

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

Vocabulary is an important part in learning English, which can improve language skills: speaking, reading, listening and writing. To measure the ability of the students in English, we can measure their vocabulary mastery.

In dealing with importance of vocabulary mastery, teaching vocabulary is one of the ways to develop English language competence of people who are learning English. One of the keys to succeed learning English is vocabulary mastery.

The objective of teaching vocabulary in MTs is that students are able to speak English language more easily and mention all of the things in English correctly. The function of teaching vocabulary is to improve speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills in English. The success of vocabulary mastery can be influenced by finding the meaning of new vocabularies, then reciting and giving exercises. If teacher often gives the exercises about vocabulary, the students will remember and use the vocabularies. Teacher also should ask the students to practice the vocabularies both at school and at home. It is hoped the students will be accustomed to the new vocabularies, remember them easily, and use them correctly.

Based on the observation in MTs MA'ARIF NU 1 Patikraja, it was found that the students had low vocabulary mastery. It can be seen when the teacher asked the students about the meaning of some vocabularies, the students just kept silent. Then, the teacher explained the meaning of words. Sometimes, when the teacher asked again about the definition of some vocabularies in the next meeting, the students just kept silent again because they forgot the meaning of vocabulary easily. After teaching and learning process, the writer asked to the students the reason why they forgot the vocabulary easily. The students' answer was because the teacher seldom gave exercises and checked students' vocabulary mastery.

Actually, there are many ways to teach vocabulary. One of them is by using "Stop the Bus Game". Stop the Bus Game is a game where the groups compete to fill the columns with the vocabularies based on the categories and letters. The groups which fill the most of the columns correctly will win the game. Stop the Bus Game consists of some columns, heading by some categories (weather, food, clothes, color, etc), and starting by some letters which is chosen by the teacher randomly to start filling columns with some words based on the categories. It is hoped the students will be easy to remember the vocabulary based on the letters and categories.

B. The Reason of Choosing Topic

The reason for using Stop the Bus game in conducting this research is the teaching vocabulary at Junior School needs strategy to enable students to

learn better and to give more exercise in fun way or to check students' vocabulary mastery in the same time.

C. The Problem Research

The problem of this research is stated by a question: "Is "Stop the Bus Game" effective in teaching vocabulary at the second grade of MTS Ma'arif NU 1 Patikraja in the academic year 2011/2012?"

D. The Aim of the Research

This research is aimed to find out whether Stop the Bus Game is effective in teaching vocabulary in Junior School.

E. The Clarification of Terms

1. Effectiveness

Oser, Dick and Patry (1992: 6) state that "effectiveness" is the quality of being able to bring about an effect. In this research, the effectiveness means something that has a better effect than before.

2. Stop the Bus

Stop the Bus Game is a great game which consists of some columns, heading by some categories (weather, food, clothes, color, etc), and starting by some letters which is chosen by the teacher randomly to start filling columns with some words based on the categories.

3. Teaching

According Joyce and Well in Asep Jihad (2008: 8), teaching is helping students to get information, idea, skill, the way of thinking, the way of studying and to facilitate students' expression.

4. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the total number of words in a language or list of words with their meanings (Hornby, 1995: 461).

F. The Contribution of The Research

The contributions from this research are as follows:

1. For Teacher

This study is expected to give more information about alternative meaningful activity of teaching vocabulary by using Stop the Bus game.

2. For Students

It motivates students to learn vocabulary better, fun, enjoy and interesting.