

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Rationale

Islam is a religion that is really concern to order its followers to be diligent in the study. Study is an obligation for human being in the world, from born until died. Nobody without study he or she can be diligent exactly. Of course everybody have to study from cradle until niche in Muslim grave. There are many verses in the Holy Qur'an and Hadits which say about study and how important it is to study. Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him, after he was married with Siti Khadijah, he got vision from Allah through Angle Gabriel when he meditated in cave of Hira. Allah the Al-mighty says in surat 'Alaq verses 1-5:

إِقْرَأْ بِسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (١) خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ (٢) إِقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ  
الْأَكْرَمُ (٣) الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ (٤) عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ (٥)

..... (العلق: ١ - ٥)

Education is one of government programs. Its goal is to make clever Indonesian people. If a man has a science, knowledge, and skill, he will get

place and prestige than others whom do not have, as it is said in the Holy Qur'an in Surat Al-Mujadalah verse 11 as follow:

يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ.

(المجادلة: ١١)

Furthermore, learning for long life is an obligation for Muslims, as the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him said:

عَنْ أَبِي أُمَامَةَ الْبَاهِلِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ: يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ

خُذُوا مِنَ الْعِلْمِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُقْبَضَ الْعِلْمُ وَقَبْلَ أَنْ يَرْفَعَ الْعِلْمُ (الحديث)

For success in studying, someone must have a key that is a language. He or she can study anything or any times, in his country but if he or she wants to study from another country, he or she must be able to understand the languages. It is excess already being given by God on human, with caught on people until they can add knowledge that they have, in every times anywhere, in realizing or not. But, God has other creation such as blind, deaf, and mute that they can not learn or study like complete human being.

The objective of teaching English in Indonesia is stated in the curriculum, it states that the objective of the teaching English at junior and senior high school to make the students able to use the language for communication orally and in written form. The communication competence

involves listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.<sup>1</sup> To master the four skills, the students must have the knowledge of language component such as English grammar and vocabulary.

Learning vocabulary is a very important part of learning a language, the more words, learner knows, the more he will be able to understand what he hears, reads, and also the better result when he speaks and writes.

Vocabulary is one of the elements of language besides structure, pronunciation, and spelling. The elements of language are important because they will support the four language skills they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Vocabulary is important to enrich students' skills, because it will encourage reading and listening comprehension. Having a lot of vocabulary makes students able to comprehend the reading and listening. Otherwise, having limited vocabulary, students will be difficult to understand the language.

Based on basic curriculum of competition at Junior High School, a student has to master minimum 500 words which are suitable with their education level.<sup>2</sup> In this English curriculum with the competence at level of junior high school student has to master 1000 words. At senior high school (SMA), student has to master 2500 words. In *the book of English Vocabulary*, it is said:

Once a student has to master the fundamental grammatical pattern of language, his next task to master its vocabulary or at least that part of its

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<sup>1</sup> Depdiknas, *Competency-Based Curriculum*, (Jakarta: Depdiknas, 2004), p. 14

<sup>2</sup> Pusat Kurikulum Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, *Kurikulum Berbasis Kompetensi*, (Jakarta: Tut Wuri Handayani, 2001), p. 10

vocabulary that he need. No body ever learns all the words in any language. We know and use the word that suit or has particular purposed and we continue to learn new words as long as we live.<sup>3</sup>

Mastering vocabulary becomes a problem for students of Private Islamic Junior High School, especially at the third class. The reason is the student level of thinking is different and master vocabulary it self is very difficult. Sometimes there are students, who can memorize many words, but others can not, while for learning vocabulary it is needed many words and strong memorization.

From the explanation above, it is known that vocabulary is important thing to master English. At school, an English teacher has urgent role in improving students' vocabulary. To improve it, the teacher must have knowledge and ability in teaching English vocabulary. Also, an English teacher has to know the important instruction in teaching vocabulary, such us strategies and techniques in teaching English vocabulary. By using various techniques, they can make their students interested in learning vocabulary. The students will enjoy and will not feel bored.

According to the writer's first observation of the ninth grade of Private Islamic Junior High School (MTs) Kebun Bunga Banjarmasin in English subject, the writer found the fact that the ninth grade students of Private Islamic Junior High School (MTs) Kebun Bunga Banjarmasin often get confused and have many mistakes when using vocabulary in the sentence, especially for synonym. For instance; "*it was once of the best holidays I ever*

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<sup>3</sup> Ronald H, Sitorus, *English Vocabulary*, (Bandung: Pionir Jaya, 1993), p. 1

*had*". More students changed the word "*holidays*" with "*weekend*", but the correct answer is "*vacations*". This occurs, they do not understand the meaning of the words and they do not master vocabulary. To explain the problem proposed above, the researcher intends to know how far students master vocabulary by analyzing students' mastery in synonym of English vocabulary.

Private Islamic Junior High School (MTs) Kebun Bunga is one of educational institution managed by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and it is a qualified Junior High School in East Banjarmasin, a district in Banjarmasin City. Instructional program at Private Islamic Junior High School Kebun Bunga is divided into common instructional program held at the school; they are *Social Science Program and Nature Science Program*.

Therefore, based on the rationale, the writer is interrupted in conducting a research on the title:

***The Students' Mastery in Synonym of English Vocabulary at The Ninth Grade of Private Islamic Junior High School (MTs) Kebun Bunga Banjarmasin in Academic Year 2010/2011.***

To avoid many misinterpretation towards the title of this research the writer feel necessary to explain some terms in the title as follows:

1. Mastery is the power to dominate or defeat; great skillfulness and knowledge of some subject or activity, also can be meant as the act of mastering or subordinating someone.<sup>4</sup> The great knowledge about or

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/mastery> (Saturday, 10 April 2010)

understanding of a particular thing.<sup>5</sup> The particular thing that means in this study is about students' ability to distinguish in synonym of English vocabulary. In this thesis, mastery means "ability".

2. Synonym is different word with identical or very similar meaning.<sup>6</sup>
3. The ninth grade of Private Islamic Junior High School is the students who learn at the ninth grade at MTs. Kebun Bunga Banjarmasin have been registered officially in academic year 2010/2011.
4. Vocabulary is the total number of words in a language, all the words known to a person or used in a particular book, subject, etc., also a list of words with their meanings, especially one that accompanies a textbook in a foreign language.<sup>7</sup>

## **B. Problem Limitation**

Based on the title of research above, the writer proposes the following problems. Actually, in applying all of skills in English, it is needed the correct words. But in this case, the writer gives limitation in writing case.

- 1) How is the students' mastery in synonym of English vocabulary at the ninth grade of Private Islamic Junior High School (MTs) Kebun Bunga Banjarmasin in academic year 2010/2011?

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<sup>5</sup>A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, Sixth Edition*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), p. 788

<sup>6</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synonym> (Monday, 26 August 2010)

<sup>7</sup> A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 1331

- 2) What factors influence the students' mastery in synonym of English vocabulary at the ninth grade of Private Islamic Junior High School (MTs) Kebun Bunga Banjarmasin in academic year 2010/2011?

### **C. Reason for Choosing the Title**

The writer chooses the title above on the basis of some reasons below, they are:

1. Realizing that synonym is an important aspect in teaching-learning English which does not learn only about how to use good words but also how to use words in a good written form.
2. Considering that synonym; especially here the English vocabulary is one of important aspects that has to be mastered by students in order the students to be easy to communicate in English.
3. By knowing the synonym in English, the students will be able to use the correct word of the vocabulary because this is a way for the students to know the similar meanings of other words.
4. To make the students can differentiate about word forms in their writings.

### **D. Purpose of Research**

Based on the problems above, there are two purposes the writer has, they are:

1. To describe the students' mastery in synonym of English vocabulary in choosing and matching the correct words at the ninth grade of Private Islamic Junior High School (MTs) Kebun Bunga Banjarmasin in academic year 2010/2011.

2. To know the factors those influence the students' mastery in synonym of English vocabulary at the ninth grade of Private Islamic Junior High School (MTs) Kebun Bunga Banjarmasin in academic year 2010/2011.

#### **E. Significance of Research**

The result that are going to be achieved through this research:

1. It is expected the result of the research will be useful for the English teacher of Private Islamic Junior High School (MTs) Kebun Bunga Banjarmasin especially for the researcher alone as a student teacher.
2. It is expected to be able to improve their achievement in English especially in synonym of English vocabulary.
3. As information gained from the result of the research that can be reference in improving English teaching-learning process especially to help students to write well in writing.

#### **F. Organization of Contents**

This research is divided into five chapters as follows:

- Chapter I : Introduction consists of rationale, problem limitation, reason for choosing the title, purpose of research, significance of research and organization of the contents.
- Chapter II : Theoretical review on related field consists of definition of mastery and vocabulary, some types of English vocabulary, some parts of English vocabulary, the importance of mastering English vocabulary, students' characteristics of the junior high



school, some techniques, and the influenced factors in mastering vocabulary.

Chapter III : Method of research consists of subject and object of research, data, source of data, techniques of data collecting, basic framework of research, techniques of data processing and data analysis, measurement design and research procedures.

Chapter IV : Report on research result consists of general description about the location of this research, data presentation and data analysis.

Chapter V : Conclusion and suggestion.