

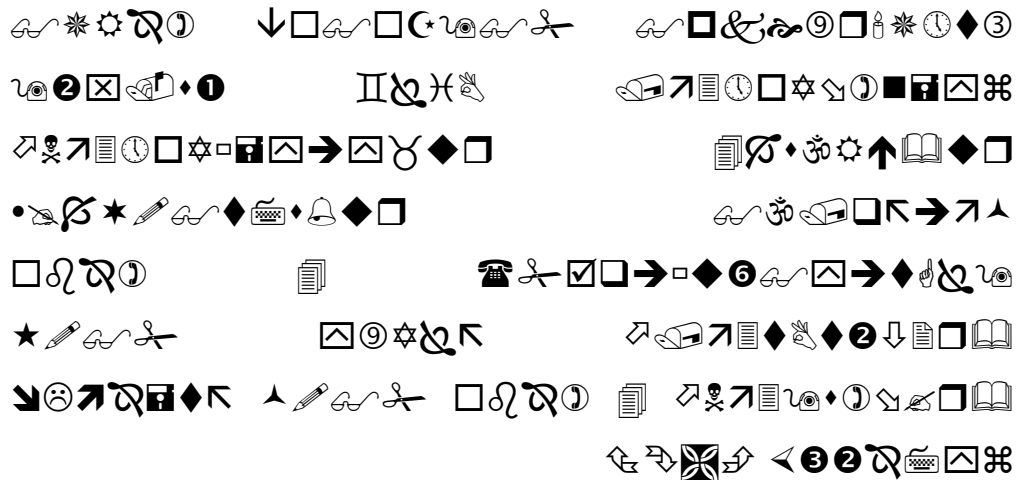
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is a systematic tool of communication by the use of sounds or conventional symbols in written language. So, the language is a media to express in an idea, thought opinion, wish and feeling. It is the code that we all use it to express ourselves and communicate to others.

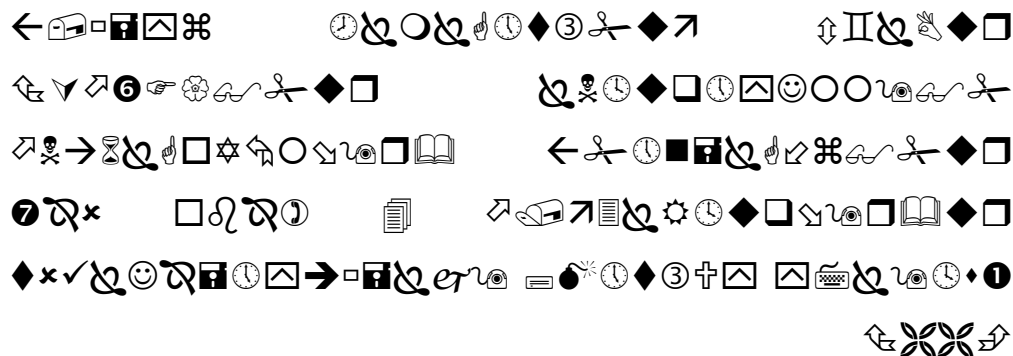
Because of globalization, people demand to have more than one language. Language is a tool of communication certainly, there are many kinds of nations and tribes in the world, which need a communication tool to know one another. As Allah said in holy Qur'an Al-Hujarat verse 13 as follows:



From the verse above; it means that God has created human from a man and a woman and from different nations and tribes so that we need to know each other, everyone must use the language for communication every day.

English is an international language which is used for communication all over the world. It is used in many fields of life such as in education, tourisms, politics, technology, and laws business etc. English also has a very crucial position and become more popular since it is as foreign language in Indonesia, it has been studied thought from elementary school to university.

God in Holy Qur'an Ar-Rum verse 22 has also granted to our capability in communicating to each other as follows:



The verse states that God has created the universe and also various language and skin colors, showing that He has the capability to create. As the obvious evidence for those who understand.

Communication in foreign language is a bridge to get information, knowledge and culture. Without communication, we will be left behind. Lucantoni (2006, p.3) in

his book said that “English is one of the languages used for communication in the world and it is the most popular”. Indonesia as a developing country has realized that English as an International language is needed to be mastered by Indonesian people.

Teaching English means teach four skills, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The four skills should be taught consolidated. The language components like structure, vocabulary, pronunciation and spelling are taught to support the mastery of four language skill.

McCarthy (2010, p.1) stated that “Vocabulary is all about words. When we use language we use words all the time, thousands of them. If we know a language well, we know how to write its words and how to say its words.”

Mujahid (2011) states “vocabulary is the first priority, as one of basic component that plays an important rule among the four language skills.” It means that the vocabulary is the basic skill of learning English. In short, by having too limited vocabulary the student find difficulty to master English skill.

Vocabulary is one of the essential aspects of language. Knowing appropriate vocabulary is very important to understand language. It is important to master vocabulary to express ideas precisely and forceful. Success and failure in learning English as a foreign language may be evaluated by the progress of students in language acquisition and cultural understanding and in the development of a positive

attitude toward language learning. However, the most important factors depends on the basic procedure being used by the teacher

Vocabulary can be presented, explained, included in all kinds of activities, but it must be learned by the individual. The vocabulary we understand and the vocabulary we can use varies in nature and in quantity from one person to another even in our native language. As language teachers, we must arouse interest in words and a certain excitement in personal development in this area (that is, motivation to learn ways of expressing meanings that are important to the individual student, even if not to others in the group).

Teaching vocabulary can be done through some ways or some techniques. One of them is by using word maps in teaching activities. In this case, students allow finding similar words, which has relationship to the main word. They can work in-group or individually. They learn to share knowledge and information about targeted content, and willingly do this. Because it naturally following part of the class activity.

Teacher needs an alternative way to help the students' learned vocabulary easily. It needs the availability of media; since there are many kinds of media that can be used in teaching English. Variation of media in teaching is needed to avoid boredom and help the students when facing the difficulty in vocabulary acquisition. One of the variations that can be used is word map.

According to Novak (1998) stated that, “a word map is a visual organizer that promotes vocabulary development. Using a graphic organizer, students think about terms or concepts in several ways. Most word map organizers engage students in developing a definition, synonyms, antonyms, and a picture for a given vocabulary word or concept.”

By using the word maps technique in teaching, indirectly, teacher can improves students’ knowledge of English vocabulary. At least it will raise students’ self-confidence for expressing themselves openly. Students can share their knowledge and experience from others, including respectful listening and appropriate sharing of personal perspectives. Students also reported that their understanding of concepts were expressed and considered, at least we hope students not only can develop their vocabulary but also they are able to practice either in speaking or understanding of meaning of words.

The writer interested in this technique and wants to prove that the teaching vocabulary will be easier. Because of the writer have ever done PPL II in SMPN 16 Banjarmasin, So, The writer have known enough about condition of the field such us the students’ competences in English especially vocabulary competence. It relates to the subject of the study, the eighth grade of SMPN16 Banjarmasin in academic year 2012/2013. This study entitled **“The use of word maps technique in improving vocabulary at eighth grade student of SMPN 16 Banjarmasin.”**

B. Statements of Problem

Based on the reasons of the study above, the statements of the problem as follows:

1. How is the use of word maps technique at teaching vocabulary at eighth grade student of SMPN 16 Banjarmasin?
2. How is the students' response to the use of word maps technique at eighth grade student of SMPN 16 Banjarmasin?

C. Objectives of Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. Through this research the writer wants to know how the teacher teaches and describes the process of using word maps in teaching vocabulary at eighth grade student of SMPN 16 Banjarmasin.
2. The writer also wants to know the students' responses at eighth grade of SMPN 16 Banjarmasin academic year 2012/2013 to the use of word maps technique in learning vocabulary.

D. Significances of Study

From the result of this study, the writer expects it can be useful to:

1. Develop a feedback of significance input in teaching learning English especially for English teacher at SMPN 16 Banjarmasin.
2. Be consideration and input for educational executors in increasing and improving educational quality.
3. Enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in the scientific research mainly about teaching vocabulary.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid any misinterpretation toward the title adopted in this research, the writer will explain some terms based on Oxford Learner's pocket Dictionary (2008) in the title as follow:

1. The use means, the word from "Use". It means "do something with" and also mean; purpose for which something is used; act of using something. So, meaning of "the use" in this research is "the use of word maps technique in improving vocabulary."
2. Word maps include two of words, it is compounded of "word" and "maps". Word has several definitions; they are written or spoken unit of

language, thing that you say; remark or statement; piece of information or news, etc. And “maps” is the plural form of map, definition of map is “drawing or plan of (part of) the earth surface, showing countries, town, rivers, etc.

3. Technique is way of doing something, especially one that needs special skills.
4. Improving. The word from “improve” means become or make something better.
5. Vocabulary is all the words that a person knows or uses; all the words in a language.

Based on the term above the writer concludes that the use means way in which something can be used. Something that can be used is word maps, and word map means a technique that can be used for teaching vocabulary. Improve means after using word maps can make students mastery better than before, and vocabulary is the material that can be taught by word maps.