

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Vocabulary is one of the important things in learning English. According to Nation (2001), students need to learn large number of words since it is useful for them because learning vocabulary is not a short-term period. Moreover, Cameroon (2001) stated that the foundation of learning a foreign language is building up a useful vocabulary. Vocabulary is the most important thing that must be learned before others because language consists of words. It will be needed by students when they learn English skill like reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students who learn English must have sufficient vocabulary to make them able to learn English easily.

Vocabulary is collection of words that an individual knows. Teaching words is a crucial aspect in learning a language as languages are based on words (Thornbury, 2002: 15.) In other word, vocabulary is a language component that should be studied well in order to understand a language. In addition vocabulary cannot be separated from other language skills a robust vocabulary improves all areas of communication such as list, speaking, reading, writing the more word you know , the more you will learn.” Allah (the Almighty God) has given names of everything using vocabularies. As qur'an surah Al-Baqarah verse 31-32:

وَعَلَّمَ ءَادَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ
 هَٰؤُلَاءِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿٥١﴾ قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا
 إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٥٢﴾

This verse tells to mankind that Allah has given names of everything in the world. It means that “names of everything” or vocabulary is very important component that the students must master for learning a language. If their vocabulary mastery is good, they can understand what they read.

It could be concluded that in communicating and interacting with other, everybody should use language. In acquiring the language, it is started from learning something simple, like add to vocabulary repertoire become master language.

The first thing in a person mind about vocabulary is a group of words on a certain language. However, there are many definitions about vocabulary taken from some experts. According to Murcia (2001, p.285), vocabulary is central to language acquisition, where the language is first, second, or foreign. While, Hatch and Brown (1995, p.1) defined vocabulary as a list or a set of particular language or list of a set of words that individual speaker may use. In addition, Hornby (1995: 133) also defined vocabulary as a list of words complete with their meanings. It is core of a language. Based on those definitions, it can be concluded that vocabulary is a stock of words on a language complete with their meanings

which is used by individual or group of people, either in oral or written communication.

Mastering foreign languages becomes a necessity in the era of globalization. It is because language is an important instrument for communication with others or also can be called as a tool of communication. English is one of the most important languages to be mastered because it is a tool for communication in verbal and written form. English is a language which could help us in all life as a means of communication, trade, social, cultural, science, education, entertainment and technology. On learning English in the elementary school has been arranged grouping the material that has systematically for students. However the main obstacle is the lack of ability vocabulary. There are some components that must be mastered in English such as grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. For understandable and accepted as students learn English, the three components must be studied properly. Based on the preliminary study conducted at MTsN 4 Hulu Sungai Tengah, the researcher found out some problems related to the instructional activities in this school. Those problems were; (1) the students have low vocabulary skill; (2) the instructional of media used were less varied and often not using relevant media; (3) the learning process is still monotonous and less interesting; (4) the students were still less active; (5) the students' motivation were low; (6) the students got low score in English. Considering the problems faced, the researcher interested to do a research in applying spelling bee game in the learning and teaching activity. This study will be conducted to serve the purpose and aimed to explore the

use of spelling bee in improving the students' vocabulary mastery and to find out the factors that influence the change of students' vocabulary mastery.

Spelling Bee as a competition when a competitor who spells the word wrongly will be eliminated. Spelling Bee also called spelldown. Spelling Bee is not just about how to memorize and spell the letter of the word. It is considered a complicated thinking process.

Sebba (2011) defined Spelling Bee as a competition which requires the contestants to spell words (see Maybin and Swann, 2011). Actually, Spelling Bee have been part of American culture for a long time. The participant of Spelling Bee have to be children who have already been studying spelling, usually in elementary and middle school (Williams, 2008). After the Declaration of America's Independence, the first Spelling book was written by Noah Webster, published by American Press. The American Spelling Book by Noah Webster was being used as a spelling book in the modern sense and was the authority in the spelling bee. It was also so popular in rural areas. Spelling Bee was getting more popular after Webster's death in 1843 (Monaghan & Barry, 1999).

McPherson (1987) stated one of the advantages of Spelling Bee is this game once was used as an activity or contest to motivate the students, and it was perceived as an opportunity for good spellers to display the ability of memorizing words with correct spelling. Good time management to do the homework, learn for school, and read another interesting book. A competitive

game like Spelling Bee also has some disadvantages. Rahayu (2009) found some problems when implementing Spelling Bee in classroom. The first one is time allocation. Learning new words by using spelling Bee in classroom spend a lot of time more than study it directly from the textbook. The second is level of difficulty of the words also influenced students' motivation. Students assumed that the longer length of the words were the more difficult words.

Kichura (2008) stated that Spelling Bee 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.

Spelling Bee game can be used as an alternative activity in teaching vocabulary. Besides, it is a good alternative game to practice students' spelling skill. Sebba (2011) defined Spelling Bee as a competition which requires the contestant to spell words (see Maybin and Swann, 2011). Students will get some advantages from this game. One of the advantages of Spelling Bee game is helping students to memorize the correct spelling words (McPherson, 1984).

One kind of game is Spelling Bee Game. According to Uranga (in Rahayu, 2009) there are some advantages in using Spelling Bee, it can improve students' spelling skill, vocabulary skill, comprehension in the text given and it also can be used by students to practice their concentration and their ability in memorizing.

Spelling Bee game is one of the funny game to teach English vocabulary. In this game children or students not only memorize a word, letter by letter but also students to brave speak in front of public. Moreover students not only develop their vocabulary but also they are able to practice either in speaking or understanding of meaning of words. According to the National Spelling Bee, the purpose of Spelling Bee is to help students to improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.

However, there were still few studies investigating Spelling Bee as an alternative activity in classroom. Recent publications, which are based on paper published in English Department, Indonesia University of Education (see Rahayu, 2009; Ningsih, 2013) mainly concerned the use of Spelling Bee in teaching vocabulary to Elementary School students and eighth grade Junior High School students. Therefore this study focused on the effectiveness of Spelling Bee in teaching vocabulary and the students' perceptions toward Spelling Bee game.

There are some previous studies that have similar with the thesis, for example the thesis the written by Mardiana (2013) entitled *The Effectiveness of Spelling Bee Game to Students in learning Vocabulary at SDN Kebun Bunga 6 Banjarmasin*, and written by Ningsih (2013) Entitled "The use of spelling bee game to improve students' "vocabulary mastery". This study was pre experiment design. The subjects of this research were 31 students of the 8th grade. The data were in the form of quantitative data. The data of this study were obtained through

pre-test, post-test and questioner. The result of this research shows that there is significant difference between the vocabulary mastery of 8th graders of junior school before and after being taught by using Spelling Bee Game. The similarity is she and researcher chooses spelling bee strategies as the object of research and sure what the researcher want to know about spelling bee game strategies which is used by the teacher in the classroom. But, the difference is she want to observe the effectiveness of spelling bee game to students in learning vocabulary, but the resercher research is focus on Students' vocabulary mastery through spelling bee game.

So, the research needs to observe to get to know about models. For this reason, the research is interested to conduct a research entitle: **STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY THROUGH SPELLING BEE GAME AT SEVENTH GRADE OF MTSN 4 HULU SUNGAI TENGAH.**

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the title, the problem of this study can be formulated as follow:

1. How is students' vocabulary mastery in control class of the seventh grade of MTsN 4 Hulu Sungai Tengah?
2. How is students' vocabulary mastery in experiment class of seventh grade of MTsN 4 Hulu Sungai Tengah?
3. Is there any different on students' vocabulary mastery before using spelling bee game and after using it?

C. Objective of Study

The objectives of this research are to find out:

1. To find out the students' vocabulary mastery in control class of seventh grade of MTsN 4 Hulu Sungai Tengah.
2. To find out the students' vocabulary mastery in experiment class of seventh grade of MTsN 4 Hulu Sungai Tengah.
3. To find out whether there is difference between the students who are taught by using spelling bee game in learning vocabulary mastery better than the students who are taught spelling bee game of seventh graders at MTSN 4 Hulu Sungai Tengah.

D. Hypothesis

The research hypothesis that will be used in this research concerned to the influence of using spelling bee game on students' vocabulary mastery. There are two kinds of hypothesis, they are:

1. Null Hypothesis (H_0)

The null hypothesis stated that there is no an influence of using spelling bee game on students' vocabulary mastery. It can be seen from the difference between controlled class and experimental class. If there is no significant difference between the population means, the null hypothesis is accepted.

2. The Alternative Hypothesis (H_a)

The alternative hypothesis stated that there is an influence of using spelling bee game on students' vocabulary mastery. It can be seen from the

difference between controlled class and experimental class. If there is a significant difference between population means, the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

E. Significance of Study

The result or findings of this study are expected to give contribution to the English teacher and the other research.

1. For teachers, it enhances teachers knowledge related to the implementing “spelling bee” game to improve vocabulary mastery of seventh graders’ spelling ability.
2. For students, the result of this research is expected to help the students improve their vocabulary mastery in using spelling bee game.
3. For other research the result of this research is hoped to use as one preference for the further research.

F. Definition of Key Term

This research is to find out implementing “spelling bee” game to improve vocabulary mastery of seventh graders’ spelling ability. To avoid misunderstanding of definition of key terms, the researcher describes several terms as follows:

1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a list of words and terms, sometimes accompanied by definitions or translations. Vocabulary is all about words, the words in a language or a special set of words you are trying to learn. The mastery only focuses on the students’ ability to pronounce, to write, and to know the meaning or the word and to use the words in sentences.

2. Spelling bee

Spelling bee is a game for learning English focusing on vocabulary items where the player will listen the word from teacher and then student spelling the word. Sebba (2011) defined Spelling Bee as a competition which requires the contestants to spell words (see Maybin and Swann, 2011). Spelling Bee was a competition in which the winner was the person or group who was able to spell a given word correctly and were eliminated as they failed to spell a word correctly. Kichura (2008) stated that Spelling Bee 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.

3. Games

Games had been developed especially for use in teaching learning situation. Games were considered to help and encourage the students to make and sustain the effort because they would be given a lot of opportunity to practice the language more freely.

According Becker (2017:1) says that game is one of those words that's hard to define precisely in spite of the fact that everyone seems to be able to recognize a game when they see one, and virtually every human on the

planet has played games at some point in their lives. Games also help the teacher to create contexts in which the language is useful and meaningful.