In this study, it is a set of words that the students have ever learns at school. Then Mastery is great knowledge about understanding of particular thing (Hornby 2006: 907).

   Based on the explanation above we can conclude that Vocabulary Mastery is the great knowledge about understanding the words that person knows and uses. In this case is students' competence

in terms of vocabulary mastery to set of words has meaning that can develop into sentence.

3. Word Chain Game

Word is the single unit of language which means sth and can be spoken or writen. Then chain is a series of connected things or people. So we can conclude that word chain game is a game in which players come up with words that begin with the letter or letters that the previous word ended with.

F. Contribution of Research

The research findings will possibly be usefull for:

1. For reseacher

By doing the research, the reseacher hopes that she know the best way at improving students' vocabulary mastery and will be more creative by applying same technique to teach her students. Besides, the reseacher will get new experience and knowledge for the future of her life.

2. For students

Students would memorize the vocabulary in a fun way. The reseacher hope the students would get a new experience how to learn vocabulary.

3. For teachers

This result of research gave other method in teaching vocabulary, one of them is using game.

4. For the readers

   It is expected by reading this research the reader will have no find any difficulties in understanding this technique to improving vocabulary mastery.