

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some important parts of the research, they are: background of study, research question, objectives of study, significance of study, and definition of key term.

#### A. Background of Study

Vocabulary is a list of words which has meaning, knowing and understanding the meaning of the words. As we know, vocabulary is the basic building blocks of language especially word because it is as a bridge to master all of skills in English such as speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Vocabulary can make the learners easier to speak and to write confidently to convey their ideas. The learners can chain these words together to construct meaning for communication. Thus, vocabulary should be mastered by the student (Bahar, 2013, p. 12).

Vocabulary is a very important thing for language learners. Moreover, God has also given us the ability and potential to know the name or function of an object in Surah Al-Baqarah verses 31 of the Holy Qur'an.

وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ هَؤُلَاءِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ

صَادِقِينَ

Vocabulary closely has told in this verse. Humans are blessed with the ability to know the names, functions, and features of items, according to Surah Al-Baqarah verse 31. In this verse, Allah almighty demonstrates a blessing that He has bestowed on the prophet Adam that He has never bestowed on any of His creations, namely wisdom and the power of mind that enables him to learn things deeply. And it was passed on to his successors, namely mankind, by this descendant. As a result, humanity (the prophet Adam and his descendants) are more qualified to be Khalifah than angels.

Nowadays, based on curriculum that are KTSP and K13, the students are expected to master those four skills in order to be able to use English communicatively. The students are expected to be able to understand and comprehend the meaning of the words. The aim of KTSP (*Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan*) either K13 (*Kurikulum 13*) will not be successfully achieved if the language teaching does not consider the language components such as grammatical structure, vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation.

In fact, there are still number of students who cannot master the vocabulary. There are many teachers conducting their learning in the class by using conventional method, for instance lecturing, which makes the students to be passive. The teacher only focuses on how to teach the lesson until the end of the learning process, the teacher does not think about the good way to teach their students. At the same time, the students automatically just stuck on the teacher's explanation, the students only pay attention to the teacher until the end of the lesson. As the result of this way, there are number of students who were getting bored, so

the students cannot deliver their ideas (Vebriani, 2019).

Allah the Almighty said in Al-Qurán Surah Al-Mujadallah verse 11 which reads:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَافْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ  
انشُرُوا فَانْشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ

The verse above explains that everybody needs to be enthusiastic to learn, prepare opportunities to attend knowledge discussions, prepare all resources to improve the knowledge, and always increase faith and piety. In this case, students need to improve their knowledge especially vocabularies so that it will help them easier to study about English. Moreover, from the verse, Allah stated that He will raise those who were given knowledge, by degrees.

There are many problems faced by the teacher in teaching English subject in the class at the first semester of eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Daha Utara, Hulu Sungai Selatan. The first, the teacher is worried about students speaking because the students are lack of vocabulary to make sentences. The second, many students do not know to translate the words because they do not know about strange words in paragraph. The last, the students are bored with conventional method.

Based on preliminary research which was done on 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 at the eighth grade of SMPN 1 Daha Utara, Hulu Sungai Selatan, the researcher found that, the students were hard to memorize the word with conventional method, they need other method to learn about vocabulary, so they will be easy to remember the

reading or material without difficulties to memorize. Besides that, fun classroom makes the students happier with their feeling. Moreover, the teacher of eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Daha Utara, Hulu Sungai Selatan used new method to teach students English language especially in supporting students' learning vocabulary. The teacher used scrabble as a tool for students' learning vocabulary.

Several related studies have been undertaken to investigate scrabble in improving students' vocabulary. Firstly, the study under the title "Improving Students Vocabulary Achievement by Using Scrabble Game at Tenth Grade Students of Madrasah Aliyah Tahfizhil Quran Yayasan Islamic Center Sumatera Utara" conducted by Jaidah Sitompul. The result of the research showed that the students vocabulary mastery was improved through the implementation of Scrabble Game (Sitompul, 2019). The second study is conducted by Hartina (2019). The research aims to find out whether or not scrabble game can improve student's vocabulary at the seventh grade of SMPN 5 Palopo. The result of the study showed that there was a significant difference between pre-test and post-test in teaching students' vocabulary by using scrabble game. The next study conducted by Hapsari (2017). The research aimed to know the student's vocabulary mastery before being taught by using scrabble game, to know the student's vocabulary mastery after being taught by using scrabble game, and to know if there are any effect of using scrabble game to the student's vocabulary mastery. Thus, from the result of the study, it can be concluded that there is significant effect of scrabble to the students' vocabulary mastery at SMPN 1 Semen in the Academic year 2016/2017.

Based on the importance of students' learning vocabulary and some

previous studies mentioned before, the researcher is very interested to conduct the study about the use of scrabble as a tool for supporting students' learning vocabulary.

### **B. Research Questions**

1. How does the teacher use scrabble as a tool for supporting students' learning vocabulary?
2. What are students' responses toward scrabble as a tool for supporting students' learning vocabulary?

### **C. Objectives of Study**

1. To describe how the teacher use scrabble as a tool for supporting students' learning vocabulary.
2. To describe students' responses toward scrabble as a tool for supporting students' learning vocabulary.

### **D. Significance of Study**

The significance of the study can be theoretically and practically, such as:

1. Theoretically
  - a. The results of the study can be used as input in understanding how scrabble is used as a tool for students' learning vocabulary.
  - b. The results of the study can be used as input in understanding student's response toward scrabble as a tool for students' learning vocabulary.
  - c. The results of the study can be used as the reference for those who want to conduct a research about scrabble or vocabulary.

## 2. Practically

- a. For the teachers of SMPN 1 Daha Utara Hulu Sungai Selatan, the results of this study are expected to give an input to the teachers in implementing and exploring other strategies to support student's vocabulary. This research is also expected for the teacher to teach vocabulary with fun game using the method.
- b. For the students, the results of this study are expected to give an input to the students in participating every learning in the class maximally so that their vocabulary will be improved well.
- c. For readers and next researcher, the result of this study is expected to make them interested in observing scrabble as a tool for supporting students' learning vocabulary from other point of view. It is also expected to give meaningful information and motivation for the next researcher to create another research about method in teaching vocabulary.

## E. Definition of Key Terms

### 1. Scrabble

Scrabble is an alphabetical board game and game played by 2 or 4 people who set the score according to the scores of words composed of letters in the board game. The board game forms a square/crossword game (Christopher, 2009).

### 2. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is big family of words to understand by person in their environment. Henry & Pongratz (2007, p.56) stated that vocabulary is all

the words used or understood by a person. Moreover, vocabulary that is meant in this research is words in English language that relate to the material of English language in the class.