

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Vocabulary is the basic element which is learned by the students before learning another aspect of language. It is a tool to support students' communication activity. In order to communicate well in foreign language, students should get an adequate number of words and should know how to use them accurately. Vocabulary is stock of words which the language has and gives meaning when the language is used (Suyanto, 2007:43). It can be said that vocabulary is stock of words including their meanings and it can be used to communicate in a language.

Vocabulary has an important role in communication process in spoken or written forms. By mastering vocabulary, the students are able to master language skill: speaking, listening, reading, writing easily. One of the keys succeed learning English is vocabulary mastery. Richards (2002: 255) writes that vocabulary is the core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis for how well students speak, listen, read, and write. English vocabulary is better to be taught to the students as early as possible because it is a basic asset for the students to enter the next stages of education.

Due to the explanation before, elementary school is the right place to make the students familiar with English vocabulary. For students at

elementary school, English is a new thing; therefore, the students just study the basic of English, it is vocabulary. The students simply study about the things that the students usually do and see in daily life, such as animals, fruits, vegetables, transportations, professions, etc. The materials are made so easy in order to make students understand clearly the activities that should be done in learning English. For that reason, the basic objective of the lesson is to make the students study the vocabularies to enrich their capabilities in learning English.

Based on the pre-observation has been done in SDN 1 Pasir Kulon there were found problems in the teaching and learning English. The teacher taught the students using conventional method, the teacher only asked the students to translate every word that were learning, and asked the students to memorize the words without knowing the object in reality. Unluckily, many students are still confused to differ among noun, adjective, verb, etc. Moreover, the students seldom paid attention in learning process because the teacher had central role and often dominated the class, so the students became passive.

In teaching vocabulary, it is needed to use a good teaching method because it will make the process of learning vocabulary easier and more affective. Among several methods of teaching English, this research is interested in the use of songs as one of the language teaching techniques.

According to Jamalus in Ratnasari (2010: 10) songs can be said as art works if they are sounded (sung) with the accompaniment of musical

devices. Song is one of audio media because students can listen to the sounds of music without watching the picture. Students really enjoy listen to song for some reasons.

Using songs as tools for teaching a foreign language has many benefits. According to Keskin (2011:378) songs are able to change the monotonous mood in the class and with the smoothing effect of music; they provide a comfortable class environment so that students can develop their lingual skills more easily. Besides, utilizing songs in class environment amuses students, helps them feel relaxed and get rid of their negative attitudes towards a foreign language while learning a lingual structure through a song.

Songs also help motivating the students as they provide a pleasant atmosphere. The students are encouraged to actively involved in the learning process by making use of their musical knowledge. In this way songs help students to develop confidence for language learning (Şahin, 2008:41). Western song is one of the kinds of music chosen here, because most students enjoy listening to song. It can stimulate their motivation to learn and help students to get ideas when they teach vocabulary.

Based on the previous explanations, this is the reason why it is interesting for conducting research. Therefore, the researcher decides to do a research entitled “The Effectiveness of Song in Memorizing Vocabulary at Fourth Grade Students of SDN 1 Pasir Kulon in Academic Year 2015/2016 ”

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

This topic is chosen because:

1. Vocabulary is one of the basic elements in language. In order to communicate English well, the students have to master English vocabulary because it links the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.
2. The students are difficult to pronounce and remember the meaning of the vocabulary taught by the teacher because the teacher still uses conventional method in teaching vocabulary.
3. Song is one of media to trigger student's active participation in learning vocabulary. It is a suitable media to teach vocabulary and can help the students to review the material.

C. Problem of the Research

The problem of the research is, "Are songs effective in memorizing vocabulary?"

D. Aim of the Research

Based on the problem mentioned before, the aim of the study is to examine the effectiveness of songs in memorizing vocabulary at fourth grade students of SDN 1 Pasir Kulon in academic year 2015/2016.

E. Clarification of The Key Terms

In interpreting the topic stated, here are the clarifications of the term:

1. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is a measure of the match between stated goals and their achievement (Fraser as cited in Dian, 2005:4).

2. Song

Song is music for singing. Song as one of authentic materials is taught for variety of purposes e.g. listening, speaking, vocabulary, grammar, etc.(Oxford learners Dictionary:282).

3. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is stock of words which the language has and gives meaning when we use the language (Suyanto, 2007:43).

F. Research Contribution

The result of the research will be beneficial for the following parties:

1. For the teacher

This research will give useful contribution for all English teachers because this study gives information and adding reference of method in teaching vocabulary, especially by using song.

2. For the next researcher

This research can enrich the readers' information about the English learning especially how to teach English vocabulary appropriately.

3. For the Institution

This researcher hopes that this research will be an input for the institution to develop the teaching and learning process in English.

