CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is very important to express something and to communicate with other. Wardhaugh says that language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication.[1] Language contains two systems rather than one, a system of sound and a system of meaning. Nowadays, language as a tool of communications and social control has many functions and advantages in the daily living context, such as greeting, asking something, command, report, giving ideas, etc. With the language we can communicate, expressing our feeling and can share to other people around the world.

As everybody knows, language is a tool to convey ideas, opinions, and feelings among the people by oral or written ways. One of the languages which are often used in communication is English. It becomes the dominant language around the world, and now many people use English as an international language.

In Indonesian, English as the first foreign language to be taught in the schools since English has become an international language and used by most communicates in the world. In the globalization era, the acquisition of English is very important, because it is used as a medium of communication both, in oral and written forms. English is also one of the ways of solving the miscommunication between Indonesian and people from other countries.

Many countries all over the world, including Indonesia regard English as the first obligatory foreign language. English as the first foreign language has been given a special attention and role especially in education. This is why the Indonesian government chooses English as the first foreign language to be taught at the formal schools. In Indonesian, English is taught to the elementary school students and those of higher levels of education until they go to university.

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[1]Djoko Sriyono, *An Introductory Course of Linguistics*, (Surakarta: Muhammadiyah University Press, 2001), Page 1.

There are four skills in learning language that must be mastered, that is listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Those four skills have to be supported by language component such as: phonology, grammar, and vocabulary. Each of the language skills has a relationship each other. Beside that, the students of the junior high school are supposed to master the English has it writing, the students should know first about the grammar well. Suppose someone speaks in a strange way nobody will understand what he or she talks about. Everyone who wants to communicate in English well has to master the English grammar first. It is because every language in the world has it is own grammatical system.

Many people think of grammar as a rather boring school subject which has little use in real life. If we study the grammar of our native language, the succes of learners in acquiring their second language is influenced by some factor, which is one of them is the gramatical mastery of the target language. As asserted by Geoffrey, Margaret and Robert Hoogenraad;

> Grammar is a mechanism for putting words together, but we have said little about sound and meaning. We can think of grammar as being central part of language which relates sound and meaning. The meaning of a message conveyed by language has to be converted into words put together according to grammatical rules, and these words are then conveyed by sound.[2]

It means that the grammatical aspect becomes one of the essential requirements for people,in this case especially for Indonesian learners, to be able to communicate.

To make students motivated and enjoyable to study grammar, the teacher should think creatively how the subject can be learnt well and make their interested to learn.

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[2]Geoffrey leech, et.al, *English Grammar for Today*, (New York: Macmillan Press, 2000), page 4.

According to the Hadist:

عَنْ اَنَسٍ بِنْ مَلِكٍ عَنِ النَّبِّى صَلَىَ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ : يَسِّرُوْا وَلاَتُعَسِّرُوْا وَبَشِّرُوْاوَلاَ
تُنَفِّرُوْا (اخرجه البخارى)

From Annas Bin Malik, the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allah by upon for him) said: Make it easy and don't make it difficult to them, and give them happy thing and don't make them run away.[3]

The hadist said that we should make easy to someone who studies, it shows that when we teach the lesson to students we should give new thing or we should use the variatif strategies in teaching. One of the strategies that can be used by teacher is technique to support the teaching and learning process. There are some teaching media available now, so the writer will use matching game as technique to improve students' understanding on question tag.

English structure also has an important role in misunderstanding when one communicates with others. They will be able to communicate in English well if they know to construct sentence correctly. Grammar cover tenses, word order, modals, conditional sentence and other structure items. Question tag is one of the topics that should be taught in the first term in the second year of junior high school. The students' understanding of question tag is chosen because there are a lot of student who often make errors in this case. The researcher known that question tag is very complex to be learned and for students' of junior high school it is one of the subjects which are difficult to learn.

As the researcher said above, it is very difficult for students to learn about question tag, in fact most of them still make errors in using question tag and they have mastered the pattern of English language yet.

Question tag is a question that is added onto the end of a sentence.[4] To make students' be more interest and enjoy, the teacher can be use interest strategy

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[3]Al Jami'ush Shahih, *Hadits Shahih*, (Surabaya: Karya Utama, t.th), page 163.

[4]Betty Schrampfer Azar, *Fundamentals of English Grammar*,(New Jersey: United States of America, 1992), page 156.

that can be used by teacher in teaching process. So the researcher chooses matching game technique to improve students' understanding on question tag, because researcher think that it can motivate them to active more and also encourage the work in group.

Language learning is a hard task which can sometimes be frustrating. Well chosen games are invaluable as they give students a break and at the same time allow students to practice language skills. Games are highly motivating since they are amusing and at the same time challenging. Furthermore, they employ meaningful and useful language in real contexts. They also encourage and increase cooperation. Games are highly motivating because they are amusing and interesting. They can be used to give practice in all language skills and be used to practice many types of communication.[5]

Matching game as technique that can be used to learning grammar. Matching game technique can establish condition which enables the students to acquire knowledge and skill. Due this fact the researcher will conduct classroom action research improving students' understanding on question tag through matching game at the second grade students of MTs Al Asror Gunung Pati in the academic year of 2010/2011.

B. Definition of Key Term

1. Improve

According to oxford, improve is become or make something better to increase good qualities.[6]

2. Matching Game

Matching game is one of methods in cooperative study.Cooperative study is based on the philosophy of homo homini socious, that is the philosophy which emphsizes a human being as a social creature.[7]

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[5]Aydan Ersoz, *Six Games for the EFL/ESL Classroom*, (The Internet TESL Journal, Vol, No.6, June 2000).

[6]Oxford, *Oxford Learner's Pocket dictionary,* (New York: Oxford Universuty Press, 2003) page 216.

3. Question tag

Question tag is a short question which is appended to a statement when the speaker seeks confirmation of his or her students.[8]

4. Understanding

Understanding also called intellection a psychology process related to an abstract or physical object, such as a person situation or message where by one is able to think about it and use concepts to deal and equality with that object.[9]

5. Classroom Action Research

Action research is one of problem solving strategy which provides real action in the form of innovative development process that "tried while continue" or" on going job" to detect and to solve problem.[10]

C. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

Grammar is considered important, because grammar is a basic knowledge of language to understand English perfectly. Based on my observation in MTs Al asror Gunung Pati Semarang, the students are shy or afraid of doing grammatical errors, they only passive in the class because as they know that learning grammar usually is passive in the class, this is contrary when they learn speaking or conversation.

Based on the background of the study above, the problem in this research is to improve students' understanding on question tag is chosen because there are a lot of languages who often make errors in this case. To make students' be more interest and enjoy, the teacher can be use interest strategy that can be used by teacher in teaching process. Matching game as one of technique that can be used

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[7]Anita Lie, *Cooperative Learning: Pembelajaran di Ruang-Ruang Kelas,* (Jakarta: Grasindo, 2008), page 28.

[8] Celce Murcia Marianne and Diane Larsen-Freeman, *The Grammar Book: an ESL/EFL Teachers Course*, (Cambridge: Newbury House Publisher, 1983), page 20.

[9]http://en/ wikipedia. Org/wiki/understanding.Accessed 20 November 2010.

[10]Suharsimi Arikunto, *Prosedur Penelitian: suatu pendekatan praktek,*(Jakarta: Rineka Cipta,2006), page 82.

to learning material; matching game can establish condition which enables the students to acquire knowledge and skill.

D. Research Questions

Based on the background of the research, the research states the research problems as follows:

1. How is the implementation of Matching Game to improve students' understanding on Question Tag?

2. How is the improvement of students' understanding on question tag using matching game?

E. Objectives of the study.

According to the research problem above, the objective of the research are:

1. to describe the implementation of Matching Game to improve students' understanding on Question Tag.

2. to identify the improvement of students' understanding on question tag using matcing game.

F. Pedagogical Significance

The result of this study is useful for all who is a part of education institution:

1. For the students'
   a. Using matching game will make students interesting in learning English especially on question tag.
   b. They can communicate better especially when they use question tag in their language.

2. For the teacher

The teacher know good learning strategy and using of media can be interest in teaching and learning process.

3. For the school

It can be supported method to improve in teaching and learning process.

4. For the researcher itself

   The researcher can use this method to improve her skill in mastery grammar especially on question tag.

5. For the reader

   It is hoped can give more information and contributes the knowledge.

G. Scope of the Study

1. This study will be done in the second grade students of MTs Al Asror Gunung Pati in the academic year 2010/2011.

2. This study will be talk about improve students' understanding on question tag through matching game.