CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of the Research

In this modern era, English is very popular in human life because we know that every person learns English to support his/her life such as in business, school, office, daily conversation etc. Our country (Indonesia) is in Asian Economic Society era where many foreigners come to Indonesia having many purposes in working, investing or building some companies to take the advantage from this country. This condition forces us as the Indonesian to be able to master the international language that is English to compete with them.

One of the problems that are commonly found in learning English is vocabulary mastery. Meyer (2006, p, 5) "Students must use a word between six and fourteen times before they are capable of using it independently". Students need to learn vocabulary repeatedly in order to master it. By mastering vocabulary student will be easy to share and convey their opinion or statement. On the other side, students will be able to receive or deliver their knowledge, information and

instruction.According to Wilkins in Thornbury"without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed" (2002, p.13). This shows us that vocabulary is an essential part to be learn in order students are able to learn English from the basic content to develop other parts of learning English. Therefore, vocabulary is being one of the main concern for teachers in school to be mastered by students. For senior high school students are expected to master vocabulary well because this will help them to increase their four skills in learning English. Vocabulary is also being the important part of learning English as the basic content to develop students' capability in any aspect of learning English. This problem comes up from that statement.

The researcher had teaching experience as a tutor of the after school program for about almost two years in SMAS Baitul Arqom Jember. During the time, the researcher could observe and teach students. From that experience the researcher concludes that many students from all grades of the class were having difficulties in learning English. The researcher asked them about their difficulties in learning English, and then most of the student answered vocabulary is a big problem in learning English. The biggest problem of students' vocabulary mastery are not knowing the meaning, how to say, how to write and position of word in making sentence. The preliminary study is done for getting the information of the school. Based on the interview with the teacher, most of students are really difficult to learn English because they do not have good understanding in mastering vocabulary. This problem also can be seen from their low score of English subject in the class. The minimum standard of the score is 68, and it is categorize the highest score in this school.There are 19 students have score under

68 and only 6 students get score at least 68 and more. During the preliminary study, the researcher did pretest to know if the students have problem in vocabulary mastery, then the result of the test shows that most of students still get score under the minimum standard of the score. This means students are having lack of vocabulary that can effect students in mastering English. They will be difficult to develop their skill. From student statement and teacher description, the researcher thinks that this problem can be solved with mastering vocabulary.

Because of those problems above, so teachers should use the effective strategy. Discussion starter web is expected to increase students' vocabulary mastery. Based on Preszler (2006, p.7) discussion starter web is one of the effective strategy to improve students' vocabulary mastery which gives student opportunity to use their background knowledge of vocabulary terms and concepts. This strategy is useful to stimulate students in learning vocabulary using a unit, topic or theme. If students reveal their basic vocabulary, so it can be continued to the next word. If students' understanding of vocabulary is depth, so teacher can choose the topic and go on again to other topic. If the students are really difficult to reveal the vocabulary means that students have lack of vocabulary, so teacher should build students vocabulary before giving instruction. This is the reason why the researcher chooses the title of the research "*improving students' vocabulary mastery through discussion starter web*".

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background above, the researcher found some problems in students learning English:

1. How can discussion starter web improve students' vocabulary mastery of the eleventh grade students at SMAS Baitul Arqom in 2018 – 2019academic years?

2. How can discussion starter web improve students' participations of the eleventh grade students at SMAS Baitul Arqom in 2018 – 2019academic years?

1.3 Objective of the Research.

Based on the question above the researcher aims to know:

1. To know how the implementation of Discussion starter web can improve of the eleventh grade students' vocabulary mastery at SMAS Baitul Arqom in 2018 – 2019academic years.

2. To know how the implementation of Discussion starter web can improve students' participations of the eleventh grade students at SMAS Baitul Arqam in 2018 – 2019 academic years.

1.4 Operational Definition of the Research

It is important to define the terms that is used in the title to avoid misunderstanding between the writer and the reader operationally. Operational definition of the terms is guidelines to concern the concept of the researcher's problem. The terms that are important to be defined operationally are vocabulary mastery and discussion starter web.

1.4.1 Vocabulary Mastery

Vocabulary is a knowledge of words that has meaning. Mastery is ability that can be used to learn something. So, vocabulary mastery is a word meaning that should be mastered by the students to support learning English skills. In this research, the researcher wants to focus on students' vocabulary mastery about noun, adjective and verb. This decision is made based on the text that is taught in the school now (explanation text). Because of this reason, the researcher only focused those three parts of vocabulary.

1.4.2 Discussion Starter Web

Discussion web is a strategy that can build students' background knowledge through a unit, topic or theme. This strategy is used to stimulate students in learning vocabulary. This can be done by analyzing students' depth of vocabulary knowledge before doing the discussion web. The activity of discussion starter web is about creating a web writing based on the topic or theme that the teacher gives to the students. The researcher uses discussion starter web to improve students' vocabulary mastery. In this research, this strategy refers to a strategy that is used to improve students' vocabulary mastery by stimulating students' background knowledge of vocabulary through a unit, topic or theme in some activities including creating web writing based on the topic or theme given which relates with the material that is taught in the class (explanation text).

1.5 Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical Significance

The result is expected to be useful as a reference and source of information to guide further research in the similar field of the study or as a consideration to make new research by using other strategy.

2. Practical Significance

The research result is expected to be significance practically. This is also expected to be useful for practical contribution of the researcher. The result of this research can be used as a consideration strategy in teaching vocabulary mastery.

The result of this research will be useful for:

1. The researcher: this research is useful to improve the researcher's knowledge and experience in applying discussion starter web strategy to improve students' vocabulary mastery.
2. The English teacher: this research provides the specific steps of how to improve vocabulary mastery. So, teachers can use the research as a reference or guidance in applying discussion starter web to improve students' vocabulary mastery.
3. The students: this research is expected helping students to improve their vocabulary mastery using the effective strategy.

1.6 Scope of the Research

   This research focuses on the vocabulary mastery of students in learning English using discussion starter web strategy. This research will be conducted in SMAS Baitul Arqom of the eleventh grade students' in 2018 – 2019 academic years.