

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Research

Vocabulary is the basic element of every language. It includes every word that is listed in a language. Having limited vocabulary also can prevents students from learning a foreign language. Learners need to learn vocabulary in order to produce a good sentence and meaningful in both written and spoken language. Napa in Tumbade (2015: 2) states that vocabulary is one of the language components and there is no language without words. Words are signs or symbols for ideas. They are used as a means by which people exchange their thoughts. The more words we learn, the more ideas we have, and the more actively we can communicate. If learners can master of vocabulary so they will understand the reading text, they can write some notes, they can speak the language, etc. This statement is supported by Wallace in Fitriyanti (2014: 3) who states that vocabulary is the vital aspect of language learning. It can be neglected in a language without having good vocabulary mastery.

Beside that, vocabulary is one of the important elements for teaching English. Hatch and Brown in Nugroho (2002: 1) also state that the vocabulary is the foundation to build languages, which plays a fundamental role in communication". It describes that by mastering

vocabulary; people can express their ideas and understand the other basic competence well. The students can research about simple words or things in their surroundings, it is aimed that students are able to understand simple English used in daily context.

The development of vocabulary is an important element to learn English. The students must develop vocabulary mastery by learning a lot of materials as much as possible. Based on the interview with the English teacher of the second grade of SMP Gunung Jati Kembaran on February 2016, it was found that there were some problems dealing with student's difficulties in learning vocabularies. It was difficulty in understanding the meaning of some words; the students have difficulty in pronouncing and spelling the words correctly; and also teacher's taught still difficult to be remembered by the students. So that, the students are less motivate to learn vocabulary because it was captured in their mind that learning vocabulary is hard and boring activity.

Teaching aid or media can help students to overcome their problem in learning vocabulary. Good media has clear and tidy criteria; it must be clean and attractive; match the target; relevant to the topic being taught; accordance with the purpose of learning; practical, flexible, and resistant; having good quality, and the size is appropriate for learning environment (Asyhar, 2012: 81-82). Using a good media will make the students enjoy joining the lessons.

Asyhar (2012: 5) states media is a tool or device that serves as an intermediary in a process of communication between the communicator with the communicant. For this reason, most learners appreciate media and enjoy participating, even when the learners are not familiar enough with the media that will be used. One of media that can help students in learning vocabulary is Flash Card. According to Cross (1991: 119), flashcard is a simple picture on a piece of card or paper, which is probably the most widely used visual aids in language teaching. It means that flashcard is one of simple media that can help the teacher to teach English. Flashcards are some kinds of media that can be used by the teacher in the classroom.

Based on the consideration of its importance and necessity for the students to learn vocabulary, this research will apply flashcards as a media to increase the student's vocabulary mastery. Therefore, this research will be conducted to explore the use of flash card in student's vocabulary mastery.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested to conduct the research entitled **“THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FLASH CARDS FOR STUDENTS’ VOCABULARY MASTERY ON THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GUNUNG JATI KEMBARAN IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016”**.

## **B. Reason for Choosing the Topic**

There are some reasons why the writer chooses the topic, namely:

1. flash card is a card providing the picture on it that can make students more interested in learning vocabulary and memorizing the word.
2. vocabulary is an important component in English which has to be mastered by the students because without having good vocabulary mastery, the skills of English will be difficult to be mastered.

## **C. Problem of the Research**

Based on the background above, the writer formulates of the research question as in the following: is flashcards technique effective for students vocabulary mastery at the eighth grade of SMP Gunung Jati Kembaran?

## **D. The Aim of the Research**

The aim of this research is to find whether or not flash card can be effective for student's vocabulary mastery for Junior High School Gunung Jati Kembaran in Academic Year 2015/2016.

## E. Clarification of the Terms

Clarification of the terms can help the reader to get a clear explanation and specific perception dealing with the research. It is also important to avoid mistake and misunderstanding dealing with the term which is state in title above. The definition as follows:

### a. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is a comparison between degrees of goal of attainment with previous arranged planning or the comparison of the real result with planned of result (Mulyasa 2008: 173)

### b. Flash Cards

Flash Cards are picture cards that are equipped with words. According to Arsyad (2007: 119) flash card means a small card with picture, text, or symbol sign that reminds or guides learners to remember something related to that picture. Flash cards are teaching aids as picture paper which has 25 x 30 cm. The pictures are made by hand, pictures or photo which is stick on the flashcard.

It can be concluded that flash card is effective card which has two sides. The one side is containing images, text, or symbol. Another side is containing the definition or information of the picture that can help the students to remember information of the picture.

### c. Vocabulary Mastery

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (1995: 1331) stated that vocabulary means the total number of words in a language; all the words known to a person or used in a particular book, subject, etc; a list of words with their meanings, especially one that accompanies a textbook in a foreign language.

In this research, it is a set of words that students have ever learns at school. Then, Mastery is great knowledge about understanding of particular thing (Horbny 1995: 721). Based on the explanation above we can conclude that Vocabulary Mastery is the great knowledge about understanding the words that person knows and uses.

#### **F. The Contribution of the Research**

Hopefully this research will have a great contribution to optimize the English teaching and learning process in SMP Gunung Jati Kembaran as follows:

1. For the student

The students have an experience to use flash card in learning vocabulary, so they can increase their vocabulary achievement.

2. For the teacher

The teacher has some experience in using flashcard for teaching English and the teacher can use flashcard as one of the appropriate media for the student.