

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Television is an effective medium for telling ideas, forming attitudes, and focusing people's attention. Many spectators, conscious or not, behave like what they watch on television. Step by step, the spectators will absorb it and it will, in turn, influence their ways of thinking and form their attitudes. The society will have same opinion and the same attitude if they watch the same programs from television. The influence of television cannot be prevented because television can reach any remote area and handle geographical boundaries. It influences any level of age without regarding to neither socio-economic background nor education.

As a product of information technology, television develops rapidly. Its existence as a mass medium to reach any remote area is well accepted as beneficial. It can gather a huge number of spectators. Its existence, at this time, is absolutely irresistible. It brings about many impacts, good or bad ones. One of the good impacts can be felt in the field of education, especially in language teaching and learning.

This present study is an effort to look further into one of the television impacts. It will be focused on the impact of television in the field of language teaching and learning.

Television is widespread in usage in this period of technology. Almost every family in this country has it and utilizes it. The utilization of television is

varied from one form of entertainment medium to another form of information medium. People are likely to be in ease when they watch it and they will follow the programs being transmitted for hours.

Television provides the spectators with the window to a wide world. It enables one to get pictures about what happens in the world. It facilitates its spectators with individual learning about people, place, and situations that they never personally meet, visit, or experience. This particular fact makes television irresistible and interesting. Therefore, the people, especially young generation, are not able to resist the temptation to watch and enjoy it.

However, the existence of television is disputable. There are many agreements and disagreement about it. But this study will not focus on the controversy of the opinions about the television. This study focuses only on the positive stance that is the way television brings a good effect, especially, in the field of language learning.

Recently, the linguists pay more attention to the process of acquisition and the development of a language in early childhood and it has been a tendency in the field of language learning (Brown, 1987: 15). It happens at large situation because of the overdue recognition that language is a major medium of learning that children are skilled in using. This fact gives a clue to all kinds of learning, for the strategies used in language learning can be implemented. Moreover, the strategies can be utilized also in the process of second language learning.

Second language acquisition is a process in which, for the sake of the effectiveness of the process, needs to be conditioned to a real situation. Based on

this, many language-teaching theorists have the assumption that television has a good effect on second language learners, especially on the learners of English as a second language. It happens because television often facilitates them with real situations of English uses.

Based on the discussion above, the writer intends to know more about it. The writers' intention is to know further about the contribution of television to students' vocabulary acquisition.

## **B. Previous Study**

Wahyu Arini (1998: 60) has researched the study of vocabulary acquisition. The title is *A Study of the Effectiveness of Communication Language Games toward Vocabulary Mastery*. This research proves that Communication Language Games have a positive and significant contribution to the vocabulary mastery. Games as a media of learning English by the learner, in fact, can form the students' opinion and prejudice about English as a foreign language. The prejudice motivates the students to learn more about English and in turn the students will have a better achievement. In this research the writer is interested in studying the same topic but in different source, with the title *Intensity of Watching English Movies on Television and Its Relation to Vocabulary Acquisition*.

### **C. Problem of the Study**

In this study, the writer would like to find the answer of the following questions:

1. How high is the students' intensity in watching English movies on television?
2. How high is the level of students' vocabulary acquisition?
3. What is the contribution of the intensity of watching English movies on television to the vocabulary acquisition of the students?

### **D. Objective of the Study**

In conjunction to the problems of the study above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the level of the students' intensity in watching English movies on television.
2. To find out the level of the students' vocabulary acquisition.
3. To find out the contribution of the intensity of watching English movies on television to the students' vocabulary acquisition.

### **E. Limitation of the Study**

Television is a medium, which is valuable to the teaching and learning process in education. It can be found anywhere easily in one's surrounding. Television has many favorite programs. Television movies have great emotional impacts that come from their ability to dramatize events that make them suitable for instruction. It happens, particularly, in the instruction of social sciences and

humanities, including language teaching instruction. This present study looks further at the impact of television on language learning.

The writer takes it as a variable of her study because English movies on television have great impacts on the society, especially in this case on the student. They spend much more time watching television than studying their school material. As a result, then, the students learn more from movies on television than from school material they learn. Therefore, this study will consist of two variables, namely, English movies on television and students' vocabulary acquisition.

#### **F. Benefit of the Study**

There are some expected benefits to be achieved from this present study. Basically, it can be divided into two categories, namely, the benefit for practice and that for theory.

##### **1. Practical Benefit**

- a) Practically, the result of this study could provide feedback information for the students of the English Department who have the same interest in this subject of the study.
- b) The teacher and the students and anyone else who are involved in the learning of English as a second language could use the results of the study of a source for their instruction in the teaching-learning process.

## 2. Theoretical Benefit

- a) The result of this study could be a reference of consideration for the broadcasting station and any department involved, in transmitting television programs, especially in transmitting movie programs.
- b) The result of this study can be used as a reference for anyone else who has the same interest in the same field.
- c) The result of this study could be used as an input by those who are concerned with language learning and acquisition.