

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Vocabulary is the total number of words in a language. Studying vocabulary is the most important components in learning English. Vocabulary must be learnt because if vocabulary is not learnt, nobody can speak or understand English (Allen, 1983:7). According to Laufer (1997, as cited in Dad, 2010) vocabulary learning is one of the important aspects of language learning and language use. In fact, it is what makes the essence of a language. Without vocabulary, speakers cannot carry on meaning and communicate each other in a particular language.

In Indonesian educational context, vocabulary has been given to the students since beginning level. Students are expected to have as many words as they can, therefore they are able to construct sentences and use vocabulary for communication. Vocabulary acquisition helps students to master four skills: speaking, writing, listening, and reading.

In many cases, however, beginner level students have difficulties to master vocabulary. The problem is that students have short term memory which happens because the material given is not impressive or the way how the material given is not memorable. In addition, students have a low motivation in learning English. When students lack of motivation to learn,

it can be difficult for students to absorb the materials that the teacher gives. In the fact that students are quiet, and they do not give responses to the instruction, it indicates that students have no interest and willingness to study vocabulary. If this condition remains, the students will not have much hopes for mastering vocabulary. Therefore, teacher must increase students' motivation and willingness to study English vocabulary. English teachers must have interesting techniques to create an interesting and enjoyable teaching and learning process. Chain Sentences is one of techniques to teach vocabulary which creates an interesting and enjoyable atmosphere in class. Chain Sentences is chosen as a technique because Chain Sentences has potential to activate students' mind.

Chain Sentences brings a new atmosphere where students will feel happy and interested to join teaching and learning process. Students are being challenged to think, and to compete to be the best within their friends. Thus, students are motivated to attain their goal with their best efforts. When students are highly motivated, they will feel happy and interested to join teaching and learning process. Therefore, Chain Sentences can boost up students' motivation.

Moreover, Chain Sentences is such a challenging technique because students are demanded to think, compete, and choose the right words to be constructed. In this technique, teacher's role is as a facilitator. At first, teacher introduces words and their functions in a sentence. After that, teacher shows how to chain those words into a sentence. After the

explanation, students will understand the words and know how to choose and construct the sentence by chaining the words. Thus, when students are able to construct the sentences well, they will be able to communicate better. Therefore, Chain Sentences is assumed to be an interesting technique to increase students' vocabulary mastery.

Based on the explanations, Chain Sentences will boost up students' motivation to study vocabulary which increases students' vocabulary mastery.

Therefore, Chain Sentences will be used as a technique in this research entitled "The Impact of Chain Sentences on Students' motivation and Vocabulary Mastery".

## **1.2 Reasons of Choosing the Topic**

In this research, the impact of Chain Sentence on motivation and vocabulary mastery of grade seven students of SMP Negeri 8 Cilacap is chosen for the following reasons :

1. Vocabulary is a basic element to embark any language program.
2. Teaching vocabulary is a key to learn language and also at the same time has pitfalls if vocabulary is not properly taught.
3. Chain Sentences technique contributes to move up students' motivation in learning.
4. Chain Sentences technique contributes to the success of the teaching.

5. Chain Sentences does not only determine the effectiveness of the teaching but also motivation.
6. Chain sentences can increase students' motivation.
7. Chain sentences is a challenging and interesting technique in teaching vocabulary and sentence structure.
8. Chain sentences demands students to think, compete, and choose the right words to construct sentences.

### **1.3 Problems of the Research**

The problems of this research are, as follows

1. Does Chain Sentences have significant impact on students' motivation?
2. Does Chain Sentences have significant impact on students' vocabulary mastery?

### **1.4 Aims of the Research**

The aims of this research are to know whether chain sentences has:

1. a significant impact on students' motivation, and
2. a significant impact on students' vocabulary mastery.

## 1.5 Clarification of the Terms

### 1. Chain Sentences Technique

In this case, Chain Sentences here is defined as one of the techniques of teaching vocabulary. This is adopted from word game, called Word Association by Wilson (2003), Chain Sentences can be said as a technique where the students will collect some words first, then from those words they can make sentences which can be connected from one to another. Chain Sentences can be understood as several words which are connected or linked together to form sentences. In this technique, the teacher works as the facilitator who gives the students understanding about words. The teacher also stimulates and elicits students to construct the words one by one according to the words' function to make simple sentences into long sentences.

### 2. Motivation

Motivation is a state in which students are interested and happy to take part in class activities. Motivation can be brought by the application of a particular technique which stimulates students to be active. According to General Principle of Teaching English (2010: 4) which states that motivation is an important factor in language learning. It creates interest as well as the need to learn the language in hand. Students' interest can be aroused in a number of ways, and language learning can be made increasingly interesting and attractive. It can be done with the help of pictures, charts, models, flash cards,

black board sketches and similar other visual devices. In order to measure how motivated the students are, there are some indicators which should be achieved. They are students' enthusiasm to follow teaching learning process, students' attention to the teacher's explanation, students' activeness to ask question, students' enthusiasm to do exercises, and students' responses to the teacher's instructions, teacher's compliment toward students' participation in teaching and learning process, parents' compliment toward students' achievements, techniques which motivate students to join teaching and learning process.

### 3. Vocabulary Mastery

Huyen, *et al.* (2003: 2) state that vocabulary plays an important role. It is one element that links the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing all together. In order to communicate well in a foreign language, students should acquire an adequate number of words and should know how to use them accurately. Vocabulary here refers to all words which appear in the students' text books. Vocabulary in which students happen to hear and find in their language lesson is all set of words which students have knowledge about and they know the meaning and the function of those words. Moreover, they know exactly how to construct those words into a meaningful sentence. Therefore, students can communicate using the language.

## 1.6 Contributions of the Research

Through this research, it is expected that this research can give encouragements for:

### 1. English Teacher

- a. This research can be a reference for English teachers to use Chain Sentences as a technique to boost students' motivation and also to increase students' vocabulary mastery.
- b. English teachers can get more experiences which can increase teachers' competency in teaching vocabulary.

### 2. School

- a. This research hopefully will give the advantages to the school where the writer does this reseach to rise up school's acrediation.
- b. This research hopefully can be one of reading material stored that can be benefecial for increasing book collection in the library.