

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Vocabulary is the first step which should be learned by the students before learning the other aspects of language. Tarigan (1984: 2) states that language skill mostly depends on the mastery of vocabulary. Moreover, students' vocabulary mastery is very important to support their communication process.

Vocabulary mastery enables people to receive and transfer the information they got. Besides that, vocabulary will be a capital for students to learn other language skills in the next step learning such as grammar, writing, speaking, reading and listening. Nunan (1991:117) mentions that the acquisition of an adequate vocabulary is essential for successful language use, because without having lots of vocabulary, the structures and functions that have been learned for comprehensible communication will not be able to use.

Furthermore, it will be difficult for students to learn language skills without vocabulary acquisition. In this case, vocabulary is better given from the beginning level of study. Rondal (1999: 54) asserts that young learners learn word easier than grammar because young learners still not ready to get grammar lesson contextually. In fact, teaching vocabulary is not easy especially for children. Cameron (2001: 1) argues that children often seem less embarrassed than adults talking a new language. Therefore, teaching

English vocabulary in primary school needs an appropriate technique which is suitable with the children's characteristic. In this case, fun and enjoyable learning situation tend to be their world.

Based on pre-observation done in one of primary schools in Banjarnegara, there were some facts that related to the explanation discussed before. Most of the students get some difficulties in learning some new vocabularies. Below are the facts found in the pre-observation:

1. The students felt bored or less interested in learning English.
2. The students got difficulties in remembering new vocabulary.
3. The students got difficulties in pronouncing, writing and spelling the words

Based on problems that have already been discussed before, the problems came not only from the students but also from the teacher. The students were not interested in learning because the teacher was not use any interesting ways in the teaching and learning process. Furthermore, the teacher should find an appropriate technique to teach English especially vocabulary for young learners. One of the techniques which appropriates to the situation is through game, because young learners tend to react positively to an invitation to play game. Wierus (1994: 218) asserts that playing game can create relaxed atmosphere, so that the students remember things faster and better.

Moreover, to overcome those problems founded in the pre-observation in one of primary school in Banjarnegara, there is a best way

proposed. The way is using game which belongs to guessing game. The name is Hangman game. Fellani (2005) as cited in Ramdhani (2011: 21) states that hangman game is a game to revise the vocabulary, because the aim of hangman is similar to the aim in vocabulary exercise and has element of fun and relaxation.

From the explanation that have already been discussed previously, there are several contributions will be obtained in terms of pedagogy and curriculum. By using this technique, it has some expectation in pedagogical implication. It can be one of teaching technique that can be used by the teacher in teaching and learning process especially to help the students in learning vocabulary. Sackman (2003) as cited in Ramdhani (2011: 21) says that hangman game is fun to play and has educational value. Besides that, by applying this technique it will also make the students more fun and relax in the teaching and learning process. Furthermore, this technique is useful in curriculum which was contributed as one of teaching techniques that could be used for teaching vocabulary to the young learners.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The reasons of choosing the topic are as follows:

1. Vocabulary is one of the basic components in learning English. By having lack of vocabulary, it will be difficult for learners to understand English both spoken and written form.

2. The young learners need enjoyable activities so in teaching English vocabulary should be taught interestingly.
3. Hangman game is a fun way to practice spelling and reinforce vocabulary.

C. Problem of the Study

The problem of the study is stated by the question below:

“Is hangman game effective for teaching English vocabulary to the students at one of primary schools in Banjarnegara?”

D. The Aim of the Study

The aim of the study is to find out whether or not hangman game is effective for teaching English vocabulary.