

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

### **A. The Background of the study**

There are about billions of people in the world today learning English as a foreign language. English as foreign language has been taught in Indonesia in different levels of education from elementary school to universities. This because, English is an international language, besides being used as a tool of communication, English is also used in science. Wardaugh (1997:13) says "language is a system of arbitrary communication, i.e. conveying messages about the situation, event in the environment, intention, attitudes; in short anything is important in the life of language using individual and societies.",

In foreign language teaching and learning process, vocabulary plays an important role. It is one element that links the four skills of speaking, reading, listening and learning process, vocabulary plays an important role. It is one element that link the four skills of speaking, reading, listening and writing all together. Vocabulary is one of the competences of the language. It is an important aspect on learning English. How well one can communicate with English is partly dependent on how many vocabulary he has mastered. But in fact, the main problem in teaching English in School is less of the students' motivation in English because of their weakness to use the vocabulary. Students however, always get much trouble to achieve the great success in learning the skill. Yasin (1993:57) pointed out fact of unsuccessful achievement of learning English; one of them is a very mastery of vocabulary.

According to Jordan (1995:149) "Teaching vocabulary is such an important task in teaching English because vocabulary achievement relates to all language learning and it is of concern to all four language skills".

Vocabulary is very essential to comprehend the language well, speak the language well, or compose a good writing.. It is expected that the learners have to increase their vocabulary about 100 words a year. Similarly on the Competence Based curriculum, the students are required to increase their vocabulary 1000-1500 words every year so that in three years students have increased their vocabulary around 4000 words.

But in fact, based on the writer experience during conducting teaching practice (PPL) at Junior High School 2010, writer found most of the students had many problems in mastery English words and this situation made them lazy to study English. They had limited vocabulary to comprehend the meaning of a text; they did not know the context of word use in text, they couldn't recognize the meaning of each word, they were not able to hear the English words from speakers, they couldn't compose their writing tasks successfully, and they get difficulties to state some sentences in English. Those problems cause them hard to communicate in English. So, it can be concluded that vocabulary emerged as the cause of the most difficulty for students.

Based on the problem above, the teacher should find the best or the effective technique to teach English vocabulary. Concerning to the characteristics of the young learners that they can easily get bored, need physical movements and real activities to stimulate their thinking, and respond language with the abstract

rather than concrete, so it is important to create the class situation which can motivate the students to study. Media as teaching aids are needed to help the students' understanding in vocabulary.

Students' learn vocabulary quickly by using media such as chart, real object, picture, flash cards, realia, etc because media can give context to them. Realia is one of media in teaching vocabulary. Realia is an authentic material. Realia in English Foreign Language terms refers to any real objects we use in the classroom to bring the class to life. Using realia is a very effective way to teach English as a second language to students and many other subjects as well. Many learners are kinesthetic, or hand on learners so using piece of realia to teach students by doing the task will be more effective.

Therefore, the writer hopes that creating activities using realia can help students to improve their vocabulary mastery.

### **B. The Problem of the Study**

Based on the background above, it is important to formulate the problem of this study as: "Is the students' vocabulary mastery significantly improved the use of realia ?

### **C. The Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is focused on the use of realia on students' vocabulary

mastery. In this case are the fourth year students. The topics that are discussed by the young are interpreted from the available media.

#### **D. The objective of the Study**

This study is aimed at investigating whether realia can significantly improve students vocabulary mastery.

#### **E. Significance of the Study**

The finding of this study are expected to provide information for the reader.

1. It is important for the teacher to use realia in their attempt to improve their teaching of vocabulary.
2. It is also important for the university students in order to improve or enrich their vocabulary mastery.
3. Those who are interested in doing research related to the study