

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Research

Vocabulary is the building block of a language. In learning English, vocabulary is an important part to mastery English well. By mastering some words, student will be able to comprehend the reading materials, give response, speak fluency and write a text. On the contrary, if the students do not recognize the meaning of the words they cannot to express some ideas or ask for information. A rich vocabulary is essential to fully learn and use a certain language. However, each language has its own intricacies. In learning the English language, it is necessary to enhancing the vocabulary. The more English word mastered by the students, the easier for the students to express themselves. A larger vocabulary help the students to use the language, and completely understand what they hear or read. This shows that vocabulary is very important to be mastered.

The reality is that students' mastery in vocabulary is very limited, especially for the new students in grade VII of SMP Ma'arif NU 01 Karangobar. As the teaching is over this can be seen from the fact that they don't know the meaning of certain words which they have learned. Only 25% students who have learned English when they studied in Elementary School. Some of them assume that English is a new and difficult subject. The students faced many difficulties in learning English because they have little vocabulary. For example, they can comprehend a text because they find some difficult words.

From the observation to the students of class VII A of SMP Ma'arif NU 01 Karangobar, the writer found some problems dealing with students' vocabulary

mastery. From the result of students' mark in mid semester, most of them haven't reach the target score in KKM. The students achievement in English was 60, indeed, the indicator of KKM is 70. As the information of prior observation shows, there are two major problems in teaching vocabulary. First, the teacher plays less attention to teaching vocabulary. For example, the teacher usually teaches based on the text from the book. It makes the students easily bored and lazy to learn. Second, the limitation of media which can help students improve their vocabulary.

Based on that condition, in order to improve students' vocabulary mastery the teacher should be more creative to find a media to teach vocabulary, that make the students remember the words better. The media should be effective and interesting for the students. One of the effective and interesting media is flash card. Flash card is a card contains a picture. The card shown to the students and they find the meaning of the word from that picture. This technique is better than just giving the Indonesian word and asking them to find the English word because flash card contain picture which can help students to understand the meaning of the word.

Related to the explanation above, the writer will do a Classroom Action Research (CAR) with the title "IMPROVING STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY USING IDEAS EXPLORATION ON FLASH CARD ( A Classroom Action Research At Grade VIIA Of SMP Ma'arif NU 01 KarangobarAcademic Year 2012/ 2013 )".

## **B. Problem of Research**

The problem of the study is stated by question, "Is flash card able to improve students' vocabulary mastery?"

### **C. Aim of Research**

Based on the problem formulation above, the aim of this research is to know whether or not flash card can improve students' vocabulary mastery at the class VIIA of SMP Ma'arif NU 01 Karangobar Academic Year 2012 / 2013.

### **D. Clarification of Key Term**

#### 1. Vocabulary

Pikulski and Templeton ( 2004 : 1) define vocabulary as the sum of words that are used by and understood by students.

#### 2. Flash card

According to Arsyad (2007:119) Flash card means a small card with picture, text or symbol that remind or guide learner to something that related to that picture.

### **E. Contribution of Research**

The contribution of this study area as follows

#### 1. For teacher

Giving information as the alternative way to the teacher to facilitate the students learn vocabulary.

#### 2. For school

The result of this research can be used as the references for the school to make policy in teaching and learning process.