

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1. Background of Study

Language is used as a means of communication in society. Language is system of signs and constructs used by people as a primary form of communication. People use language to convey messages to the other. *Oxford Learner's Dictionary* stated that language is system of sounds, words, manner, signs, symbol, used by human to communicate thoughts and feelings.<sup>1</sup>

In Indonesia, besides we used our native language that is Indonesian language, there is also foreign language that is English language. English is important language in Indonesia. English is an international language used by the largest number of people in the world; English is intensively used in international communication.

English as an international language is important to be taught in Indonesia. It is taught in junior high school, senior high school, and in the university. Nowadays, English is also taught in elementary school and even in kindergarten.

Every child has a long process to get a new language, whether it was their first language or second languages. In the process of getting the language, the children have some steps. According to Scovel, there are some stages of the obtaining a language, it starts from the crying, cooing, babbling, getting 1, 2, 3 words and until they can arrange the sentences with these words.

Al-Qur'an says:

وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ  
وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

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<sup>1</sup>Oxford, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), p.240

“And Allah brought you out of your mothers’ wombs devoid of all knowledge, and gave you ears and eyes and hearts, so that you may give thanks” (An Nahl: 78)<sup>2</sup>

According to Fromkin and Rodman, young children who are exposed more than one language seem to acquire all the language equally well. There are many bilingual or multilingual speakers who have acquired their languages early in life. One language is the first learned, but if the child is exposed to second language, he or she will learn those languages.<sup>3</sup>

English is an international language used by most people in the world to communicate with others, especially for the people in different countries. In learning English, vocabulary is an important component, which is vocabulary. Vocabulary is the collection of words that must be owned by each person who will learn English language.<sup>4</sup>

Likewise, the children must also be able to master the vocabulary before they learn the English language. To acquire English vocabulary, children can take some ways, such as, they can imitate some vocabulary from people in their environment, and they can also learn the vocabulary in the formal institution, like elementary school students.

Elementary school students is a place where the children aged 6-12 years old learns some basic material, and English language is one of these materials. And one of the most important components in the learning English language is the learning English vocabulary.

In other hands, so far in elementary school students, there is standardized curriculum, syllabus and material. The government is produced any curriculum and any syllabus for elementary school students because the English lesson was taught in elementary school students in recent years.

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<sup>2</sup>Khan, Muhammad Zafrullah, *Qur'an Majid*, (British: Curzon Press Ltd, 1981), p.258

<sup>3</sup>Victoria Fromkin and Robert Rodman, *An Introduction to Language* (New York: Holt, Rinehart Wilson, 1983) p. 342

<sup>4</sup>As Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, (London: Oxford University Press, 1974), p.25

In this study, the writer chooses the Islamic elementary school of Al Irsyad especially the second grade students as the object of the study. The writer chooses this school as the object of study because the students were taught English lessons, since they were in kindergarten. So they introduced English vocabulary from them as very young learners. Another reason, in each teaching learning process, this school was used the immersion programmed class. According to Mike Bostwick that immersion has been a convenient term used freely by schools and the media for an increasingly popular form of foreign language education<sup>5</sup>.

He also stated that language immersion school is an approach to foreign language instruction in which the usual curricular activities are conducted in language. This means that a new language is the medium of instruction. So, in this school, the teacher and the students was used English language not only for English lessons, but also for all lessons.

Bilingualism is occurred when some one exposed two languages. It is influenced by the languages which are used in his or her environment, although the environment is created intentionally or unintentionally. According to Gleason, geographical or political factor in a country also make bilingualism.<sup>6</sup>

In Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school is also used bilingual in the teaching learning in the classroom. The teacher is not always used English language but also the indonesia language.

In the years 2007/2008, Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school students begin to apply the immersion programs, where in the integrated of lesson was implied contains of English language around 40% in the teaching materials and in the students evaluation. So, not only in the third grade students the English lesson was taught in this school but also from the first grade students.

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<sup>5</sup>Mike Bostwick, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/language-immersion>, retrieved on 15 October 2009

<sup>6</sup>Jean Berko Gleason *The Development of Language*, (USA: Merrill Publishing Company, 1989), p.331

The acquisition of English vocabulary in elementary school can be viewed from the teaching learning process in the classroom. The teachers are choosing the teaching media and teaching method when they are teaching the English vocabulary; this is the important factor in the process of the student's mastery of vocabulary. The acquisition of English vocabulary can also be seen from the results of their score of the test, especially in the vocabulary test. From the score of the test, it can be found the percentage of students level in the acquisition of English vocabulary, and the kinds of vocabulary that are mostly and less acquired by second grade students of Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school.

In this research, the researcher is going to investigate them by the title THE ENGLISH VOCABULARY ACQUISITION OF SECOND GRADE STUDENTS OF AL IRSYAD ISLAMIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PURWOKERTO IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2009/2010

## **2. Reasons for Choosing the Topic**

The researcher chooses the topic because of the following reasons:

- a. English is not a new material that is taught in Al Irsyad, so the process of the acquisition of English vocabulary in that school is also different from another elementary school, therefore the writer want to prove this statement.
- b. This school have the professional teachers who can create the teaching learning of English vocabulary become easier, fun, and enjoy in order to the students can understand and acquire the vocabulary easily.
- c. By the statements above, the writer want to know the English teaching learning practice, the percentage of the students level of acquiring the English vocabulary and the identifying the kinds of vocabulary that mostly or less acquired by second grade students of Al Irsyad Islamic Elementary School of Purwokerto.

### **3. Research Questions**

- a. How is the English teaching learning of the second grade students of Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school Purwokerto in the academic year of 2009/2010?
- b. How good is the acquisition of English vocabulary among the second grade students of Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school Purwokerto in the academic year of 2009/2010?
- c. What kinds of vocabularies are mostly or less acquired by second grade students of Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school Purwokerto in the academic year of 2009/2010?
- d. What factors bring students to such acquisition of English vocabulary of second grade students of Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school Purwokerto in the academic year of 2009/2010?

### **4. Objectives**

- a. To investigate the English teaching learning of the second grade students at All Irsyad Islamic elementary school Purwokerto in the academic year of 2009/2010.
- b. To find out the students ability of the acquisition of English vocabulary among the second grade students of Al Irsyad Islamic Elementary School Purwokerto in the Academic Year of 2009/2010.
- c. To find out the kinds of English vocabularies that mostly or less acquired among the second grade students of Al Irsyad Islamic Elementary School Purwokerto in the Academic Year of 2009/2010.
- d. To investigate the factors bring students to such acquisition of English vocabulary of second grade students of Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school Purwokerto in the academic year of 2009/2010.

## **5. Pedagogical of Significance**

The result of the study is expected to give advantages as follows:

- a. Theoretically; the result of the study can give larger knowledge about English language teaching in elementary school students for writers, readers, and teachers
- b. Pedagogically; the result of the study is expected to be as follows:
  - 1) Motivator for the teacher to improve the quality of English language teaching for young learners
  - 2) Reference in English language teaching for young learners not only for the teachers but also for the writers and the readers.
  - 3) Reflection of English teaching learning process at Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school students in the classroom, which at least, it can examine the instructional practice at Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school students classroom. It will become consideration not only for Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school itself, but also for other elementary school in making instructional decisions such as teaching materials and teaching methods.

## **6. Limitation of the Study**

The focus of this research is the acquisition of English vocabulary by second grade students at Al Irsyad Islamic elementary school, in terms of the English teaching learning practice, the students level of acquiring the English vocabulary and the kinds of English vocabulary that mostly or less acquired by second grade students in the classroom. It is not at all of class that will be observed, but only a class, which is a second grade student of elementary school.