

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents: background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, operational definition, significance of the research, and scope of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

English is an international language. It is used by many people to communicate with other people from different country that have the different language either in oral or written. English as foreign language should be studied by students in the school.

In studying English the student should master the four skills, those are reading, listening, speaking, and writing. The four skills are supported by the learning of language elements. They are structure, vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling. Therefore, vocabulary is one of important language elements that should be developed by the students. Swan and Walter (2002:14) say that in Thornbury's book "Vocabulary acquisition is the largest most important task facing the language learner." As an element linking the four language skills in English foreign language, vocabulary includes collection of words. The words are known not only as individual words, but also as a group of words that have meaning. To communicate well in a foreign language, students should acquire in use of words and know how to use them correctly.

In reality, teaching English to secondary level is not easy. The English teacher at SMPN Tugusari Bangsalsari Jember informed that there are many

problems occur during the process since English is a new language for them. From the information above, it means that the eight grade students may recognize a word in written or spoken form and think that they already know the word, but they may not be able to use that word properly in different contexts or pronounce it correctly. To increase the students' vocabulary mastery, the teacher should create various teaching techniques. Mart (2013:103) states that "The grammar translation method was help students read and understand foreign language literature. It was efficient way of learning vocabulary and grammatical structure. Through focusing on the rules of the grammar of the target language students would make language learning easier."

Based on the explanation above, grammar translation method would be chosen to increase students' vocabulary mastery. Mart (2013:103) state that "The grammar translation method has been considered useful for students in second language acquisition in that it encircles one's vocabulary, increases the number of figures of speech one can use, develops the ability of interpretation, and through the imitation of the best writers it make us able to produce similarly good texts, because translation forces us to notice such details as would escape the attention of a simple reader" it means that the students will be know how to translate good. When the students translate the sentences or paragraphs, they will meet of words which help them to find out new vocabularies. It is supported by statement from Setiyadi (2006:34) says that "The grammar translation method (GTM) focuses on translating grammatical forms, memorizing vocabulary, learning rules, and studying conjunctions." Even though the method may be considered more as technique rather a method, to follow Antony's terms, in the sense that the method

is not an overall plan of language teaching, the method also has principles regarding to language teaching.” Therefore grammar translation method will help develop vocabulary mastery because this method has many advantages for teacher and students.

Based on the explanation above, this classroom action research was conducted. It is entitled “Improving the vocabulary mastery of eight grade students of SMPN Tugusari Bangsalsari by using grammar translation method in academic years of 2014 – 2015.”

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background above, the problem of this research is as follows: “How can grammar translation methods to improve students’ vocabulary of eighth grade at SMPN Tugusari Bangsalsari in the 2013 - 2014 academic years?”

1.3 Objective of the Research

In this study the researcher wants to investigate whether grammar translation method can improve students’ vocabulary mastery of eighth grade students at SMPN Tugusari Bangsalsari Jember in the 2013 – 2014 academic years.

1.4 Operational Definition

In this research, there are two terms in defined operationally. They are: grammar translation method and vocabulary mastery.

1.4.1 Vocabulary Mastery

In this research, vocabulary mastery means collection of words which students get from in teaching vocabulary by using grammar translation method and the capacity to recognize or memorize words including writing and meaning of word in life situation.

In this research, the vocabulary score test in covers the material of noun, adjective, verb, and adverb of the eighth students at SMPN Tugusari Bnagsalsari.

1.4.2 Grammar Translation Method

This research, the meaning of grammar translation method is translating some materials from any subject. It is technique in learning process. The students view and review of unknown words in specific context and learn some word's meaning. The researcher gives the materials for the eighth grade students at SMPN Tugusari Bangsalsari to translate, the students find out the new vocabulary, and understand the content of the through dictionary.

1.5 The Significance of the Research

Every research must have its own significance for the reason why it is conducted. This research result is expected to be beneficial theoretically and practically.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Vocabulary is important thing in English learning. Theoretically, this research is expected to be useful for the reader, especially English teacher in teaching vocabulary by using grammar translation method. Hopefully, the method of this research can help the teacher to improve teaching and learning process.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

Practically, the result of this research can be input the teacher and the students to use or implement a grammar translation method on vocabulary mastery in teaching and learning process in the class.

1.6 Scope of the Research

This research focuses on the improving vocabulary mastery of eight grade students' at SMPN Tugusari Bangsalsari by using grammar translation method in academic years 2013 – 2014.