

Chapter I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Human being uses language to communicate each other. By using language, they will understand the messages that are given or sent by others. Language is one of the most important things in communication and it is used as a tool for communication among people in the world. The existence of language becomes essential; it helps people to express their ideas and feelings. Hence, the presence of language has overcome people's problems to express and share their feelings, ideas and knowledge to others.

Wardhaugh, as quoted by Joko Sriyono, says:

“Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication.”¹

By using language, people are able to convey their message, to express their ideas in written, so they can cooperate and get along each other.

The presence of language is one of the signs of Allah as a creator. As Allah stated in verse Ar-Rum 22:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالاخْتِلافُ اَللِّسِنَتِكُمْ وَاللَّوَانِكُمْ اِنَّ فِي ذٰلِكَ
لَاٰيَاتٍ لِّلْعٰلَمِيْنَ ﴿الرُّوم: 22﴾

And among His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the variations in your languages and your colors: verily in that are Signs for those who know.²

The researcher's consideration in carrying out this research is based on the view that vocabulary is an essential component of language, so it is important to find and apply a method to teach it effectively. Teaching English

¹ Djoko Sriyono, *An Introductory Course of Linguistic*, (Surakarta: 2001, Muhammadiyah University Press), p.1.

² Departemen Agama RI, *Alqur'an dan Terjemahannya*, (Jakarta: 1983, Pustaka Amani), p. 573.

as a foreign Language has become problem for English teachers and learners in Indonesia. Most learners get difficulties to master it. English is an International language. It is taught in every formal education in Indonesia, because English is foreign language. In Indonesia, English becomes one of school subject. It has been introduced begin from playgroup, elementary school, junior high school, senior high school and university. Here, teacher's role is solving the problem. Many students still regard that English is the most difficult subject. In fact, English is a developing language that has functions as communicating and accessing information in daily activity, etc.³ English contains other components like vocabularies, grammar and pronunciation which are different from Indonesian.

The goal of teaching and learning process is the students are able to master four language skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Junior high school students still get difficulties in mastering four language skills and in language components such as pronunciation, vocabulary, spelling, and grammar.

Vocabulary is one of components that is difficult to be mastered by students, especially in Junior High School. Learning vocabulary is the basic in studying English. Both vocabulary and grammar are the first step to understand the function of words and how the words are joined together to compose sentence. Finally, it can produce meaningful communication.

Vocabulary is the most important aspects which have to be mastered by students in learning English. Teaching vocabulary is a major resource for using English. The teacher can use varying methods in learning vocabulary continuously in order to be effective.⁴ It shows us that students can understand and remember vocabulary is determined by teacher's strategies.⁵

³ Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, *Kurikulum 2004:Standar Kompetensi Bahasa Inggris SMPdan MTs*, (Jakarta: Pusat Kurikulum, Balitbang Depdiknas, 2003), p. 7.

⁴ Ruiz de Alarcon, *Teaching Languages to young learners*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), p.94

⁵ Ruiz de Alarcon, *Teaching Language to young learners*, p. 92

Vocabulary itself is all the words with their meaning, especially in a book for foreign language.⁶

In learning English, the teacher should give students new methods to deliver the material especially about vocabulary. Unluckily, many students are still confused to differ among noun, adjective, verb, etc. Among several methods of teaching English, this study is interested in the use of songs as one of the language teaching techniques. Teachers should motivate their students to create language learning as a relaxed activity. Those characteristics can be found when songs are used in the class.

To make students enjoy in learning, the teacher should use interesting methods. A Bulgarian, Georgi Lozanov, as quoted by Dave Meier says:

“It will come true, if teacher develops good methods to accelerate training of language among giving suggestion, relaxation, and music”.⁷

Western song is one of the kinds of music chosen here, because most students enjoy listening to song. It can stimulate their motivation to learn and help students to get ideas when they teach vocabulary. The teacher can help students to identify many vocabularies based on the song.

To build up a sentence, students have to master many vocabularies. The problem is sometimes the teacher get difficulties to teach vocabulary effectively. That is why the researcher wants to share the ways to teach vocabulary well.

Media will offer different situation by increasing students’ interest to the lesson. Media can be used by both teachers and students. The use of media also allows students to be involved in teaching and learning process. Here, the researcher wants to focus on teaching and learning kinds of vocabularies through song.

Generally, many teachers still use conventional methods. It can make student bored. The students feel lazy to read the text and translate it

⁶ Oxford University, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), 3rd Ed, p.482

⁷ Dave Meier, *The Accelerated Learning Handbook*, (New York : Mc. Graw Hill, 2000), p. 176

continually. The class will be passive, the learning process cannot run well and the material cannot be delivered effectively. Effective teaching is depending on the techniques approach. Richards and Rodgers, as quoted by Bambang Setiadi says:

“Some methods are totally depending on the teacher as a source of knowledge and direction; the teacher’s role as consultant, guide and model for learning”.⁸

In order to be able to teach well, teachers must have professional ability which consists of ten teachers' competences. Some of the competences are by identifying, choosing, and using media. Media is one of forms of communication that is printed or audio visual. So, media can be watched, heard and read. There are many kinds of media, one of them is song. Gagne and Briggs, as quoted by Azhar Arsyad says:

“Learning media is including instrument physically, that is used for conveying the content of learning material, it consists of the book, tape recorder, cassette, etc.”⁹

For engaging students, song is a good alternative medium for teaching vocabulary, because it can be heard with instrument that is used well in the teaching learning process.

Song is one of audio media because we can listen to the sounds of music without watching the picture. Students really enjoy listen to song for some reasons. Using teaching media in learning process can develop interest; build the motivation and stimulate students in learning process. Sometimes, students feel bad mood, stress that can influence psychological aspect. The use of teaching media in teaching learning will help the effectiveness of teaching learning process that help students’ understanding.

Commonly, all learners in junior high school get difficulties to study English; vocabulary is one of the problems. Usually the teacher explains the material by using classical or conventional method like just explaining in front

⁸ Bambang Setiadi, *Teaching English as a Foreign Language*, (Yogyakarta: Penerbit Graha Ilmu, 2006), p.18

⁹ Azhar Arsyad, *Media Pengajaran*, (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2000), p. 4

of the class, asking and answering question, it makes students bored and difficult to memorize the material. Because of that reason, The researcher have been tried to use media in teaching learning process, especially in English lesson to young learners in order to make fun and interest. The teacher should give students new methods in order to make them enjoy in the material especially vocabulary. Teaching learning process should be varied to make students feel fun during the process. They need more instruction and commandment from their teacher.

Lems, as quoted by Kuran Puasa says “Some songs are believed to stimulate the work of brain in learning, then in English learning or foreign learning, song can be used to learning skill. Besides, Lozanov as quoted by Sumardi, as quoted by Kuran says that actually, learning by using song very excited because suggestion of the music can bring students be relax without threatening setting. This atmosphere can be an important keyword for students in learning language.¹⁰ Due to this fact, the researcher uses song as media in teaching learning process. Hopefully, song can motivate students in mastering vocabulary.

Among several methods of teaching English, this study is interested in the use of songs as one of the language teaching techniques. Teachers should motivate their students, so that students will find language learning in relaxed activity. That characteristic basically can be found when songs are used in the class.

Song is short piece of music with words that you sing.¹¹ In this case, the researcher wants to introduce the new method in learning vocabulary by using English song as teaching media. Besides, song is an interesting media is called an audio. It can be a stimulus to enrich students’ vocabulary by listening to song, remember the vocabulary and analyze it. It will help students to master vocabulary by using song as a media.

¹⁰ Kuran Puasa, *Teaching English Through Pop Songs*, (Bandung: CV.YRAMA WIDYA), p. 5

¹¹ Oxford University, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), 3rd Ed, p.412

The researcher will introduce the method to students of *SMPN 16 Semarang* by conducting a research in title “*TEACHING VOCABULARY THROUGH SONG* ” (An Experimental study at the VII Grade of *SMPN 16 Semarang* in the Academic Year of 2011/2012).

B. Question of The Research

The research question of this study is as follows:

Is there any difference of students' achievement to master vocabulary between those taught using song and those taught without using song at the seventh grade of SMP Negeri 16 Semarang in the academic year 2011/2012?

C. Objective and Benefit of the of study

To identify the differences of students' achievement of vocabulary between those taught using song and those taught without using song at the seventh grade of *SMPN 16 Semarang* in the academic year 2011//2012. So that the researcher uses the song as medium in order to facilitate teaching vocabulary learning.