

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Vocabulary is the entire words of a language which is used by the people that use the language itself. That is why vocabulary is considered one of important aspects in learning English. Without a proportional amount of vocabularies anyone will get trouble in expressing their ideas and understanding other meanings. Vocabulary is used in all skills of English. They are speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Lack of vocabulary makes the English learners unable to master the language skills.

Students should acquire an adequate number of words and should know how to use them precisely, so that they can express their ideas and understand what people say. Even though the students realize the importance of vocabulary in learning language, most of them learn vocabulary passively. In fact learning English has to be done by several steps, and the first step is learning vocabularies. If English is a tree, and the fruits are listening, speaking, writing and reading students have to climb the vocabulary as the trunk to reach them, or we can say that mastering vocabulary is the first thing to do in learning English.

Learning language involves teacher, language teaching, teaching method and materials. Teacher is an important factor in language learning that should be able to use various ways of teaching which can arouse

students' interest in learning English by applying appropriate teaching strategies or technique. The vocabulary can be mastered through the process of teaching and learning, and the result of learning depends on the process of it, in case the teacher should pay attention about the level of the students, materials, media, method, and techniques.

In teaching vocabulary, the teacher needs to apply a good strategy to make the process of learning vocabulary easier and more effective. One of them is learning vocabulary using media that helps students remember, know, and understand the vocabulary easily. There are some types of media; one of them is smart-calendar which is assumed as an effective medium in teaching vocabulary. It is called "smart" because of its easy-describing system. Smart-calendar consists of a series of pictures in the same topic. It helps the students know and understand the new vocabulary, so that they will be able to remember the vocabulary easily.

Realizing the importance of smart-calendar to teach vocabulary, the writer needed to know the effectiveness of this medium by conducting an experimental research entitled the effectiveness of smart-calendar as a medium in teaching English vocabulary at the seventh grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Purwokerto.

B. Reason of Choosing the Topic

There were some reasons why the writer was interested in choosing the topic and doing a research. They are:

1. Vocabulary is an important aspect of English which the students must master.
2. Smart-calendar is a medium that can make teaching learning process in the class will much more interesting.

C. Problem of the Study

The problem of the study is “Is Smart-Calendar effective to teach English vocabulary at the seventh grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Purwokerto?”

D. Aim of the Study

The aim of this study was to find out the effectiveness of Smart-Calendar in teaching vocabulary at the seventh grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Purwokerto.

E. The Scope of The Study

This research focused on teaching vocabulary where the topics are describing thing, describing peoples’ expression and describing activity which would be integrated into two skills, writing and speaking.