CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides general explanations of what the researcher will discuss in this research. The introductory part contains several subheadings such as background of the study, research problem, objective study, significance of study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the study

Language is a communication tool. People can speak with other by using language. In Indonesia, English is the first foreign language. Even some of kindergarten schools give English lesson for their students. Introducing the foreign language to young learners is challenging; it is not like giving some toys for them, because they have different ways to learn something. They can learn by asking other people, listening to the people around them and their experiences. It needs some strategy to bring the foreign language to the students so they can absorb the language well. It needs the teacher's skill. The teacher must be able to create an interesting method and technique to get a good result.

Teaching English, for example in elementary school is necessary because in elementary school the students learn the basic of English. So it can help the students more ready to learn English in the next grade. In teaching English there are four basic skills, such as listening, reading, speaking and writing. And one of the important element in learning English is vocabulary. Vocabulary is like grammar which is essential component of all uses of language.

Vocabulary is extremely large and also varied. Nobody ever learn all of the words in any language, but they can enlarge the number of words they have. It is hard to master foreign language without mastering certain number of vocabulary. Without mastering the vocabulary, they students can get trouble in listening, reading, speaking and writing.

The elementary students still meet some difficulties to master vocabulary. There are many of basic vocabularies that must be remembered in every themes of lesson. This failure of teaching English especially vocabulary learning probably because of by many factors, such as the teaching technique, teaching media, the environments, etc.

Teaching English in SDN 5 Ngrayun lacks of students interest, so the students are bored and lose their attention. The teacher teaches vocabulary to the student through writing on the blackboard. Then the students say it aloud after the teacher and memorize it without using media. At first the student feels so interesting to the lesson, but next meeting they feel bored.

Considering the problems above, the teacher has to find the suitable technique and media to teach vocabulary and create the classroom activities more lively. The researcher wants to implement media flash card to help the students mastering vocabularies well. Based on Price in Novitasari (2012: 1), many developments in language teaching evolved from a growing awareness of the different media with which can we work. Individual teaching styles as well as party by media used for presentation of language, production of language, and monitoring of student output. The researcher thinks that there are many activities

can be applied by using flash card as teaching media. Because flash card is flexible and can present the abstract knowledge and concrete example object and process. So it can be used to facilitate mastering the vocabulary.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background stated above, the researcher formulates the research question as follows:

"How can the flash card improve the mastery of vocabulary at Fifth grade students of SDN 5 Ngrayun Ponorogo in the academic year of 2015-2016?"

1.3 Objective Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the purpose of the study is finding out how the implementation of flash card media can improve the mastery of vocabulary at Fifth grade students of SDN 5 Ngrayun Ponorogo in academic year of 2015-2016.

1.4 Significance of Study

Practically, the significances of this study are;

1. **For the students**

   - To give knowledge about English, especially vocabulary to the students.

   - To help the passive students to be more active.

   - To increase the student's learning motivation.

2. **For the teacher**

   - It can be used in teaching learning process, especially in vocabulary lesson.

- To stimulate and encourage teacher's colleagues in doing action research in improving their teaching as the professional practice.

- To stimulate the teachers to make English as a fun subject at school.

3. **For the researcher**

- To be more motivated to create an enjoyable and exciting teaching atmosphere and activity.

- It can be used as input in English teaching learning process, especially in teaching vocabulary.

3. **For the School**

- To know the next steps to take later to improve the school services.

- To be able to survive in the globalization era with exceptional feats.

1.5   Scope and Limitation of the Study

To simplify and make the problem obvious the researcher wants to limit the problems of the research as follows:

- English skill or element researched is focusing on vocabulary.

- In this study the writer tries to teach vocabulary using flash card media in Fifth grade students.

- Medium which is used in this research is a series of pictures.

1.6   Definition of the Key Terms

The writer defines the key term as follow:

Vocabulary is a core component of the language and provide much basis for measuring how well the students speaking, listening, reading, and

writing. Without extensive vocabulary and strategies to acquire new vocabulary, students are often not optimal in achieving their potential and make them reluctant to take advantage of learning opportunities around them like listening to the radio, listening to native speakers of the language in a different context, and reading or watching television (Richards & Renandya, 2002: 576).

According to Cross (1991: 119), flashcard is a simple picture on a piece of card or paper, which is probably the most widely used visual aids in language teaching. It means that flashcard is one of media which can help the teacher to teaching English easily.