CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Research

English was only taught as a compulsory subject in the Junior and Senior High School, but now, English is also taught in Elementary school as a local curriculum. The function of the English as a local curriculum at Elementary School is to introduce the pupils to English as a foreign language, and the aim is to encourage the students to become ready and confident in studying English later at the higher levels of formal education. Since English is a new subject for Elementary students, it needs a hard work for teacher to teach and to make the students like learning English.

English is considered a difficult subject by Elementary school students. They have difficulties in learning and understanding the material especially English vocabulary. This problem was faced by the students at sixth grade of SDN 5 Arcawinangun in academic year 2011/2012; their competence is still low in English vocabulary. It is caused by the teacher, the students, and the facilities. The teacher's problem is lack of interactive technique and unclear explanation. The students' ability and the students' background also cause the difficulties of learning English. Besides that, the lack of facilities causes the

difficulties of learning English. For example, the teaching media are not provided and the learning sources are not sufficient. This difficulties cause the students at SDN 5 Arcawinangun did not master the English vocabulary.

To make the teaching of English at Elementary school meaningful and really able to raise the students' language learning, the teacher should be clever in presenting their material, for example, using suitable teaching technique. However, English teachers of Elementary school are reluctant in creating attractive and interesting technique in teaching English for the children. Mostly, they focus on the text books.

One of the suitable techniques to overcome this problem is a match technique. According to Lorna Curran (1994), *Make a Match* technique is a teaching technique which the students look for the pairs by learning about a topic or concept in fun condition and activity. This technique can make the atmosphere of happiness in teaching and learning process and the cooperation between students with a dynamic materialize will appear. Therefore, the students can study in fun condition, and they can be easier to master the English vocabulary.

Based on the fact above, it is decided to do a research on an effort to improve students' vocabulary through make a match technique at the 6th grade students of SDN 5 Arcawinangun.

B. The Reason of Choosing the Topic

The basic reason is the students' competence at the sixth grade students of SDN 5 Arcawinangun in academic year 2011 / 2012 in learning vocabulary is still low. That is why CAR is chosen as an appropriate research to solve this problem. Choosing make a match technique is based on the fact that make a match technique is something interesting and challenging for the students.

C. The Problem of Research

Based on the explanation above, the problem of this research is: "can *make a match* technique improve the students' vocabulary at 6th grade students of SDN 5 Arcawinangun in academic year 2011/2012?"

D. The Aim of Research

Based on the problem formulation above, the aim of the research is to improve students' vocabulary through a match technique to the 6th grade students of SDN 5 Arcawinangun.

E. The Clarification of Terms

1. Improving

   Improving means bring to more desirable or excellent condition, to better or to increase in value or excellent (Pei: 483).

2. Ability

Robbins (2006: 46) says ability is an individual capacity in doing their duty.

3. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is stock of words used by person, class of people, profession, etc. Barnhart (2008: 697)

4. Make a Match Technique

Lorna Curran (1994) says *Make a Match* technique is a teaching technique which the students look for the pairs by learning about a topic or concept in fun condition and activity.

F. The Contribution of Research

The expected contributions of the research are

1. For Student

   a. Motivating the students in learning English.

   b. Helping the students to remember the English vocabulary.

   c. Helping the students to speed up memorizing the English vocabulary.

2. For Teacher

   a. Improving their English teaching technique by using *a Match* technique to support the teaching and learning process in the class.

   b. Providing information concerning some of the students' weaknesses in English vocabulary mastery.

3. For Writer

    a. Giving many opportunities to practice knowledge, skill and to manage the teaching and learning process in the real classroom situation directly.

    b. Being a source to improve the performance in English activities.