CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is a means of communication. By using language, human being can express his/her ideas and wishes to other people such as when he/she needs their help so that close operation among members of the group can be carried out. It can hardly be imagined that he/she should live all alone by himself/herself without anyone to accompany him/her.

Language plays an important role in communication. A human being can communicate his/her ideas, meanings, and feelings to others using language. Therefore, language is a means for people to do communication. English is one of the international languages used in the world. As an international language, English becomes more popular in Indonesia.

Since the proclamation of Indonesia on the 17th of August 1945 English has been taught in this country as a first foreign language. During the dutch colonial time the language of the ruler was of course a compulsory subject which had to be taught in government schools.¹ The Indonesian government has chosen English as the first foreign language to be taught in our schools, this is simply for the reason that we recognize the important role it plays in the international world.

In Islam perspective, Allah suggests to engage in a committee. He will rise the degrees of people who believe and who have been granted knowledge. He says in the holy Qur'an in the verse of mujadila 058:11

¹ Ramelan, Introduction to Linguistic Analysis, (Semarang: Ikip Semarang Press, 1992), p.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَافْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ انْشُرُوا فَانْشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ (١١)

"O ye who believe! When ye are told to make room in the assemblies, (spread out and) make room: (Ample) room will Allah provide for you. And when ye are told to rise up, rise up: Allah will rise up, to (suitable) ranks (and degrees), those of you who believe and who have been granted knowledge. And Allah is well-acquianted with all ye do."²

The contains of the holy qur'an in the verse mujadila 058:11 are about the promise of Allah that will rise up the ranks of people who believe and have knowledge several degrees. According to this verse, when someone wants to be a person who has high degree in the Allah side, he/she must be a person who believes and has knowledge. Because knowledge is one of the key go in the direction of success in life. Consequently, knowledge is important and strategic thing.

Learning a foreign language is not an easy as learning native language. To learn a foreign language, the learners will meet all kinds of learning problems dealing with vocabulary, sound system and how to arrange words into sentences that are quite different from those of their native speaker.

In evaluating the result of teaching learning, it will be unfair if we consider it only from one or two view-points, for instance, from the point of view of students or teachers only. Factors like the student, teacher, time allotment, the use of teaching media/aid, methodology, teaching material and other facilities work together in effecting the final result of teaching.

It would be very ideal if all factors could meet the necessary requirements; for instance, the teachers were competent, the students wellmotivated and bright, the teaching material well-arranged, etc. but this situation is hardly attainable since nothing in the world is perfect.

² Abdallah Yousuf Ali, The Glorious Qur'an, (Beirut: Dar El-Fikr, 1999), p. 1450

Teacher has different ways to present the material. Some teaching methods have been used to make students interested in learning English. Teacher also uses several kinds of media to teach English such as picture, game, song, poster, realia, etc. in order to make them work well. Young learners usually respond well to being asked to use their imagination, they may well be involved in puzzle-like activities, in making things, in drawing, in games, in physical movement or in songs.³ It means that English teacher should not remain passive or give up all efforts to make improvements.

Vocabulary is one of component of language to learn English. Without understanding vocabulary, student can't improve their language skill. Most of the student can't learn English because they have limited vocabulary. Words are basic building blocks of language; in fact, survival level communication can take place quite intelligibly when people simply string words togetherwithout applying any grammatical rules at all.⁴ So if we're interested in being communicative, words or vocabulary are among the first priorities.

The student must be able to use a lot of vocabulary. Because it is an important element in language besides pronunciation and grammatical rules. we can not express idea in English without knowing English vocabulary. In studying vocabulary, we not only study about meaning but also we study about how words combine which called phrase.

In her preliminary research in the seven grade students of MTs Nahdlatusy Syubban Sayung Demak, the researcher observed and interviewed the English teacher. The reseacher found that most of the students have some difficulties on arranging simple noun phrase. They could not determine the parts of speech, lack of vocabulary, and confused on arranging words into

³ Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Language Teaching*. (England : Longman, 2002), p. 38

⁴ H. Douglas Brown, *Teaching by Principles: An Interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy* 2nd *Edition*, (Longman: A Pearson Education Company, 2001), p. 377.

phrase in correct order. To solve that problem, the researcher tries to get a better way strategy in teaching simple noun phrase using quartet card. This action research aims at improving the students' achievement of simple noun phrase.

Teacher should be selective in choosing teaching media/aids. In the writer's opinion, teaching English using quartet cards is one of teaching aid in which students' are given chance to learn English more enjoyful. It combine pictures and game, so it will help the students to understand phrases that teacher has taugh easily. By using quartet cards, it is hoped that it can motivate the students to learn and pay attention to the material. It will create fun learning in English.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The writer has some reasons to do this research. They are as follows:

- Vocabulary is essential to improve the four language skills, they are listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Consequently, vocabulary must be mastered by students in order to be able to communicate in English. Students must also be able to arrange the vocabulary into grammatically correct phrases.
- 2. Teaching English to Junior High School is not an easy task because it requires a lot of creativity to avoid students' feeling of boredom.
- 3. Teaching simple noun phrase using quartet cards will motivate the students to study better.
- 4. Teaching simple noun phrase using quartet cards will also facilitate students' understanding on arranging vocabulary into phrases.
- 5. The writer wants to know how good the students' achievement of simple noun phrases through quartet cards.

C. Research Questions

This study is aimed at answering the following questions:

- 1. How is the implementation of improving students' achievement in learning simple noun phrase through quartet cards?
- 2. How is the improvement of students' understanding on simple noun phrase after being taught through quartet cards?

D. Objectives of the Research

Based on the research questions mention above, the objectives of the study are:

- 1. To describe the implementation of improving students' achievement in learning simple noun phrase through quartet cards.
- 2. To identify the improvement of students' understanding in learning simple noun phrase through quartet cards.

E. Pedagogical Significance

The writer expects that this research has some significance. They are limited below:

- 1. This action research could be used as process to improve the teaching performance both teacher and researcher.
- 2. The teacher could use quartet cards as an alternative way in teaching English.
- 3. The students could learn English in interesting way and improve their achievement of simple noun phrases through quartet cards.

4. This study could give motivation to the English teacher to create new ways or media in teaching learning English.

F. Scope of the Study

The writer limits this study as the follows:

- 1. The topic is limited of using quartet cards in teaching simple noun phrase.
- 2. This study is a classroom action research.
- 3. The population is limited to the seven grade students of Mts Nahdlatusy Syubban Sayung Demak in academic year 2009/2010.

G. Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer presents the following definition of the key terms:

1. Use

The word "use" has several meanings. Use as verb is defined as to take, hold or deploy as a means of achieving something. But in the research, word "use" has function as noun which means the action of using or state of being used.⁵

2. Quartet Cards

A quartet is a card game, similar to Go Fish, which was the start of Top Trumps. They were originally created by Austrian card game company Piatnik during the 1960s, but later began being released by Dubreq, Ace, Waddingtons and other companies. Quartets, like Ace Trumps, were usually non-licensed.⁶

⁵ Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary 3rd Edition, (Oxford University Press, 2004), p. 475.

⁶ http://www.wikipedia.com/definition/quartetcard/html, on Wednesday, january 6th, 2010

3. Improve

Improve means to rise to a more desirable or more excellent quality or condition; or to make better., to increase the productivity or value of (land or property), and to put to good use; use profitably.⁷

4. Students' Achievement

Achievement is the action of accomplishing something.⁸ In this study, the students' achievement means the students' score in learning simple noun phrase using quartet cards.

5. Simple Noun Phrase

A phrase is a group of words which have a particular meaning when used together.⁹ Noun phrase is a phrase whose head is a noun. Because it lacks a subject and a predicate, it cannot act as a sentence.

6. A Classroom Action Research

Action research is a process, through which teachers collaborate in evaluating their practice jointly; raise awareness of their personal theory; articulate a shared conception of values; record their work in a form which is readily available to and understandable by other teacher; and thus develop a shared theory of teaching by researching practice.¹⁰

7. The Seven Grade Students

It refers to the students who have been studying at Mts Nahdlatusy Syubban Sayung Demak.

8. Mts Nahdlatusy Syubban Sayung Demak

⁸http://www.webster-dictionary.org/definition/achievement, on Tuesday, April 6th, 2010

^Zhttp: //www.webster-dictionary.org/definition/improve, on Tuesday, April 6th, 2010

⁹ Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary 3rd Edition, op. cit, p. 321

¹⁰http://www.madisonk12.wi.us/sod/car/carreffect.html, on Tuesday, April 6th, 2010

It is institution in which the object of this study and where the writer held her research. It is located at Jl. Semarang-Demak Km.9 Sayung Demak.

9. The Academic of 2009/2010

It means the duration time for teaching and learning and other academic activities that consist of two semesters, has been started on July 2009 and will have been completed on July 2010.