

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

As we know, English as an international language is spoken in most international events. English is one of the international languages used in many countries in the world, including Indonesia. As an international language, English is very important because it is required as a bridge of communication. People around the world can communicate to other by using English. Learning a foreign language is more difficult than learning a national language or learning a mother tongue.

In Indonesian government, English is a must as the first foreign language which is taught to the students from elementary school up to university. Using English, a student is able to know the other country and express ideas in global level. In junior high school and senior high school, English is one of foreign language which is demanded to graduate in standard of national exam. However, English has been taught in elementary school up to senior high school as the first foreign language for many years, but we can never be proud of the results. Most of the students are not be able to carry on a simple conversation about their daily activities or write a simple essay in English.

In evaluating the result of teaching, it will be unfair if we consider only from one or two view-points. They are from the point of view of

students or teachers only. We have to admit that education in general or English teaching in particular is a combined effort of several forces to achieve a common goal. Factors like the student, the teacher, time allotment, the use of visual aids, methodology, teaching material and other facilities work together in affecting the final result of teaching.<sup>1</sup>

Commonly, in Indonesia at the elementary school, students study many kinds of lessons; math, science of nature, science of social, religion, and language. English is one of foreign language in Indonesia. The aims standard competence of English teaching at elementary school are that students can read, listen, speak and write vocabularies and simple sentence applied in the students, schools and surrounding environments.

Learning a language is not something new for people who have been interested in it since a long time ago. It is caused by the main function of language that is for communication. In the learning process, one of the important parts in creating and understanding the language is vocabulary mastery. People can not express their opinion and ideas in English without knowing their vocabulary. Low vocabulary mastery also makes them unable to express the opinion properly. This statement appropriate with the Holly Qur'an, Allah said:

وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ هَؤُلَاءِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ (سورة البقرة: ٣١)

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<sup>1</sup>Ramelan, *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, ( Semarang : IKIP Pers,1992 ) , p. 3-4.

*“And He taught Adam all the names of everything, then He showed them to the angels and said: “Tell Me the names of these if you are truthful (Al Baqoroh: 31)”<sup>2</sup>*

In the surah above, Allah shows us that we should learn vocabulary to improve our language skills. We can choose appropriate words in spoken or written language. A good vocabulary is a vital part of effective language communication.

English still knew as a hard lesson in the fifth grade of Madrasah Ibtidaiyah Tinjomoyo, Semarang. Until this year, students in this class only study using minimum books. Teacher’s creative ability is needed to teach this class. Some simple media can use for every days learning. If only use some lessons book the students will not get English lesson well. This condition was not good for English education.

In teaching learning process, teacher has important roles. Teacher is professional educator who has main duty to educate, teach, guide, direct, train, and evaluate the learners on early children education at formal education (elementary school, junior high school, and senior high school). Usually young learners think that English is difficult. To tackle this image, teacher should be more creative and keep the students away from feeling bored. In order to accomplish this goal, teacher can use the appropriate instructional media related to their surroundings. The teacher

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<sup>2</sup>Soenarjo, *Al Quran dan Terjemahnya*, (Jakarta: Depag RI, 2003), hlm. 256.

must be able to organize the students in teaching learning process. If the teacher cannot teach the students properly, the students will not enjoy their learning. Consequently, the teaching learning will fail. The English language teacher must help the students by giving motivation and must be creative in teaching, especially in teaching vocabulary.

Students in elementary school are still young learners. Teaching young learners is different from teaching adults. Young children tend to change their mood every other minute. On the other hand they show a greater motivation than adults to do things that appeal to them. The teacher has to be more creative in selecting interesting activities and has to provide a great variety of them.

One of the basic problems in teaching foreign language is to prepare students to be able to use the target language. Teacher should be creative and try some alternative ways. There are so many techniques to make students interested in studying and practicing. Teacher should motivate and encourage students with interesting activities.

In teaching process, teachers play a more important role. They should be creative to select teaching media and techniques to draw students' interest and motivation in learning English. The teachers are demanded to choose the appropriate ones to make the class fresh and interesting. Hopefully, the students will be happy and will not get bored to learn English.

Kasihani said that there are many advantages of using media in learning process that are:

1. To help the simplifying of language learning process and make it perfect.
2. To minimize the use of native language or the first language.
3. To get up the motivation or students' interest to study.
4. To explain of new concept in order to make students understand without any difficulties and misunderstanding.
5. To make some perception, even if the new concept has meaning more than one.
6. To improve the quality of learning English.
7. To make learning process more interested.<sup>3</sup>

The teachers' creativity in teaching will increase the probability that the students will learn more and the knowledge will retain better in mind. One of them is by playing a game.

Word jar is word game for help learners to memorizing word and the definition. This game can help teacher to get students to pay attention the words. On the slips of paper, students wrote down words, indicated where they had heard/read/seen the words, and said what students thought the words mean. These slips of paper were then stuffed into a jar. After that, the teacher gives example to the students to takes one of slips of paper from the jar, read and talked about the word and the definition. This game can modify with other game and activity.

It is interesting game because the students will be taught to think

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<sup>3</sup>Kasihani K.E, Suyanto. *English for Young Learners*, (Jakarta: BumiAksara, 2010),p. 101.

creatively. Hopefully it would make the students excited in the teaching learning process. By write and read the words, then mention the meaning, the students will remembering the words well.

The researcher sees that the English language teacher on fifth graders at MI Tinjomoyo Semarang uses conventional methods; the teacher only translates the words and looks monotone. So the students will get bored easily and they will say that English is difficult. It can make the students cannot absorb new vocabulary maximally. The teacher should find the best or the effective technique to teach English vocabulary. Game as teaching aids are needed to help the students to understand and to increase the effectiveness in the communication between the teacher and students so that it can make them interested to the lesson.

Because of the reasons above, the researcher tries to make research about the enriching students' vocabulary through Word Jar game (a classroom action research with the fifth grade students of MI Tinjomoyo in the academic year of 2013/2014).

## **B. DEFINITION OF THE KEY TERM**

This research uses a classroom action research approach. Before discussing this research deeply, however, in order to make it clear, she explains some words definitions that might help the readers to understand the research. There are some terms need to be defined. The terms used in this study are as follow:

1. Enriching

Improve or enhance the quality or value of<sup>4</sup> vocabulary.

2. Young Learners

Young learners are children from the first year of formal schooling (five or six years old) to eleven or twelve years of age.

3. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of the language components which should be mastered by English learners. Vocabulary has role, which parallel with phonology and grammar to help the learner mastering four language skills.

4. Word jar game

Word jar is word game for help learners to memorizing word and the definition. By write down what students read, seen, heard into slips of paper. And put them into jar.

5. Classroom action research:

(In teacher education), teacher initiated classroom research that seek to increase the teacher's understanding of classroom teaching and learning and to bring about improvements in classroom practices. Action research typically involves small-scale investigative projects in the teacher's own classroom, and consists of the following cycle of activities:

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<sup>4</sup><http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/enrich>. retrieved on February 08 2014

- 1) The teacher (or a group of teachers) selects an aspect of classroom behavior to examine in more detail (e.g. the teacher's use of questions).
- 2) Selects a suitable research technique (e.g. recording classroom lessons).
- 3) Collects data and analyzes them.
- 4) Develops an action plan to help bring about a change in classroom behavior (e.g. to reduce the frequency of questions that teacher answer himself or herself).
- 5) Observes the effects of the action plan on behavior.<sup>5</sup>

### **C. REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE TOPIC**

The reasons for choosing the topic are as follows:

1. It is important to teach new vocabularies effectively, and to improve their achievement in acquiring new vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling vocabulary using word jar game, so the students can enrich their vocabulary.
2. The English language teacher uses conventional methods, he never use game in his teaching. Word Jar game is an interesting method in teaching to help and activate the students in learning process.

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<sup>5</sup>E-book: Jack. C. Richards and Richard Schmidt, *Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*, (England: Pearson Education Limited,2002), Third Edition, p. 8-9.

#### **D. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

Based on the reasons above, there is a problem that will be investigated through this study. The problem is:

1. How is the process of implementation of using word jar game to enrich students' vocabulary?
2. How is the improvement of students' vocabulary using word jar game?

#### **E. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

Based on the problem mentioned above, the objective of the study can be as follows:

1. To know the process of implementation of using word jar game to enrich students' vocabulary.
2. To know the improvement of students' vocabulary using word jar game.

#### **F. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The researcher will not investigate all classes at MI Tinjomoyo Semarang, but the researcher limits the fifth year students only. The English subject taught for the fifth graders is vocabulary based on the students need and level. The materials taught are related to the theme in English syllabus.

## **G. PEDAGOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This research is hoped to be able to improve the knowledge about teaching vocabulary for the researcher, help the teacher to solve difficulty in teaching vocabulary, and it will be expected that the result of the study could improve his method in teaching vocabulary. For the students, they will not feel bored in learning process, and it will motivate them to learn English well.