

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

There is no man who can live alone in the world. Man is a social being who always needs company in his life. He has to cooperate with other to provide him self with the needs of life. Therefore, he needs a means of communications which is called language. With language man can express his desire, thought and hopes to other people.

Allah creates human in the world with various nations, ethnics, and customs. Even so the language, one country and another country have different language. Allah states about the variety of language in surah Ar-Rum verse 22:



“And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colors. In that surely are signs for those who possess knowledge.” (Ar- Rum: 22)¹

In surah above, Allah shows us the signs of His authority through differences of tongue. Tongue means a language. There are no people who have the same language in the world. It is influenced by the location. People who live in difference location have difference language. They have to cooperate with one another to complete the necessities in their life.

Language as the tool of communication will unite the human as their differences from region, nationality, race, and color. By the diversity of language, it shows that human has the superior brain than other creature. They create their language systematically and arbitrary.

¹Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din Al- Halili, *The Nooble Qur'an*, (Riyadh: Darussalam Publisher and Distributors, 2002), P.641.

In the writer's experience, English is one of the most widely used international language as a means of both oral and written communication. In Indonesia, English is introduced into curriculum as the first foreign language to be taught at Junior high school and Senior high school. English is a part of curriculum which means that it is taught as one compulsory subject in all high schools. Although, English is taught through various approaches, the result is still unsatisfactory. A poor English mastery of SMP's and SMA's graduates is still found now days, in spite of their having study the language for 3 to 6 years. Therefore the goverment has been searching the best way of teaching English. The Indonesian goverment has tried alot of endeavors, such as changing the curriculum and introducing new methods of teaching to English teacher. The quality of the teachers and other components which are involved in educational process are improved from time to time.

Education need to anticipate the global that bring society form a principle of knowledge where science and technology role as main activation of alteration. For that reason, curriculum must be developed periodly and continously with knowledge, technology and art.²

To teach language, teacher usually use certain methods of teaching. To get maximum result as the time limited, English teachers have to try hard to pay attention on developing their own mastery of English, their students' linguistic competence and the method of teaching English. In this way, the teachers want to make English more interesting than before.

Based on the writer's experience, students should have enough competencies in mastering four skills of English. Students should have enough competencies in learning language, whatever the language is including English; there are skills and four language components of English to be mastered. The four skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing, and the four components are vocabulary, structure, spelling and sound system. All of these are important. No one skill or component is superior to others since they

²BSNP, *Panduan Penyusunan KTSP Jenjang Dasar Dan Menengah*, (Jakarta: Badan Standar Pendidikan, 2006) p. 6

are integrated and have close relation to each other. Even writing is complicated task, it is still a useful, essential, integral, and enjoyable part of foreign language lesson. It lets us to think, to express our idea, to form an opinion, to take a response, and to change the oral into the written communication. We realize that writing is a skill which needs a serious attention and it is a gift we born with. Mastering writing needs a lot of practice. Without practice writing will be difficult. Moreover, it is also supported by other skills such as listening, speaking, and reading skill, which help to build up our writing.

Furthermore, some techniques such as using games are common used by teachers to overcome the writing difficulties. The teaching technique that the writer would like present in final project is called games. A game is an activity carried out by cooperating and competing decision makers, seeking to achieve, within a set of rules, their objectives in some limiting context.³

Spelling as one of language components is taught integrated and communicative with vocabulary, structure, and sound system in order to improve the skills of reading, listening, speaking, and writing. However, there are inconsistencies between speech sounds and written symbols in English. Therefore, students have difficulty in mastering the English spelling system. In addition, there are some students who cannot remember how to spell a word even they have looked it up in dictionary. The ability to spell English words is important to make students read correctly what is written. The most reason in mastering spelling interferences is the communication between writer and reader.⁴ For students, accurate spelling is important because the effectiveness of their written work is impaired.

Spelling a word may be a more difficult task than reading word. Reading is decoding process in which the learner must respond without the

³Rixon, *How To Use English Games In Language Teaching*, (London: Macmillan Publisher.1981)p.13

⁴D. Smeadly. *Teaching The Basic Skill*, (New York, Methren and CO. 1983)p.13

benefit of a complete visual stimulus; thus there are fewer clues.⁵ Spelling requires concentration on each letter of every word, but in reading it is not necessary to know the exact spelling of words or to attend to every letter in most words.

Related to this study, the use of erasing words, jumbled words, and crossword puzzles in teaching learning process will play the important role. They may arouse students, attention. Monotonous activities or strategies of teacher in teaching will make students get bored. From this, we tried to make the teaching writing more effective and interesting, it will be wise if the teacher uses various methods in the teaching his or her students such as games to improve their vocabulary and their English spelling.

B. Definition of Key Terms

1. Spelling Game

Kevin Maroney states, game is a form of play with goals and structure. It means that game is structured activity, enjoyment and sometimes used as an educational tool.⁶

In this research, the writer would use many games to improve the student's mastery in English spelling, in teaching learning process will play the important role.

a) Erasing Words

The process or steps of erasing words are look - think - cover - write - check.⁷

Look carefully at the new word, how can you break it into smaller bits? Do any of the smaller bits remind you of the patterns of letters from other words?

⁵C.D. Mercer and A.R Mercer, *Teaching Students With Learning Problems*, (Ohio, Merrill Publishing Company. 1989)p. 412

⁶[Http.Games,Online.Tehobenk.Com](http://Games,Online.Tehobenk.Com) accessed on 18/12/2009

⁷[Http://En.Wikipedia.Org/Wiki/Game](http://En.Wikipedia.Org/Wiki/Game) accessed on 20/11/2009

Think about the parts of the words which might cause problems-double letters for instance, or a vowel that is not pronounced as you would expect. Cover the word and close your eyes. Try to see it in your mind's eye. Write the word down without looking back. Check to see if you are right. If not, look carefully at where you went wrong and try again.

b) Jumbled words

It is derived from a word "jumble" that means confuse mixture. In this game, the students' should arrange the scrambled word into good word.

c) Crossword puzzles

Is a word puzzles that normally takes the form of a square or rectangular grid of black and white squares.⁸ The goal is to fill the white squares with letters, forming words or phrases, by solving clues which lead to the answer.

From those games the writer wants to know about students' ability in memorizing, and to know more about existing condition of students' in adopting these kinds of games to minimize the error spelling word in English to sharpen their skill of memorizing and writing in arranging letter become words and sentences.

2. Spelling

Spelling is the forming of words through the traditional arrangement of letters.⁹ Spelling is act of forming words correctly from individual letters; ability to do this, way in which a word is spelt. Writing of a word or words with necessary letters and diacritics present in accepted standard order, it is one elements of orthography and prescriptive element of alphabetic languages.

⁸Mel Silberman, *Active Learning 101 Strategies to Teach Any Subject*. (USA: Temple University, 1996), p. 162

⁹C.D. Mercer and A.R Mercer. *Op.Cit*, p. 413

C. Research Questions

The problem that will be discussed in this study stated as follows:

1. How is the implementation of spelling games to improve students' English written spelling at seventh grade of MTs Negeri 2 Kudus in academic year of 2009/2010?
2. How is the improvement of students' English written spelling after being taught using spelling games at seventh grade of MTs Negeri 2 Kudus in academic year of 2009/2010?

D. Objectives of The Study

The objective can be stated as follows:

1. To describe the implementation of spelling games to improve students' English written spelling at seventh grade of MTs Negeri 2 Kudus in academic year of 2009/2010?
2. To find out the effectiveness of students' English written spelling after being taught using spelling games at seventh grade of MTs Negeri 2 Kudus in academic year of 2009/2010?

E. Reason For Choosing The Topic

Grammatical competence remains concerned with the master of the language code (verbal and non verbal) itself. Thus included here are features and rules of the language such as vocabulary, word information, sentence formation, pronunciation, spelling and linguistic semantics.¹⁰ Furthermore, in School-Based Curriculum for junior high school, it state that the purpose of English lesson is to improve students ability in communication, whether in written and oral. The communication ability includes listening, speaking, reading and written.

¹⁰Victoria Fromkin, Robert R, *An Introduction Second Language*, (Heinle: Publishers Design and Production Service, 2003)p.5

From the statement above, we know that the language skill should be taught to improve students' ability in written and oral communication.

To gain the purposes, in this study the writer focuses on writing skill. The writer used games to achieve students' ability in building sentences because of the following reasons:

- a. The students may get bored in monotonous writing activities.
- b. The students lack of vocabulary. So they feel difficult in spelling word and the meaning.
- c. Game is interesting approach. It allows the students to play, considering that they are still children who naturally need learning without feeling worried. It will give a positive influence on their result.

F. Pedagogical Significance

The finding of the research will hopefully become useful information on English teacher, particularly in improving their teaching especially in English. They should be aware the important use of games to teaching learning process that can improve the students spelling skill, so that the goal of learning can be achieved. Teacher also has to know what games which suitable to children at junior high school is.

By doing the research, the experiment is expected to reveal the following: For the teachers, the experiment would give the contribution to consider what techniques to be used in teaching spelling in junior high school. Furthermore, this experiment would be valuable and useful especially for them who have problem in spelling.

G. Scope of Study

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

1. This study will be done in seventh grade students of MTs Negeri 2 Kudus in academic year of 2009/2010.

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2. This study will talk about the use of spelling games to improve students' mastery in English written spelling. It is done to find the effective way to improve English spelling.