

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Learning English is becoming important thing for people to be more competitive in all aspect of life such as education, technology, social, and culture. As an international language, English has gained its popularity all over the world including Indonesia. The Indonesia government has unacknowledged the importance of English by putting is into the education. English becomes in one of compulsory subject at many schools in Indonesia. The National Education Department decided the Indonesia students must have the competence of understanding and expressing information, ideas, feeling, and developing science, technology, and culture in English (Fauziati, 2010, p. 169).

Language is not only the principle medium that human beings use to communicate with each other but also it is as the tool that links people together and binds them it their culture. To understand our humanity, all of the human being in this world should understand the language that makes them human. The study of language is a very challenging, therefore the study of language have to be done by all human being. As Allah says in the Qur'an, Surah Ar-Rum verse 22:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَالْوَاكُفَاتِ فِي
ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِلْعَالَمِينَ ٢٢

The above verse asserts that studying the diversity of languages are necessary as a form of worship to Allah's creation. Besides, it also tells that studying languages is only for educated people.

In today's modernization, humans rely heavily on technology. This makes the technology a fundamental necessity for everyone. The importance of technology has already explained by Allah in the Holy Qur'an Surah An-Naml verse 28 – 30, which is the story of Prophet Sulaiman and Queen Balqis:

إِذْ هَبْ بَكِيتِي هَذَا فَالْقَهَّ إِلَيْهِمْ ثُمَّ تَوَلَّ عَنْهُمْ فَانْظُرْ مَاذَا يَرْجِعُونَ ٢٨
قَالَتْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُوْا إِنِّي أَتَىٰ إِلَيَّ كَرِيمٌ ٢٩
إِنَّهُ مِنْ سُلَيْمَانَ وَإِنَّهُ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ٣٠

In this verse explain from story of the prophet Sulaiman and Queen Balqis above, prophet Sulaiman used Hud-Hud as media to deliver a letter to Queen Balqis. Hud-Hud was the use of technology at that time since it helped the process of communication became more efficient and effective. Therefore, English teacher challenged to teach the student very important be encouraged to develop technology in teaching listening process.

In the process of education, communication is done using media communications such as telephone, computer, Internet, e-mail, and others. One of the efforts to improve education is by the management of computer technology in education and learning. Computer is one of the most important components in the learning process. Because with a complete and quality education, the quality of learning will be better, and the motivation to learn students will increase. It will result in improved quality of education. Computer is a versatile device that accepts input, data processing, data storage, and generates Output, all according to a series of instructions stored (Hamacher, Vranesic, & Zaky, 2001).

A computer is an automatic electronic device that can carefully handle data as directed, calculate results, and run multimedia systems (movies, music, television, faxes, etc.). These systems typically include entering units, production units, storage units, and control units.

From the understanding of experts above can be concluded that the computer is a system consisting of 3 aspects namely hardware, software, and brainware. Computer is an electronic tool that can operate in counting, processing data, storing data, and sending data and can operate other multimedia systems.

Using CALL as media in education really give a positive impact on developing students language skill, especially vocabulary, which requires special approaches and methods in teaching using technology.

For more than six decades, English language teaching has emphasized the "four skills" (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as being of utmost significance, Brown, 2001, p. 232). The students must have the four language skills. The four language skills have to be mastered by the students. Vocabulary mastery has an important role in life, especially in communication. With adequate vocabulary mastery, one will be able to speak well and smoothly, both productive and receptive ability such as reading. It is natural, given that four language skills require knowledge of words because they will not get anything without a vocabulary. The more students master the vocabulary then the better their English mastery. By having a limited vocabulary, students will find difficulties in mastering reading skills and more. With good vocabulary mastery means students have the ability to understand and use vocabulary. The mastery of the vocabulary itself relates to words and meanings.

Using a computer device called a CALL, computers have helped teachers and students in the teaching and learning process nowadays (Computer Assisted Language Learning). The CALL is a teaching that has the potential in language learning because through multimedia, concepts can be presented more clearly in the learning process to make it easier for students to understand (Brown A. , 1994).

Researchers themselves have observed the problems experienced by vocational high school graduates in Teluk Kepayang directly when they are

asked to talk in English. Vocational high school graduates are not very much able to communicate in English orally or in writing. This problem is due to lack of vocabulary mastery and the poor learning process of English because it does not have English teachers who remain in school.

In the process of learning the English language, the most dominant components are the performance of English teachers, the personality of English teachers, the facilities that support English language learning, and the attitude of students to English language learning. They all support each other to achieve the ultimate in English learning objectives. The full English learning process is expected to produce vocational high school graduates who can converse in English orally and in writing. The most underlying thing is the limited vocabulary, therefore to overcome these problems teachers should be able to provide methods that can provide a sense of comfort, happy and not boring one of them is to use Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL). Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting further investigation about this topic with the title “Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) as tool for vocabulary learning at SMKS Teluk Kepayang”.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the problem of this study is formula as follows:

1. How does teacher use Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) as tool in teaching vocabulary?
2. How are the students' perceptions about Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) as tool in teaching vocabulary?

C. Objectives of Study

1. To describe how the teacher uses Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) as tool in teaching vocabulary.
2. To identify the perception of student about Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) as tool in teaching vocabulary.

D. Significance of Study

Theoretically, the results of the current study are expected to add more knowledge, insight, and evidence related to the development of theory of CALL in English teaching and learning. Practically, this research is to help the teacher to improve teacher skill in teaching English vocabulary. The researcher hopes that the result of this research is expected to have contribution of English teaching. For the students, researcher hopes that the result of this research will help the students to learning vocabulary with enjoying way.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Computer assisted learning activities or better known as Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) is a generic term for all learning activities using computers, both in part and in total.
2. Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) in this research is an approach in language teaching and learning activities where computer technology is used as a media to display, provide material and tools to measure the material being studied.
3. Vocabulary competence is a person ability to understand and identify terms that can prevent or slow the mastery of the subject.