

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Vocabulary of foreign language is very important to learn. Because without learning the basic vocabulary of foreign language, no one get successful in that language. If we can use the basic vocabulary and realize its function, we may have learned it for comprehensible communication.

Vocabulary is an essential for students as their first step to study English. Students have their own vocabulary before they inter to the school. The average child enters school knowing 5.000 – 6.000 words, and the children learn 2.500 – 3.000 new words per year.

Words can carry the content of what we want to say. More words we know and memorize can help us to communicate in English speaking.

Further, Spears (2000: XXV) states “ if you do not know the meaning of many words a writer uses, you can not understand very well what he/she is saying. From the quotation above, we can say that words are essential, if we don't know many words, we are very poor to understand what one speaks. To develop students language skill in reading, listening, speaking, and writing, the learners must master the vocabulary.

But the common problem is the less of student's motivation in English because of their weakness to use the vocabulary. Students always get much problem to achieve a great success in learning the skill. Based on the researchers'

experience while doing the Teaching Training Program (TTP) it was found that most of the students have low vocabulary in English because some teachers thought that teaching vocabulary items can be done in the same way while doing teaching learning process. The teacher gives the students list of words that the students should memorize it. The teacher gives many assignments from the students' worksheets every time they learn English without using any media. It can cause the students think that English is very difficult, not enjoyable and make them bored. Finally, this technique is not effective and efficient to the students to develop their vocabulary.

So, based on the problem above, teacher should have found the best or effective technique to teach English in vocabulary. Teacher can use media. The media is needed to help the students to understand when they learn vocabulary. It also stimulates the students to motivate them to have an interest to the lesson for learning.

To motivate the students and to make them more interested in learning, flash card is one of the choice. A flash card is part of a set of cards which are written items to be studied. They are "flashed" (shown quickly) one by one to a learner to elicit a quick response. Vocabulary flashcards are great tools for studying. They can be fun, colorful, and creative ways to aid in memory and retention of vocabulary words. By the flash card, the students can remember the letter, it also help the teacher to increase students' interest and motivation to learn vocabulary at the result. It will make the students to feel joyful and fun during the teaching learning process. Sri Wahyuni (2008) academic year student of State

University of Medan had done a research by using flash cards in vocabulary. She conducted an action research; focused on improving students' vocabulary achievement by using flash cards. Flash cards help the students to memorize the words and help the teacher to increase students' interest and to motivate them to learn vocabulary.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, this research problem is formulated as the following: "is the students' vocabulary achievement significantly improved by the flashcard?"

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is aimed at finding out whether the use of Flash Cards improves the students' vocabulary achievement.

D. The Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is focused on the use of Flash cards on students' achievement in vocabulary. The students in this case are the first year students in SMP Swasta Prayatna. The topics that are discussed by the students are interpreted from the available Flash cards.

E. The Significance of the Study

The result of this study are expected to be useful for

1. English teachers, to solve the problem of the teaching vocabulary to Junior High School by using flashcard. So they can improve the process of teaching learning effectively.

2. Students, to increase the achievement their English to communicate, because they have plentiful of vocabulary.



THE
Character Building
UNIVERSITY