

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

As a foreign language in Indonesia, English is seriously learned by many people to have a good prospect to be the community of international world. Because of its importance, English is taught widely at formal schools starting from elementary school up to the universities. Students are provided with opportunities to learn English. This will help them to study some scientific books, which are written in English, or to get information from television, internet, etc.

Considering the needs of mastering English, it is very important to start learning it as early as possible. Nowadays, parents who have realized the importance of English want their children start learning English earlier. They send their young children of pre-school age (3 – 7 years old) to much English oriented Pre-school or to the Kindergarten.

One of the elements of language that cannot be separated from learning English is vocabulary. It is hard to master the four language skills without mastering or understanding a number of words, because it is fundamental in language learning. Teaching vocabulary earlier is better than teaching later. Moreover, the general objective of English teaching in elementary school is to prepare children to have competitive value in global era and to introduce English at early ages.

Vocabulary is one of the elements of the language that should be learnt and taught. It will be important to master language without mastering or understanding to certain numbers of vocabularies. There are some experts that give explanation about the importance of the vocabulary. Nunan (1998: 117) argues that the acquisition of an adequate vocabulary is an essential or successful second language used because without an extensive vocabulary, students can not use, the students may have learned for comprehensible communication. According to Fauziati (2002:155) ,vocabulary is the center of language learner cannot communicate effectively without a sufficient vocabulary. If they have a limited vocabulary, they will find big problem in language learning.

Despite importance, the teaching of vocabulary is not easy. In elementary school, vocabulary is the first aspect to learn English, because without knowing a lot of vocabulary in English, the children will get difficulty in mastering language skill. Vocabulary should be on the first priority in the English language teaching and learning. Without the sufficient vocabulary, students will get difficulty in doing the examination, so they get poor score. In fact, many students of elementary school still have limited vocabulary in learning English. Teacher often finds many problems in teaching vocabulary to young learner. The problems are first, young learner get difficulties to memorize the meaning, focusing the study and the pronunciation of English words. Second, they are also not interested in studying English because they feel bored with the teacher technique.

Based on the explanation above, the problems faced in teaching vocabulary of SD Negeri Gabus 3 Sragen is students have difficulties in learning English, children are not interested with conventional method, they feel bored with the teacher technique, and they are little bit slowly in understanding material.

The factors of these problems are, teacher has only an hour to teach each class. Students are still boring when learning vocabulary because limited technique and media. And they felt learning vocabulary is uninteresting material so they are very noisy, and teacher got difficulty to handle the class.

From the explanation above, the writer would use hand puppet as a teaching technique that will facilitate the student in getting better vocabulary. The writer wants to make elementary school student interested in studying vocabulary using hand puppet. It can bring much joy and give the student opportunities to remember the words. The students have to pay attention to the material, so they will not get bored, and understanding the sentences easily. By using puppet as media it has purpose that student easy to understand and memorize the material.

Based on the explanation mentioned previously, the writer is interested in doing a research about ***“IMPROVING STUDENT’S VOCABULARY BY PLAYING PUPPET a THtE THIRD YEAR OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GABUS 3 SRAGEN IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010”***.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the problem as follows:

1. Can teaching using puppet improve student's vocabulary in SDN Gabus 3 Sragen?
2. How is the implementation of hand puppet in teaching English Vocabulary to the SD N Gabus 3 Sragen?

C. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer limits the study to make the research easier. The writer focuses on the implementation of hand puppet by the teacher on teaching English at third year of SD N of Gabus 3 Sragen in learning English. Here the writer focuses on the vocabulary teaching and learning implemented in SD N Gabus 3 Sragen.

D. Objective of the Study

In general, this study is intended to improve vocabulary specifically it is to:

1. Know whether the puppet can improve the students vocabulary or not?
2. Describe the teaching learning process in the classroom, especially how the implementation of the using hand puppet to teach English vocabulary to the elementary students.

E. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical benefit

- a. This research will help the reader's who wants to carry out a research about the way to teach third grade through puppet.
- b. The study can use this research to references for the next research.
- c. The result will give information to the future or prospect the teacher in way of improving the students' vocabulary ability through puppet.

2. Practical benefit

- a. The research will give the way to solve the problem in teaching English. The writer hopes that the result of the research will be useful for the teacher, especially those who teach English in school for children through puppet and the readers, to know about teaching using puppet, so they will understand how to teach English for third grade students effectively.
- b. By doing this research, the writer will get a better understanding about the way of improving the student's vocabulary ability through puppet.
- c. This research will help the teacher in improving the student's vocabulary ability through puppet.

F. Research Paper Organization

The writer organizes this research paper in order to make easier to understand. The writer divides this research paper into five chapters, there are:

Chapter I is introduction that consists of background of the study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, hypothesis of action, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is review of related literature that presents previous study, the notion of vocabulary, theoretical review, general concept of vocabulary and teaching vocabulary, characteristic of young learner, teaching technique suitable for children, notion of puppet, kind of puppet and teaching vocabulary through puppet.

Chapter III is research method that consists of type of research, subject of the study, object of the study, the data and data source, method of collecting data, technique for analyzing data, action procedure.

Chapter IV is related to the data analysis that consists of research finding, teaching using puppet can improve the students' vocabulary and the result of teaching vocabulary using puppet.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.