

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

One important element in English ability was vocabulary. Vocabulary was the basic competence that might be reached by students in order to get other skill competencies like reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It was difficult to master the other competences without mastering and understanding the vocabulary. Most of English teachers tried to build up the students' vocabulary using various teaching strategies in teaching. Vocabulary is the basic knowledge in English that must be learned first by learners. It helps the learner in learning English language well. Wilkins in Thornbury (2004:3) states that without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. It means that even someone has good grammar but it will be useless if they do not know many vocabularies.

In explaining vocabulary to students, there are several steps in the vocabulary mastery process. (Hatch & Brown, 1995) shows five steps in mastering vocabulary, namely encountering new words, getting the word form, obtaining the word meaning, combining word form and meaning in memory, and using the word.

The first step, students find new words. New words are definitely difficult words both in terms of spelling, meaning, and usage. To find out, students need to take the second step by paying attention to spelling and pronunciation. For English vocabulary, this second step is necessary because English spelling and

pronunciation are not always the same. The third step is taken to comprehend the meaning of the word. The fourth and fifth steps are taken to really master the new word, namely by combining form and meaning in memory, and using it in acts of communication.

Students usually find some difficulties to understand vocabulary when studying English. Those are students do not know the meaning of every word or sentence in the text or what it means, and do not know how to read it. Many students still have the wrong pronunciation, for example when they say the word “picture”. In addition, there are some students who had difficulty composing sentences. In composing sentences, many students wrote them wrong, for example there were no complements.

In teaching English vocabulary, there were many methods that could help the students to enrich and improve their vocabulary. The teacher had to choose an appropriate method in teaching vocabulary, because it is not easy to teach English especially vocabulary without using suitable methods. Teaching vocabulary is like teaching other social sciences, which needed suitable methods in order to get the successful learning. Teaching vocabulary has been presented in so many methods and should be taught in various ways so that students could be interested in learning vocabulary.

One of the methods to improve students' vocabulary is playing games. Ellis and Brewster (2002) stated that games are not only motivating and fun but can also provide excellent practice for improving pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and the four language skills. Playing games is considered very effective and teachers

indirectly add an element of fun and relaxation in vocabulary practice. The purpose of using game in teaching process is to make the material more interesting, enjoyable and challenging especially in introducing new vocabulary.

Kichura (2008) stated that Spelling Bee Game help students encourage their spelling words, as well as to learn how to compete with one another. When students feel encourage about their ability of spelling words, it means they will increase their vocabulary which will help in understanding the text, especially descriptive text. In short, Spelling Bee is one of the interesting games for teaching vocabulary. Spelling Bee helps students learn the pronunciation and know more vocabulary better than before.

Based on the researcher experiences, when she did Teaching Practice (PPL) at SMPN 10 Kupang the researcher found the problem in classroom. The researcher found that there were still many students who had some problems in learning English. One of the problem was the students lack of vocabulary because teachers just give list of vocabulary to students and ask them to memorize the vocabulary, which made the students did not interest and felt bored in learning process. This method did not give the students a chance to practice the vocabulary in the real life, so that why the students only remembered the vocabulary for a few days. The teacher needed an approach to practice their vocabulary and new method to make it could stay longer in students mind.

To improve students vocabulary mastery, teachers can use various kinds in learning. One of them is the Spelling Bee Game. While the usage of the media in learning Spelling Bee vocabulary, it could make students more fascinated and

prefer getting to know English. Spelling Bee is defined as a group of words that require players to spell words or letters. Rohmawati (2015) stated that spelling Bee can be used as an alternative activity in teaching vocabulary. In other words, Spelling Bee is an interesting game to use in the process of learning and teaching English specifically related to vocabulary. Spelling Bee games help students review vocabulary, spelling vocabulary and vocabulary meaning. So students make it possible to find or enrich vocabulary.

Related to the various explanations, the researcher was interested in carrying out the research entitled *“The Use of Spelling Bee Game to Improve Students’ Vocabulary Mastery at the Seventh Grade Students of SMPN 10 Kupang”*.

1.2 Research Problem

The problem of the research is “Does the use of spelling bee game can improve the students’ vocabulary mastery?”

1.3 Aims of Study.

Based on the statement above, the aim of research is to know the improvement of students vocabulary mastery using spelling bee game at the seventh grade of SMPN 10 Kupang.

1.4 Significance of Study

1.4.1 Implication

This study supports the theory of Rohmawati (2015) stated that "Spelling Bee can be used as an alternative activity in teaching vocabulary. In other words, Spelling Bee is an interesting game to use in the process of learning and teaching English specifically related to vocabulary.

1.4.2 Application

a. For teachers

The researcher hopes that this research can help English teacher to improve teaching learning process more interesting as well as become an alternative method in teaching vocabulary.

b. For students

The researcher hopes that the student can study English easier and also it can improve their interest in studying English by using this method.