

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Research

Language is one of the most important things in our life. Language as a tool of communication is used among human beings in order to establish social relationship. According to Ramelan, language is said to be social, because it is only used in a social group which involves at least two persons, the speaker and the hearer<sup>1</sup>. Without language it is hard to imagine how people can cooperate and get along with one another.

We all know that Allah SWT creates languages as a tool for communication in order to make people know and understand each other. As Allah stated in verse ar-Ruum 22:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَالْوَلَوْنِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

And among His Signs is the creation of heaven and the earth, and the variations in your languages and your colors: verily in that are signs for those who know. (Ar-Ruum: 22)<sup>2</sup>

English as an international language is used in many countries over the world including Indonesia. In Indonesia,

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<sup>1</sup> Ramelan, *An Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, (Semarang: IKIP Semarang Press, 1991), p.14

<sup>2</sup> Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, *The Qur'an*, (London: Curzon Press Ltd., 1981), 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., p.397

English is the first foreign language which is taught in most of schools. The Indonesian government has chosen English as the first foreign language to be taught in schools because English is the most widely used language in political, business, trade, and diplomatic circle.<sup>3</sup>

In ASEAN conference that held in Bali in 1976, English of a subject of a study is compulsory to be taught for six years at the high school, three years at junior high school (SMP) and three years at the senior high school (SMA)<sup>4</sup>. Kasihani state that English is necessary to be added in learning programs as a local content subject of the study<sup>5</sup>.

Vocabulary is one of the important aspects in learning English and vocabulary is one of three language components besides grammar and pronunciation, which has to be mastered and acquired by the students in learning a new language. With the limited vocabulary, students will have difficulties in learning and understanding the foreign language. So, students who want to communicate in English well must have wide range of vocabulary.

Whenever we want to communicate with other people, we should have mastered a stock of words related to the topic. It is

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<sup>3</sup> Ramelan, *An Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, p.1-3

<sup>4</sup> Ramelan, *An Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, p. 3

<sup>5</sup> Kasihani K.E Suyanto, *English for Young Children*,( Jakarta: PT Bumi Aksara, 2007), p.15

true, however, that whenever we think of language learning, we usually think of mastering the vocabulary. Without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed<sup>6</sup>. Only with sufficient vocabulary we can express our ideas effectively, can understand the language task and foreign language conversation. With the limited vocabulary, we will have difficulties in learning and understanding the foreign language. So, vocabulary is very important in learning foreign language.

Teaching English in junior high school student means that the teacher introduces English as the first foreign language. However, junior high school students ever get the English lesson in elementary school. Teaching English in junior high school is not easy. Sometimes teacher encounters difficulties in deciding what kind of method to be applied in teaching vocabulary. The teacher has to know students' interest and needs. The teacher also has to provide a variety of activities and teach vocabulary through enjoyable and interesting activities.

As teacher, we must be creative in teaching vocabulary, because most of students have no interest in learning English especially vocabulary. They feel that English is a difficult language to be learned, and sometimes they feel bored to learn it. So, we have to apply the appropriate method or media in teaching vocabulary based on students' level. Game is one of many

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<sup>6</sup> Scott Thornbury, *How to Teach Vocabulary*, (London: Longman, 2007), p.11

methods in teaching vocabulary. Game is a method to create interesting and enjoyable learn atmosphere in teaching and learning process. In order to make the students memorize English vocabulary fun and easily, the researcher uses Touch and Go game in this research.

Touch and Go game as a method in teaching and learning process is expected to stimulate the students in memorizing vocabulary. The students will get the new vocabulary, because it also informs the students about the meaning, synonym and antonym of words. However, Touch and Go game must be well selected according to the age, interest, and educative value.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled “The Effectiveness of Touch and Go Game to Teach Vocabulary with Seventh Grade Students of SMP Askhabul Kahfi in The Academic Year of 2012/2013”.

## **B. Question of The Research**

This research is conducted in order to answer the main problems:

1. Is Touch and Go game effective to teach vocabulary to the seventh grade students of SMP Askhabul Kahfi Semarang in the academic year of 2012/2013?
2. How much effective is Touch and Go game to teach vocabulary to the seventh grade students of SMP Askhabul Kahfi Semarang in the academic year of 2012/2013?

### **C. Objectives of The Research**

Based on the problem formulation above, the objectives of the research can be elaborated as follows:

1. To identify whether Touch and Go Game effective to teach vocabulary for the seventh grade students of SMP Askhabul Kahfi Semarang in the academic year of 2012/2013 or not.
2. To find out the effectiveness of Touch and Go Game to teach vocabulary for the seventh grade students of SMP Askhabul Kahfi Semarang in the academic year of 2012/2013.

### **D. Significance of The Research**

By conducting this research, hopefully the researcher can gives useful contribution in teaching English, especially for:

1. English Teacher of Junior High School

The researcher hopes the result of this research will be useful for English teacher of junior high school especially in motivating the students to learn English and also in improving the students' vocabulary with an enjoyable method.

2. The Students

The teaching method which is used in this research can help students to improve their acquisition in vocabulary. They feel enjoy in learning English using educational game like Touch and Go Game.

### 3. The Other Researcher

By doing this research, the researcher hopes that the other researcher will find out new description in carrying the same kind of research.