

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Nowadays, English becomes more important that is needed by the most countries in the world. Since it is an international language, it has become the way to get through the international communication in globalization era. It is spoken by many people all over the world. English is also a key to open doors to scientific and technical knowledge. It plays some important roles in many aspects of life including economics, politics, and especially in education. As a result, English has become a compulsory subject which should be taught to the students in every school. It is taught from the level of kindergarten, elementary school, up to the other higher levels of schools.

Vocabulary is the foundation to build languages which plays an important role in communication. It is a list of words that speakers of a language use (Hatch and Brown, 1995, p.1). Vocabulary is one of important aspects in teaching language because it links the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing altogether. By mastering vocabulary, they will be able to express their ideas into spoken and written English, understand the other basic competences well, and the target language skills could be learned easily.

The problem faced in MTs Wahid Hasyim, that is the English teacher said that most of the seventh grade students face some difficulties in learning English. The main reason for this condition was the lack of vocabulary. Most of the students got difficulties in learning all of skills because of their weaknesses in mastering vocabulary. In MTs Wahid Hasyim, the teacher used picture media to teach English especially in vocabulary lesson. She gave the list of many vocabularies related to the materials given in the form of pictures to the students to be learnt. By this way, the students would get difficulties in remembering the meaning of the words presented. They could not memorize the meanings well and the materials of the lesson which had been explained would be easier to be forgotten. If these conditions happened, teaching and learning process would not run effectively and made the students lack of vocabulary competence.

The problems faced by the students above needs to be solved to improve their vocabulary mastery. They also need to be helped to learn vocabulary so that they can memorize the meanings easily. The researcher can use teaching strategy and teaching media, one of the teaching strategy which is STAR (Select, Teach, Activate, and Revisit) the students more interest and active to learning vocabulary. So, the researcher hope this strategy also can make the students' creativity is risen. One of the teaching media which is believed to help the students to improve their vocabulary mastery is picture files. The media belong to visual materials namely pictures which are collected and classified based on certain categories or themes (Karim and Hasbullah, 1986, p.4). It is one of interesting media that can encourage the students to learn vocabulary because they contain funny and colorful pictures. Picture files can

be representatives of the real objects which provide illustrations and their clear definitions.

## **1.2 Problems of the Research**

Based on the background above, the problems of the research could be formulated into specific problems as follow. “How can picture files with STAR strategy enhance the seventh grades students’ vocabulary mastery at MTs Wahid Hasyim Kunir in 2018/2019 academic year?”

## **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

This research aims at finding out the way of using picture files with STAR strategy to enhance the seventh grade students’ vocabulary mastery at MTs Wahid Hasyim Kunir in 2018/2019 academic year.

## **1.4 Operational Definition of The Term**

Operational definition of the terms used by the researcher and to make them clear and to avoid misunderstanding, there are clarified as follows:

### **1.4.1 Picture file**

Picture file is a collection pictures on pieces of paper. Picture file as the media has become the best choice in teaching English. Beside, picture file is the media which are simple and inexpensive.

### **1.4.2 STAR Strategy**

Star strategy is one way to enhance students' vocabulary mastery. Teaching vocabulary through STAR strategy helps the students to understand and memorize the vocabularies.

### **1.4.3 Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is one of important aspects in teaching language because it links the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing altogether. In this research meant the level of the amount of vocabulary covering nouns, verbs, and adjectives that the students have mastered after joining English teaching and learning process focused on vocabulary by using picture files. The students' vocabulary mastery was indicated by the students' vocabulary mastery test given.

### **1.5 Significance of the Research**

The results of this research were expected to give contributions to English teachers, the students and the other researchers.

#### **1. For the English Teachers**

The result of this research could be used as a useful input in order to optimize the students' ability in mastering English vocabulary. Beside picture files could be easily made, it also could give many benefits to the students' vocabulary learning process like encouraging them to focus on the subject in hand, helping them to understand the meanings better and memorize the words easily.

## 2. For the Students

The action given to the students (as the subjects) could be a new learning experience to help them in mastering vocabulary and encourage them to improve their vocabulary achievement.

## 3. For the Future Researchers

The results of this research may be beneficial as a reference and give sufficient information to conduct a further research dealing with the similar problem by using the same or different research design with different level of subjects and schools, for instance, conducting an experimental research on the effect of using picture files with STAR strategy on the seventh grade students' vocabulary mastery.

### **1.6 Scope of the research**

The scope of the research is concerning on the using picture files with STAR strategy to enhance on the seventh grade students in mastering vocabulary at MTs Wahid Hasyim Kunir in 2018/2019 academic year.