

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Language is very important in our life. English as an international language takes an important role such as in politic, economy, social and also education. For Indonesian, English is the first foreign language that is taught in the school. It starts in elementary school until university and sometimes starts from kindergarten. Moreover, Indonesian government put it as a local content. Studying foreign language earlier is needed to the students for mastery on English. On the other hand, language is crucial to the Indonesian learner development.

Studying foreign language cannot be separated from new words. New words or vocabulary become one of the important things in learning foreign language. Burns and Broman in Anisa (2011) state the definition of vocabulary in general. They say that vocabulary may be defined as the stock of words used by a person, class, or profession. It means vocabulary is used by every people in every situation to make good sentence, build communication, understand the meaning of the text and so on. Mastering English especially on vocabularies or enriching vocabularies can help the students improve their English. Without having much vocabularies, the students cannot speak up and communicate well with their friends.

Nowadays, Indonesian government change the curriculum from KTSP to K'13. In K'13, students are demanded to be creative and more active.

The teacher is not the only source. The students can find the materials by themselves. They can find them from books, internet, etc. In the K'13 the students are supposed to get their own knowledge, while the teacher guides, facilitates and motivates them to get what they need. In fact, the students still depend on the explanation from the teacher. So, it needs an appropriate strategy to make the students more active.

Coady and Huckin in Alqahtani (2015) states that vocabulary is central of language and of critical importance to typical language learner. In fact, learning vocabulary on foreign language seems difficult for some students. The students get difficulties in memorizing new vocabularies. It also happens in Mts. Hasyim Asy'ari Bangsri. The students are too less in memorizing vocabulary. Even English is one of the national examination subjects, the students still get difficulty in memorizing new words. That situation made the students have difficulties to catch the materials. On the other hand, the students do not know the meaning of the vocabulary. So, the students do not have motivation and enthusiasm in learning English.

According to the students english score in the second semester, the students could not get the minimum score criteria (KKM) that was 65. The mean score in every class was 56.43, it was under the minimum score criteria. It means, there were some problems in the teaching learning process. The teacher should find out the problems faced by the students. One of them by repairing the teaching learning strategy.

learning strategy is an action plan or series of activities including the use of methods and utilization of various resources/ strength in learning (Aji &

Budiyono, 2018). It means learning strategy is some steps to achieve the goals in teaching learning process by using some method or media to make a friendly atmosphere. So that, the students will be interested on the lesson and the goals can be achieved easily. The best strategy is used to implement the material. So that, teaching learning process can run well. In this study, strategy is used in teaching English vocabulary mastery. It's more effective because some students didn't understand when they are taught by conventional method.

The four square is one of the strategies that is used to teach vocabulary, writing, and reading skills. In this strategy, the students are given a piece of paper with four square and there is a new vocabulary word in the center box, then the student may do activities in the four squares. The activities are: first, the students should give a definition of the new word in one box. Second, write some synonyms and antonyms of the word in another box, then the students have to use the word correctly in a sentence and write it in another box, and the final is draw an illustration that represents the word in the last box. Through the four square strategy, the students will be more active in developing vocabulary and remember their prior vocabulary, because they will find out some vocabularies as much as they can.

In the previous research, *The Effect of Using the Four Square Strategy to Enhance Students' Vocabulary Retention*, the objective was to get empirical evidence of the effect of using The Four Square Strategy on students' Vocabulary Retention at the 10th grade of SMAN 5 Kota Tangerang Selatan. The result showed that four square strategy gave strong effect on students'

vocabulary retention. It means that four square strategies are effective and applicable at the tenth of SMAN 5 Kota Tangerang Selatan. So, in this study, the researcher will implement four square strategies in teaching learning process.

Based on the background above and the result of previous study, the research of the Four Square Strategy on Student Vocabulary Mastery at Mts Hasyim Asy'ari Bangsri Jepara is defined as teaching English is very important, because we live in the 21st century, and absolutely we need to make relation with the others countries. So the teacher has to teach English as soon as possible. In this study, the writer will implement The Effect of the Four Square Strategy on Student Vocabulary Mastery for the eighth grade students of MTs Hasyim Asy'ari Bangsri Jepara.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the research question of this study is “What is the effect of the four square strategy on student’s vocabulary mastery for Eighth grade students of Mts Hasyim Asy'ari Bangsri?”

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, the objective of the study is to know the effect of the four square strategy on students’ vocabulary mastery.

1.4 Significant of the study

By doing this research, I hope that the result of this research are usefull for the following :

Theoretically the result of this research is expected to make improvement in teaching English, especially in student's vocabulary mastery. In other word, the result of this research can use as a basic for offering a model of teaching and learning process.

Practically, For Teacher, by doing this research, hopefully the teacher more creative in teaching English, especially at vocabulary. For Student, by doing this research, hopefully the students more interested in learning English. For Reader or other researcher, by doing this study, hopefully it can give the example of doing research.

