

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Vocabulary is the central of language teaching and learning. It plays an important role in the four language skills, which contribution to be learners to practice skills better. It means that by mastering vocabulary, the learners will be facilitated to produce so many sentences in spoken and written one. Therefore, vocabulary mastery must be on the first priority in English language teaching and learning. Without vocabulary, the learners will be difficult to master the language skills. Learning vocabulary is about learning words. Learning words here is not only the meaning of the words, but also the parts of speech of the words in a sentence. Fauziati (2005: 155) states that vocabulary is central to language and of critical important to typical language learners. Without sufficient vocabulary, one cannot communicate or express the idea both oral and written form.

Further, vocabulary should be taught simultaneously with other English language skills, so that the learners will be learned the target language well. According to Harjono as cited in Umul (2010:1), vocabulary is the fundamental aspect in teaching learning enabling the learners to speak English. From all aspects of foreign language that should be mastered, vocabulary is the important aspect in teaching and learning English.

Based on pre-observation at one of primary schools in Banyumas, four problems found when students learned English, namely:

1. Lack understanding
2. Poor pronunciation
3. Poor spelling
4. Inability to use vocabulary in the sentences

Therefore, vocabulary mastery was low, and they were not enthusiast to join vocabulary class. One of the ways to make the learners interested and enthusiastic is by using Montessori method.

Montessori method is one of some kinds of teaching method that can be used by the teacher in the classroom. This method can increase learners motivation and interest to study new words in English. According to Gagne (1970: 8) Montessori is an instructional teaching method as the physical surrounding that can help learners learning process. Montessori method is a commonly used in pre-schools and in primary schools in the United States of America. Montessori method is unique in that it has successfully undergone continue development for over seventy years and has been used effectively with mentally retarded, physically handicapped, normal, and gifted children in different countries around the world.

The three-period lesson is a fundamental approach to introducing a new concept (not just vocabulary) to children. It is used to move the child from basic understanding to mastery.

The three-period in Montessori method:

1. Introduction
2. Association/recognition
3. Recall

The Montessori method learning environment's goal is to support the learners in the development of the intellectual, social, and personal growth. No matter which method one chooses, learners will be educated, learn from learners environment and hopefully become productive citizen.

From the descriptions mentioned previously, Montessori method is learning and playing. In Indonesian, it is called learning by doing (*Belajar Sambil Bermain*). Montessori (1952:72) says that within Montessori method, the learners perceived as capable of acquiring thinking through their own unaided activity. The learners focuses on those things that their already have in their mind and whatever information there have conquered remains and further develops. As seen a child whose language develops, the Montessori method believes its powers of speech can be further expanded. By using Montessori method, the learners will get better understanding.

From explanation previously, there are several advantages and disadvantages found of the Montessori method.

The advantages of this method are: 1) Montessori learners academics are well prepared. It means that learners were more ready to learn than those who not attend Montessori. 2) Montessori system encourages good social

skills. The Montessori educated learners were more peaceful, cooperative and less aggressive than other learners in their age range. On the other hand, there are several disadvantages of this method found, in which parents that does not make their children for public schools. In other words, parents worry their children will not be able to have good to more competitive environments later in life.

Montessori method have several advantages to make teaching learning process becomes interactive. It means that there some advantages of using Montessori method. Montessori method particulary for curriculum. Montessori method is selected as a topic to be investigated. The result of this research are expected can help the teachers to created good method to teach vocabulary.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

There are several reasons that motivated this research, namely:

1. English is a new learning materials for primary school students, so the students have to make then think that English learning is easy and enjoyable
2. Vocabulary is an essential part of English to make people understand in communication
3. Memorization is not sufficient for vocabulary learning
4. Application of Montessori method is simple

C. Problem of the Research

The problem of the research “Is Montessori method effective for teaching vocabulary at one of primary schools in Banyumas?”

D. Aim of the Research

The aim of the research is to know whether or not Montessori method is effective for teaching vocabulary.

