

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Language is means of communication to interact with other people and very important in human life. As we know, there are many kinds of languages that exist and used to communicate, but the most popular of them is English. English is one of the important lessons in education because it is the first foreign language in the world. It is used in many countries in the world, including Indonesia. 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.¹ So, it becomes an international language and needed by human life.

West as quoted by Richard state that:

A language is so complex that selection from it is always one of the first and most difficult problems of anyone who wishes to teach it systematically. A language system may be considered as consisting of words entering into grammatical constructions spoken with conventional stress and intonation.²

In Indonesia, English has been taught to the students of secondary high school as a compulsory subject. Previously, English was taught to the Junior High School, Senior High School, and University students in Indonesia. Now days, English is taught to the elementary students as a local content subject since it is realized that English has an important role in daily life as a global communication means. Students study English for the first time. So, they just study the simple English pattern including vocabulary, grammar, etc. The program begins from the fourth grade until the sixth grade at the elementary. In this case, the most of students in Indonesia find some difficulties to communicate using English, especially, of the elementary school students at

¹Ramelan, *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, (Semarang: IKIP Semarang Press, 1992), p.14.

²Jack c. Richards, *Curriculum Development in Language Teaching*, (USA: Cambridge University press, 2001), p.6

SDN 4 Dongos. The students have a little ability to communicate using English. Because of, English is one of difficult lesson than other lesson.

Learning English has many purposes to develop students' ability in communicative including communicative competence. There are four language skills such as listening, speaking reading and writing. It is also followed by language components are grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary.

According to Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary, vocabulary is total number of words which (with rules for combining them) make up a language, book containing a list of words, list of words used in book.³ Vocabulary is one of language components which have to be mastered by students in learning a new language. The students usually have difficulties to communicate in using English. So, they must have some vocabulary items to help them to communicate in learning English because vocabulary is introduced to students in elementary school including how to write and pronounce. So, to make them easy to get new language, they must study English which is started through English concrete noun. Concrete noun is one of the part of speeches include adjectives, adverbs, verbs and nouns. It is covered by vocabulary. It is very important to be taught in elementary school. Allah says in the Qur'an, verse Al-Baqarah 31:

وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ هَؤُلَاءِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ۝ (البقرة: 31)

*“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 “.*⁴

Teaching elementary school students is not same as teaching adult because they have different characteristics. Children are different from adults. Furthermore, as teacher we must have different ways of teaching English to

³A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advance Learners' Dictionary of Current English*, (NY: Oxford University press, 1987), 25th Ed., p.959.

⁴Muhammad Taqiuddin Al- Hilall and Muhammad Muhsin Khan, Interpretation of the Meaning of: *the Nobel Qur'an English Language*, (Saudi Arabiyah: Darussalam) p. 18-19.

students at elementary because the way of teaching vocabulary is not the same as teaching vocabulary to adult learners. It will be difficult when the teacher can not motivate and increase students' achievement to the young learners intensively. However, some language learners are usually afraid to study in English lesson. Actually, this problem could be caused that English is the first lesson that is given to students at fourth grade in Elementary school because teacher gives a monotone method in teaching learning process, especially in learning English concrete noun.

For the reason above, as a teacher of English we should give our students effective ways in order to motivate students enthusiastic and improving their achievement in learning vocabulary especially in English concrete noun. Through the best way from their teacher, it will increase their interest to learn better, so the students' interest in learning will be the same as their interest in playing. To find out the best way for teaching your learners need an incentive analysis especially for the teacher. They should create alternative ways to teach young learners in order to make students' motivation, interest, enjoyable and easy to memorize English vocabularies in learning process, especially in learning English concrete noun. Because teacher must know the students interest and need.

There are several media of teaching. They are still pictures, audio recording, motion picture, television, real thing simulation and models, programmed and computers-assisted instruction programs. It used by teacher in presentation or stimulate students understanding in learning process.

According to Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary, media are mass communication e.g. Television, radio, the press mass, medium.⁵ There are many media which can help the teacher to make the students attracted to follow the lesson. Media such as puppets, cartoon films, tape recorder, radio, television, computer, etc. are useful to achieve and motivate the instructional goals of teaching and learning process. The teachers' creativity in using learning aid will increase the probability that the students will learn more and

⁵A.S. Hornby, *Op. cit*, p.528.

the knowledge will be retain better in their mind. So that, by using such kinds of teaching aid, hopefully students will not be bored in study English. Furthermore, a good teacher has some media and select the efficient one in order the learners to be more interested in the lesson.

In this study, the writer choose puppet as one of the media to improve students' understanding on concrete noun. The writer tries and introduces the method using the puppet as an alternative way to improve students' understanding on concrete noun to elementary school at fourth grade of SDN 4 Dongos Kedung Jepara. It is the best way of teaching and learning young learners at elementary school because it makes students' understanding, enthusiastic, enjoyable, and easy memorable about the material especially in learning English concrete noun.

B. Definition of Key Terms

1. Puppet

According to oxford advanced learners' dictionary, puppet is doll, small figure of an animal, doll of which can head being moved by fingers of the operator.⁶

2. Improve

Based on oxford advanced learners' dictionary, improve is make or become better; make good use of something.⁷

3. Students' understanding

Oxford advanced learners' dictionary state that students is defined as a person who is studying at a college, polytechnic or university; boy or girl who is attending schools; anyone who studies or who is devoted to the acquisition of knowledge.⁸

⁶*Ibid.*, p.679.

⁷*Ibid*, p. 427.

⁸*Ibid*, p.859.

According Hornby, understanding is know the meaning, learn (from information receive), or realizing others' persons feeling or point of view.⁹

So, it concludes students' understanding is students get information, knowledge and information from teachers explanation. Then, Teachers are transferring the knowledge and received by students.

4. Concrete Nouns

Concrete exists in a form that can be touched, felt, seen, etc. real, and solid.¹⁰ Noun is a word used to name or identify any of class of things, people, objects, places, or action research ideas, or particular one of these.¹¹

From the definition above learning English concrete noun is to get knowledge of language in order to understand the meaning of spoken and written in language. And it can identify the name of things, people, place, etc which are they can touch and see.

C. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

In this study the writer proposed puppet as media to be applied students' understanding in learning concrete nouns for elementary school. There are some reasons why writer choose the topic.

1. Noun is one of the part of speeches that is applied and important role in learning English, because it is taught to find out the new words in learning English concrete noun especially in elementary school.
2. Puppet as media to help students to know new words, and it is the effective way to motive students in learning vocabulary. Puppet is able to make student understanding the meaning of words, it can also to make students easy to memorize the words when students watch the puppet performance. So, puppet will make students relaxed, enjoy and fun in learning English concrete noun.

⁹*Ibid*, p. 939.

¹⁰*Ibid*, p.238

¹¹*Ibid*, p.791

3. Indonesian students often find some difficulties in learning English. In elementary school, English is the first introduction for students. Furthermore, they get the difficulties meanings of the new words in English. So, the writer finds out how to improve students' achievement and suitable media to teach and learn English concrete noun by using puppet.

D. Research Questions

1. How is the implementation of using puppet to improve students' understanding on concrete noun?
2. How is the effectiveness of using puppet to improve students' achievement on concrete noun?

E. Objective of Study

1. To describe the implementation of using puppet in improving students' understanding on concrete noun.
2. To find out the effectiveness of using puppet to improve students' achievement on concrete noun.

F. Pedagogical Significance

The result of this study will hopefully be useful students, teacher and the writer.

1. For students

Puppet will encourage new words in learning vocabulary and improving students' achievement in learning English. So, students are able to more interest and enjoy in following the lesson and it does not make them bored in learning vocabulary especially on concrete noun.

2. For teacher

Giving teacher a description about how to teach and motivate students to learn English, especially in learning concrete noun. The use of puppet as media in the classroom, it is a good alternative or innovative way in teaching vocabulary and makes students enjoy in the lesson.

3. For writer

The writer hopes that the result of the research can be used as reference for those who want to conduct a research in teaching and learning English.

G.Scope of the Study

To limit the scope of the study, the writer will only discuss such as follows:

1. This research is limited only on the teaching vocabulary especially concrete noun using puppet for students at fourth grade of SDN 04 Dongos Kedung Jepara.
2. The problems that might come up during the implementation of teaching vocabulary especially concrete noun by using puppet. It is based on consideration that students are very difficult to receive English language and they have low achievement in learning process.