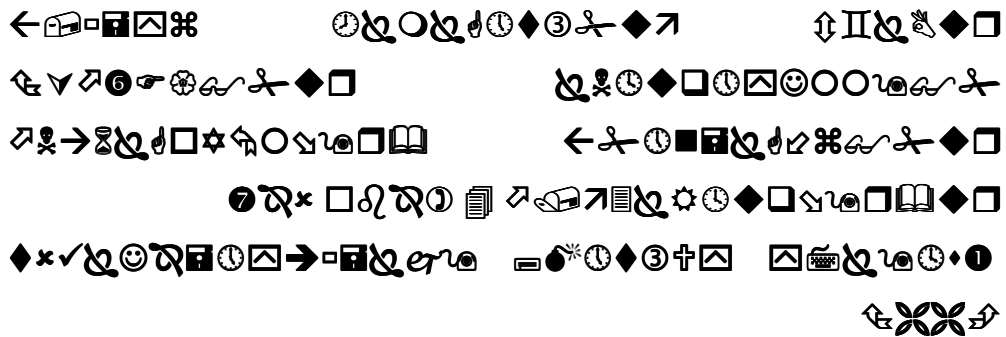


CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is one of the media or device used to communicate with others. Language is the most important aspect in the life of all beings. Human uses language to express inner thoughts and emotions, make sense of complex and abstract thought, to learn to communicate with others, to fulfill our wants and needs, as well as to establish rules and maintain our culture. Language can be defined as verbal, physical, biologically innate, and a basic form of communication.

The language is also specific characteristic a region or country. Each region or nation has the hallmark of a different language. God in Holy Qur'an surah Ar-Rum verse 22 has also granted to our capability in communicating to each other as follows:



Language ability closely related to Surah Ar-Rum verse 22. The verse surah Ar-Rum that the language is one of the signs of Allah. By studying the languages that exist in this world, other than beneficial to

preserve the language less and less as extinct, Language serves as a symbol of national pride that use it, as a means of communication between residents, between regions, and between cultures. So language is very important to human life in the world.

Communication in foreign language is a bridge to get information, knowledge and culture. Without communication, we will be left behind. Lucantoni in his book said that “English is one of the languages used for communication in the world and it is the most popular” (Lucantoni, 2006:3). Indonesia as a developing country has realized that English as an International language is needed to be mastered by Indonesian people.

English in Indonesia is known the first foreign languages with a very limited usage including the place, time, and environment (Margono, 2010:1). This foreign language is important to be taught with the aims to improve the ability to absorb information and to transfer knowledge and technology, arts, cultures and to develop the relation among nations in the world.

English is one of the international language used in countries throughout the world, including Indonesia. As the foreign language, English is taught as a compulsory subject from the elementary school up to senior school in today’s Indonesian educational system.

In Indonesia, several elementary schools already taught English. As a foreign language, young learners at elementary school in learning English certainly get some difficulty. So, the teacher has knowing how is

young learners' characteristics to facilitate in learning foreign language. Teaching English as a foreign language (EFL) to young learners requires that teachers have a thorough understanding of young learners' development, needs, and characteristics (Mufidah, 2003: 35).

In learning English as a foreign language, we have to begin learning from the base on language, that is word or usually said that vocabulary. Why vocabulary? Teacher of young learners, as adult as well, may often be faced with the fact that curriculum requires students to achieve certain points. Teaching and learning language is more than an on-going process, which never stops but always goes on when the language skills are not practiced. The demands of the curriculum in expecting the students to be able to use different structures in a great deal of functions should not be part of the concerns, particularly when children are still struggling with understanding vocabulary, either concrete or abstract noun (Cameron, 2003: 72).

Vocabulary is one of the language components besides pronunciation and grammar. Students cannot say or write anything in English without knowing English vocabulary. Vocabulary is an important language aspect that should be mastered by the students in learning English regardless the students' levels or grades. Decarrico states that vocabulary learning is central to language acquisition, whether the language is first, second, or foreign language (as cited in Celce-Murcia, 2001). Moreover, Wilkins states that having the appropriate vocabulary,

some forms of interchange of language are possible, but without the vocabulary it is impossible (Wilkins, 1980). Marzano (in Kamil and Hiebert, 2005: 2) states that vocabulary holds a special place among these components. Vocabulary is not a developmental skill or one that can be seen as fully mastered. The expansion and elaboration of vocabularies is something that extends across a lifetime. Vocabulary is the first and foremost important step in language acquisition, in a classroom where students are not finding themselves comfortable with L2, language learning can be made interactive and interesting with the introduction of appropriate vocabulary exercise.

There are many elementary schools in Banjar Regency. SDN Handil Purai 1 is one of the elementary schools in Banjar Regency which is located Handil Purai village, Beruntung Baru subdistrict. In SDN 1 Handil Purai was a long passage of English learning, but just recently a few of this year's English learning in the conduct of the first class. From the observation that researcher has ever done, their ability in the English language, especially in vocabulary could indeed be said to be fair. But some of them are still a little weak in the English vocabulary. Therefore, researcher intends to initiate an investigation or tests to find out how their abilities in the English vocabulary.

In SDN Handil Purai 1 has number of pupils of the fifth grade it could be said balanced between male and female. There is theory state that gender has influence in learning language, in the journal entitled "The

Effect Of Gender On Language Learning” said most recently, evidence has shown that while both boys and girls have improved their performances, girls achieved higher marks than boys in EFL learning. Gender has been regarded as an important effective factor that plays a specific role and influences second language acquisition. From the biological viewpoint, females and males also differ fundamentally in terms of cognitive ability and learning style. These differences are derived both from basic physiological differences, such as differences in the development of brain, and from differences in higher-level cortical functions (Keefe, 1982). No matter what gender differences are primarily culturally or biologically determined, educational research in the last several decades has proven that the gender differences manifestly influence students’ academic interests, needs, and achievements (Halpern, 1986; Collins, Kenway and McLeod, 2000; Swiatek & Lupkowski-Shoplik, 2000). So, researcher would also like to know the different ability and significant difference between male and female in the English vocabulary of the fifth grade at SDN Handil Purai 1.

Based on the above, the writer intends to conduct and investigate a research entitled **“MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS’ ABILITY IN ENGLISH VOCABULARY OF THE FIFTH GRADE AT SDN HANDIL PURAI 1 ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-2015”**.

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the background above, the problem can be formulated as follows:

1. How is the male and female students' ability in English vocabulary of the fifth grade at SDN Handil Purai 1 academic year 2014-2015?
2. Is there any significant difference between the male and female students' ability in English vocabulary of the fifth grade at SDN Handil Purai 1 academic year 2014-2015?

C. Reason for Choosing the Title

1. English is foreign language the most popular language in the world that has become the main communication device in the field of science and technology. So we must need to learn English.
2. Vocabulary is the important aspect in learning English, and now English has been taught in elementary school.
3. Some theory state that gender has different ability in learning language.

D. Purpose of the Research

Based on the reason above, the purposes of the research are:

1. To know the male and female students' ability in English vocabulary of the fifth grade at SDN Handil Purai 1 academic year 2014-2015.

2. To know significant difference between male and female students' ability in English vocabulary of the fifth grade at SDN Handil Purai 1 academic year 2014-2015.

E. Limitation of the Study

1. This study was conducted with fifth grades of SDN Handil Purai 1 academic year 2014/2015.
2. The focus of the research was to know the different ability and significant difference between male and female in English vocabulary.

F. Significance of the Research

The result of this research is expected to have benefits, such as :

1. Enriching the researcher's knowledge and experience in this specific research.
2. Giving information about the fifth grade students' different ability and significant difference between male and female in English vocabulary.
3. Providing information and consideration for future researchers.

G. Definition of Key Terms

1. Male and female students of the fifth grade are person who is studying in the fifth grade at elementary school at SDN Handil Purai 1.
2. Ability is the quality of being able to do something.
3. English vocabulary is the body of words used in a particular language or all of the words known and used by a person in English language.

H. Hypothesis

The writer presumes that there is different ability between male and female in English vocabulary of the fifth grade students at SDN Handil Purai 1. The quantitative research approach using to prediction about the problem is known by hypothesis. Hypothesis purposes to predict the problem of the research. It must be tested to know the answer. In this research, the writer uses:

1. Alternative Hypothesis

There is significant difference between male and female students' ability in English vocabulary of the fifth grade at SDN Handil Purai 1 academic year 2014-2015.

2. Zero Hypothesis

There is no significant difference between male and female students' ability in English vocabulary of the fifth grade at SDN Handil Purai 1 academic year 2014-2015.

I. Organization of Writing

The research consists of five chapters. They are arranged systematically as follow:

Chapter I is introduction that includes background of study, statement of problem, reason for choosing the title, purpose of the research, limitation of the study, significance of the research, definition of the key term and organization of writing.

Chapter II is theoretical review on related field, which consists of vocabulary, characteristics of young learners, and learning vocabulary in different gender.

Chapter III is research method that includes Research Design, Research Setting, Population and Sample, Data and Sources of Data, Technique of Data Collecting, Design of Measurement, Techniques of Data Processing and Data Analysis, and Research Procedure.

Chapter IV is the report of the research which consists of finding and discussion.

Chapter V is the closure which consists of conclusion and suggestion.