

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

As social beings, people cannot live alone without the presence of other people in this world. Language is needed to make the interaction among them. As a part of culture, human language is used as a means of communication but language is being used for more than communication. People use language in many ways other than for sharing ideas. The way people speak can express politeness, respect, and social position. People also identify themselves as a part of a social group by the language they speak. Furthermore, language can be used to create art, record activities, and guide thinking.

Language is a social phenomenon used in conversation between individuals. Speech can be polite, brusque, formal, informal, illogical, humorous, pleasant, or intimidating. The kind of speech depends on the way of one's speaking and the accurate choosing of words in sentences. There are two kinds of competence in using a language including grammatical competence, namely the ability to use words, phrases, and sentences relevant to the grammatical rules and communicative competence- the ability to apply linguistic items or elements relevant to speech rules of etiquettes and these competences occurs in English.

English, which is used internationally, is important to be learned in order to improve the quality of the social life. By knowing English well means, the door to

succeed is widely opened. This knowledge can be used to earn money by teaching it privately.

There are four skills in learning this language namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. If these four skills are mastered well, the user will be able to communicate well. Listening has become greater and greater importance in foreign language classroom. Listening is vital in language classroom because it provides input for the learner. To speak in another language, one needs to know how to articulate sounds in a comprehensible manner, one needs an adequate vocabulary, and one needs to have mastery of syntax. Reading, along with listening, is sometimes viewed as a passive skill. Both involve processing ideas generated by others that are transmitted through language and highly complex cognitive processing operations. Nevertheless, there are important differences among them. Listening is ephemeral; the words are gone as soon as they are uttered, whereas the written words are permanent, and can be revisited. In addition, reading involves the processing of written language. In terms of skills, producing a coherent, fluent, extended a piece of writing is probably the most difficult thing to do in a language.

Vocabulary cannot be separated from language and is one of the most important elements to be required in learning a language. Human are born speechless. Unless one let his brains atrophy, he goes on learning to speak for all his life for words are the expression of ideas. Those who want to learn a language have to know words and their meaning so that they can speak and understand the language well. To learn the vocabulary is to comprehend and produce speech. By having a rich

vocabulary, the learner of the language can comprehend the language well, speak better, or compose a good writing.

Based on the previous statement, it is important to consider that vocabulary is the stock of language that should be developed by the learners; otherwise, they will find difficulty to state their ideas in string of words. Writing cannot be separated from vocabulary. It will be impossible for someone to write something if s/he has no vocabulary for the ideas are transferred through words. This is one of the reasons why the teacher should develop the strategy or the way of teaching vocabulary either second language or foreign language in school. A good way of teaching will help the students to gain a good improvement in their learning achievement.

Students whose mother tongue is not English will find difficulties in learning English as a foreign language. Many of them have studied English for years but they have no ability to speak, to understand and to write in the language. Learners usually have many problems in mastering English words. They have limited vocabulary to comprehend the meaning of a text, they do not know the context of word use in text, they cannot recognize the meaning of each word, they are not able to hear the English words from speakers, they cannot compose their writing task successfully, and they get difficulty to state some sentences in English. Those problems cause them too difficult to communicate receptively or productively in English.

Those students' problems occur because of some reasons. First, many English teachers tend to stress teaching mostly in grammatical rules, English structures, and answering questions of a text. They do not realize that vocabulary is needed to teach

create different atmosphere in teaching and learning vocabulary. The music of the song will stimulate the brain to learn every word quickly and the beautiful lyrics will help them to remember the words fast. Linksman (1998: 119) stated that the right medium of learning will help the learner learns a subject quickly.

In Indonesia, TV station is distinguished between public- Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI)- and private TV stations- METRO, Rajawali Citra Televisi Indonesia (RCTI), Surya Citra Televisi (SCTV), LaTiVi, TRANSTV, GLOBAL TV, ETC. Every TV station tries to present the best program to attract the attention of the viewers. They provide information, entertainment and education programs.

One of the TV programs, which is presented in English is 'Fun with English'. It is one of the TV programs in TVRI, which is presented in English for education. This program discusses everything about English such as grammar or structure, words, sentences, tenses, pronunciation, conversation, etc. The viewer is led to learn English systematically and relaxing. In addition, this program is trying to make the viewers to think that studying English is not in pressure but it can be made fun. This different situation is assumed can help the students to learn vocabulary because they can hear the voice of the presenter and see everything showed on the TV. When the students see the related material of the subject learned and hear the voice of the presenter directly they will feel different and pleasant in learning the vocabulary. In other words, it can be said that the media and materials of teaching will help the students to learn speedily. The use of amusing media will help the students to grasp the meaning of the words.

Based on the these facts, the researcher was interested in conducting a research on the effect of English songs and English TV program as the media of teaching on the students' vocabulary mastery. It means that the effect of implementing the two media in teaching vocabulary should be proven whether they are effective or not towards the students' vocabulary mastery.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problems can be formulated as follow:

1. Does the using of English songs significantly affect the students' vocabulary mastery?
2. Does watching Fun with English (English TV Program) significantly affect the students' vocabulary mastery?
3. Which of the media of teaching vocabulary above is more effective?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to discover whether:

1. Using English songs significantly affects the students' vocabulary mastery.
2. Watching Fun with English (English TV Program) significantly affects the students' vocabulary mastery.
3. One of the media above is more effective than the other one.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

The writer limits the study on the using of English songs and watching Fun with English (English TV Program) as the media in teaching vocabulary. These two media are the media, which can help the students to learn vocabulary better. The TV program- Fun with English that is used in this study is a TV program held in TVRI- a government TV station- every day except Sunday. The TV program- Fun with English- was watched by the students and then the content of the program was discussed together in class. This TV program was chosen because its material and vocabularies are appropriate for the students' level. The songs are taken from the album of Michele Learns to Rock (MLTR), which was used as the first media in teaching vocabulary. It was chosen by the writer because the beat of the music is a little bit slow, the words are commonly used, the pronunciation of the singer is clear and the theme is closely related to the students' experience as the teenager in social life.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide valuable information about teaching vocabulary for:

1. The students of both S1 and S2 who want to add their knowledge about teaching vocabulary and make further observation about teaching vocabulary.

2. English teachers on how to decide which media of teaching should be used when teaching vocabulary.
3. Local DEPDIKNAS which takes care of the education to give fund to provide many facilities for supporting the teaching learning processes in schools such as tape, cassettes, laboratory, CD, and so on.

