

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Language is one of the most important things in communication. As an international language, English is very important and it has interrelationship with various aspects of life owned by human being. In Indonesia, English considered as the first foreign language and it has been taught formally from elementary school up to the university level.

Vocabulary as a supporting element to master the four language skills plays a very important role in learning English. The learners who are rich of vocabulary will be successful to express their ideas in language skill. There are four language skill in english; speaking, writing, reading and listening. But one who is poor of vocabulary will get trouble in those skills. The four skills are closely interdependent. The students must master the four language skills so that they can use English effectively. It is impossible that someone can master one of the languageskill, without mastering vocabulary. Vocabulary is one of the basic elements to achieve language skill. So, to achieve these aims, students must master a number of vocabularies. With the rich vocabulary students will be able to talk about more things and communicate well.

Good mastery of vocabulary is important for anyone who learns the language used in listening, speaking, writing and reading besides grammar. A learner of the foreign language will speak fluently and accurately, write easily, or understand what he or she reads or if he or she has enough vocabulary and has a capability of using it accurately.

The importance of learning new vocabulary encourage language teachers of English today to move from passive learning to active learning to find better ways of engaging students in the English language learning process. Students' need something fun and easy to access the vocabulary quickly when is required for use. By using a suitable method, the subject matter will be more interesting and teaching learning process can be more effective and efficient, therefore the purpose can be achieved.

Based on the writer's experience in teaching practice in Junior High School level, most of the students were passive because they are lacking in vocabularies. The students' vocabulary is still poor although they seemed having some ideas in their mind, but they could not express their idea. The main problem is the students have difficulties to memorize the word, because the teacher's technique used in teaching vocabulary is not interesting and monotonous. The teacher usually gives many words to the students and asks them to open their dictionary to find the meaning of those words. After finding the words, they forget. So, when the teaching learning process takes place, the students do not give attention and feel bored.

To solve the problem, teachers hold something to help their students to improve their vocabulary achievement. The teacher has to find an appropriate model in teaching vocabulary. Kimberly Kimbel-lopez (2009-47) states that a strategy designed to help students learn content-specific terminology, also called the frayer model. The frayer model is a graphic organizer with four prompts to

help students think about the meaning of a new word or concept by activating their prior knowledge.

Frayer Model will be applied to guide student to comprehend the new vocabulary. Through frayer model students are able to understand not only the meaning of an unknown word or concept, but more importantly, they will be able to internalize the word or concept so that it becomes part of their everyday vocabulary. The chart of frayer model consists of four boxes to complete- definition, characteristics, examples, and non-examples and an oval in the center for the word or concept being studied. The frayer model is a graphical organizer used for word analysis and vocabulary building. This four-square model prompts students to think about and describe the meaning of a word or concept by defining the term; describing its essential characteristic; providing example of the idea; and offering non-example of idea.

Teacher Resource guide (2006) used the frayer model in vocabulary instruction encourages students to use critical thinking to identify and understand vocabulary that is not familiar to them. This strategy also helps students build connections between new concepts and helps students move beyond vocabulary exercises that are simply about words and their meanings to grasping how to use new ideas and concepts in context.

Monroe and Pendergrass (1997) say that the frayer model of this study was to identify which teaching strategy was most effective for vocabulary instruction. It is suitable for Junior and Senior High School students. The frayer model can significantly improve the students' vocabulary achievement.

Based on the explanation above, therefore the writer plan to do research by using the frayer model is applied to solve the students' problem in vocabulary achievement.

B. The Problem of The Study

The problem of the study was formulated in the form of a question as states below: *"How was Frayer Model applied to improve students' vocabulary achievement?"*

C. The Scope of the Study

The scope of this study was limited to see improvement of students' achievement in vocabulary by using frayer model. There are two kinds of vocabulary, receptive vocabulary and productive vocabulary. The writer only focused on receptive vocabulary.

D. The Objective of The Study

The objective of the study was to find out how the application of Frayer Model improve the students' vocabulary achievement.

E. The Significance of The Study

1. Theoretical significance, the findings of the study were useful to enrich knowledge on the theories of language learning. The findings was enhance previous theories on the second language learning.

2. Practical significance, the findings of the study were useful and relevant

to:

- a. English teachers ; as the information in teaching English to enrich their knowledge in vocabulary by using Frayer Model.
- b. The student can improve their knowledge in vocabulary .
- c. The readers; knowing one of good methods in vocabulary and thinking that Frayer Model is an interesting model.



