CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Language Laboratory is one of products forms used for language learning becomes easier, especially English. This can be done because it has a language lab electronic device that is designed to be able to help the learning process becomes easier. Language labs have a device that has many functions that can help teaching and learning process. So that the intended use of the language laboratory can improve foreign language skills can be achieved significantly. To this language laboratory styled to fit the needs and development of student learning.

Various types of language laboratories in circulation including language laboratory manual, analog language lab, a computer language lab, language lab console dual, dual master the language laboratory, multimedia language labs, etc.. Types which are circulating today are analog language lab or language lab manual. Whatever the term used functions can be ensured that the language lab may have to improve foreign language skills to communicate with students primarily in English.

Communicating is to understand and express information, thoughts, feelings, develop science, technology, and culture. Ability to communicate in the sense of an intact is the ability of discourse, namely the ability to understand and / or produce spoken text and / or write that is realized in the
four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. The fourth skill is used to respond or create a discourse in public life. Therefore, the English subjects are directed to develop these skills so that graduates are able to communicate and discourse in the English language at a certain level of literacy.

Based on the data of the researcher, it shows that not all schools have a language laboratory. This result shows that not all students are able to speak English very well after they completed the process of learning in junior high school. In SMP Semesta, it is likely to have language laboratories for students in junior high school, so that they are able to speak English well. They have the attraction to English so that all of the students when they are invited to communicate with the English they are able to communicate well, while students from other schools can not communicate properly when they are invited to communicate with their English, because not all the students are interested in using the English language. This happens because the environment does not support the students to speak English. While in junior high school teachers must teach some of the Universe using the English language, besides English teacher for Mathematics and Science subjects must also use the language of instruction in English. English teachers in SMP Semesta always train his students to speak English so that eventually they can communicate in English.

Why are students at SMP Semesta able to speak English well? According to information from SMP Semesta principal in class VII for
students who come from several regions in Indonesia are not all able to speak English. This is because the curriculum in primary schools vary, there has got English lessons and some have not, so many students are not fully able to receive lessons in English language introduction.

Not all students can communicate in English well, then to overcome it for class VII students are given lessons in English as much as 40 hours per week for approximately 3-4 months. Additionally in certain periods of the Universe also held junior English speech contest, with participants almost all students. So English is not a scary lesson but just the opposite to be an interesting language. No wonder if there were some students in SMP Semesta Semarang who became the winner of the International Science Olympiad competitions. English lessons conducted so that students are able to receive lessons from several teachers who can not speak Indonesian as a teacher of Mathematics and Science that some of them come from Turkey. Apart from English there are also several other foreign languages are taught to students. Because of frequent communication with the English language, students in SMP Semesta Semarang are able to speak English fluently.

Based on the description above background research, the authors are very interested in studying more about the management of English lab in SMP Semesta Semarang.
B. Focus of Research

The focus of this research is the characteristics of the English laboratory management reflected in *SMP Semesta Semarang*. The focus is detailed as three sub focus:

1. What are the characteristics of room management applied in English laboratory of *SMP Semesta Semarang*?
2. What are characteristics of the materials applied in *SMP Semesta Semarang*?
3. What are the benefits of English laboratory in *SMP Semesta Semarang*?

C. Objective of Research

In accordance with focus research, the research objectives:

1. Describe the characteristics of room management applied in English laboratory of *SMP Semesta Semarang*.
2. Describe characteristics of the materials applied in English lab in *SMP Semesta Semarang*.
3. Describe the benefits of English Laboratory in *SMP Semesta Semarang*.

D. Benefit of Research

The results of this research will be beneficial to various parties, both theoretically and practically.
1. **Theoretical Benefit**

   Theoretical benefits in this study to investigate the characteristics of room management applied in English laboratory, characteristics of materials applied in English laboratory needed and the benefits of English lab in *SMP Semesta Semarang*.

2. **Practical benefit**

   a. **For English teacher in *SMP Semesta Semarang***.

   1) To investigate the characteristics of room management applied in English laboratory is good so it can improve students' skills.

   2) Helping teachers to determine the characteristics of materials what are needed in the English lab.

   3) Helping teachers to use English laboratories to the maximum.

   b. **For *SMP Semesta Semarang***

   To determine the characteristics of room management applied is a good setting of English lab, lab materials required and the benefits of English language lab.

   c. **For Researcher**

   To gain knowledge about the good characteristics of room management, needed to know the materials laboratory and the benefits of English laboratory in *SMP Semesta Semarang*. 
E. Glossary

1. Language laboratory

Language laboratory is a space that contains the hardware and software that serves as a place for students to practice language skills.

2. Software

Some of the software used to build multimedia communication prototype computer-based language laboratory.

3. Hardware and Network

Computer specifications required in this system prototype that on each PC must have a facility that will be used to support communication. Supporting facility that must exist are: 1) soundcard, 2) microfon, 3) speakers, and 4) webcam.

4. Instructor console equipment

Instructor console equipment is a device called a repeater learning machine language.

5. Repeater learning machine language

Repeater learning machine language is a tool that serves to repeat the audio visual about the subject matter being taught by the teacher.