

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

English is an international language. There are so many people in the world who use this language to communicate with the other. People can communicate, express their idea, their thought, their feeling, and their emotions by using English. Because English is an international language, it is mastered by people as a second language in the world. Commonly, people will communicate with English when they meet people from another countries. That is why in our country students will learn English at school as one of subject that students must be mastered. English is taught in elementary school, junior high school and senior high school.

English is one of subjects that should be taught in MTs or Islamic junior high school. It is one of important subjects that will be taught in learning process at school. Teaching English in MTs will be useful in order to improve students' ability in English. It also can be basic ability for students for improving their English skill in the future such as senior high school or university.

In school for daily learning process, every school should use curriculum. The use of curriculum for each school is required by the government. Now, junior high school or Islamic junior high school

(MTs) does not use KTSP anymore. They should use new curriculum in learning process. It is 2013 Curriculum. Meanwhile, in MTs Al Muttaqin started to use 2013 Curriculum since 2017/2018. This year, 2018/2019 will be the second year of using 2013 Curriculum in MTs Al Muttaqin. Basically the use of new curriculum is to improve learning process better. No exception for English subject, the use of 2013 Curriculum is also to improve the students' achievement in learning English.

Speaking of which, there are four skills in English that people have to learn. They are speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Those four skills are basic skills in English. People have to master those skills if people want to communicate using English well. But, among those skills there is one important aspect that people have to know. It is vocabulary.

People need to know the English vocabulary first before they want to master those four English skills. Without vocabulary, it is impossible to master those skills. Cameron (2001:7) states that vocabulary is central to the learning of language at primary level to enrich learners' language. It means vocabulary is crucial component that is needed as basic in order to improve the ability in learning language.

In line with Cameron, Majaga et al (2013:2) state that vocabulary must be firstly mastered by the students who want to learn

English because having sufficient stock of words, they can communicate well. By knowing or having vocabulary, it can make the students can understand reading material such as text and what the speaker says as well as to convey ideas or thought in English easier. Additionally, having a lot of vocabulary also can make students easier in learning the other skills at English such as speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Vocabulary is a basic component in English. Although it is a basic component, vocabulary mastery is really important. Learning English without knowing vocabulary is impossible. In the researcher point of view, if language is a building, so the vocabulary is the brick. It means there won't be language if there is no vocabulary.

So, from some explanations about vocabulary above, the researcher can conclude that the role of vocabulary is really important in English. It is impossible to learn English without knowing the vocabulary first. Teacher's role in teaching English is also important. Haryanto & Mubarok (2018:23) state that being the one playing central managerial role in classroom, normally the teacher has the authority to direct the students' classroom activities. Therefore, teacher's decision in learning process is crucial.

In teaching English at MTs Al Muttaqin, the researcher finds out that the seventh grade students of MTs Al Muttaqin have less vocabularies. They have a problem in improving their English

vocabulary. They think because English is not their mother tongue, it is difficult to learn vocabulary. This problem makes them feel difficult in learning vocabulary.

The researcher will try to solve the problem by using crossword puzzle. Crossword puzzle is one of games that can be used as media in teaching English. According to Jaramillo et al (2012:213), using games in the classroom is an effective tool in the learning and teaching process. Using game can make the students enjoy the learning process. Additionally, the use of game in learning process can make the situation in class not boring.

So, in this research, the researcher will conduct a classroom action research through using crossword puzzle in order to solve the students' problem and improve the students' vocabulary for seventh grade students in MTs Al Muttaqin. The researcher will conduct a research entitled "Improving Students' Vocabulary by Using Crossword Puzzle (A Classroom Action Research at the Seventh Grade Students of MTs Al Muttaqin in the Academic Year of 2018/2019)".

## **1.2. Problem Identification**

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher knows that the students feel difficult to improve their vocabulary. So,

the researcher will try to solve this problem by conducting this classroom action research.

Generally, there are some problems that make students feel difficult in improving their vocabulary. Among them are:

- a. Students feel difficult in memorizing vocabulary
- b. Students do not know the meaning
- c. Students often forget the vocabulary
- d. Students feel lazy in improving vocabulary

### **1.3. Problem Statements**

1. What are the students' problem in learning vocabulary?
2. How is the implementation of crossword puzzle in improving students' vocabulary?
3. How can crossword puzzle improve students' achievement in vocabulary?

### **1.4. Research Objectives**

1. To find out the students' problem in improving vocabulary
2. To find out the implementation of crossword puzzle in improving students' vocabulary
3. To describe the capability of crossword puzzle in improving students' achievement in vocabulary

### 1.5. Significances of the Research

Hopefully by conducting this classroom action research, it will has beneficial for:

a. The students

This research will be used to improve the students' English vocabulary. This research also makes student know the various way of study about English vocabulary using crossword puzzle.

b. The teacher

This research will be used to help teacher to teach their students in improving their English vocabulary. This research also improve the teacher's knowledge about teaching technique using crossword puzzle.

c. The other researcher

This research will be useful for the other researcher if they find out the same problem. This research also can help the other researcher as a reference for his or her research.

### 1.6. Outline of the Report

This thesis is divided into five chapters. Each chapter is as follow:

Chapter I is Introduction. It presents background of the study, problem identification, problem statements, research objectives and significances of the research.

Chapter II is review of related literature. It presents previous study, review of related literature, and research framework.

Chapter III is method of investigation. It presents Subject of the research, time of the research, research design, method of data collection, method of data analysis, and timeline.

Chapter IV is finding and discussion. It presents the result of discussion.

Chapter V presents conclusion and suggestion.

