CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the research, scope of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, and significance of the research.

A. Background

Language is the basic skill that is needed for real communication among people. By using language, people are able to express their ideas and feeling. They can interact with other people in the world. People not only communicate with their voice but also sometimes they use body language to make interlocutors know about something. Natural language are spoken or written, but any language can be stated into secondary media using auditory, visual, or tactile stimuli (as for Braille). This is because human language is modality-independent. People can learn and use complex systems in communication. In communicating, people around the world not only use one language but also many as the tool to interact with one another, one of which is English.

As an international language, English is a mediator of communication which can help people to interact, converse, and share information to other people around the world. There are many reasons why English has become so popular. One of them is that English is the language of business. Another important reason is that American culture has quickly spread all over the world. It has brought its language with it. It is so important to have a language that the

people on the world have in common. Our world has become very global and we need to communicate with one and another. On the other hand, English is a fairly complicated language to learn and it brings its culture with it. It also helps people to face the challenge of world globalization. In Indonesia, English is learned by the students as the first foreign language. Indonesian government has taken step to introduce English language in education's curriculum. English must be taught as early as possible because it is a compulsory subject taught since the early school.

English language has four skills which are listening, speaking, reading and writing and also has two elements which are grammar and vocabulary. To master all of those skills we have to master the language element first namely vocabulary. It is because if we want to speak with another people, we have to know the vocabulary. It also applies when we deal with listening, reading and writing. In teaching students' vocabulary skills we can embrace strategies that use the different type of vocabulary instructions in creating word context, content, meaning and application. Zulfandi (2011) states that vocabulary is one of the early literacy skills, there is important for children to have in order they capable to read. If the children have more vocabulary, it can be easier for them to understand and know about what they read. So, if the students have more vocabulary they can be easier to interact with other people. In addition, they can understand what they read and give their opinion about the reading easily

Vocabulary is an inseparable part of any language learning process. It would be impossible to learn a language without vocabulary. Vocabulary is one

of the important elements to master in order to be able to learn in English. The important role that this component plays has been emphasized in all different methods of language teaching. Vocabulary is the first thing which should be taught because the lack of vocabulary causes someone to learn nothing. The students' mastery of English vocabulary can be measured through the students' capability in using them in written and spoken. Emor (2012) states vocabulary is one of the important factors in all language teaching, because students must continually learning words as they learn structure and practice sound system. In addition, according to Nation (2004, as cited in Zahedi, 2012), words are the building blocks of a language since they label objects, actions, ideas without which people cannot convey the intended meaning. Knowing vocabulary means understanding how the words are put in different contexts and used differently.

Learning English at the first time needs interesting methods and strategies in order to make learning English becomes enjoyable. There are many methods and strategiesthat can be used in teaching English vocabulary; one of them is Semantic Mapping Strategy. According to Barcroft (2014, as cited in Nilforoushan, 2012), Semantic Mapping is as "the increased evaluation of an item with regard to its meaning." It can be used as a tool for discovering the conceptual relationship between vocabulary items.

Another definition is proposed by Amoush (2012) in Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business. He explains that semantic map is one type of graphic organizer. It helps students visually organize and graphically show the relationship between one piece of information and another. Similar

definition is given by Gaut (2002) that Semantic Mapping is a strategy that can be used in all majors to show the relationships between ideas. In teaching vocabulary, it can be used as a tool for students to discover the relationships between vocabulary words.

There are some previous studies related to the efficiency of Semantic Mapping strategy. For this chapter, the researcher only provided two of them. A study conducted by Amoush (2012) showed that Semantic Mapping strategy group performed better than the control group in the post-test. In another research conducted by Hossain (2011) revealed that Semantic Mapping strategy instruction has a significant effect on vocabulary learning of intermediate students. In other words, Semantic Mapping strategy as one of the effective vocabulary learning strategies, allows students to learn and recall more words. Based on previous study above the researcher has similar strategy that is Semantic Mapping strategy and the researcher tries to use that strategy to teach vocabulary to the students.

The reason I research this title is how students can understand the news text. in description semantic mapping

Map picture can also be used as a medium of learning, especially in learning to write descriptive text, this is to make it easier for students to develop thinking processes, imagine and pour their thoughts into the words according to the picture that they see. In addition, picture of course shows the objects are regularly arranged, so that this can increase the space for students to think quickly according to the object that have they see.

Based on the background above, the researcher will conduct research by the tittle **The Use of Semantic Mapping Strategies to Improve Students' Competence in Vocabulary at SMP Negeri 7 Kota Ternate**

B. Scope of Research

This research focuses on using semantic mapping strategy to improve student competence in vocabulary at SMP Negeri 7 Kota Ternate

C. Statement of the Problem

The statement of the problem of this research is. Does the use of map significantly improve students' commpetence in vocabulary at SMP Negeri 7 Kota Ternate

D. Objectives of the Research

The purpose of this study was to improve students' to competence in vocabulary at SMP Negeri 7 Kota Ternate through the Semantic Mapping learning strategy

E. Significance of the Study

The significance of the study include:

1. Theoretical Significance

   The result of the research is to enrich and to add existing literature related to vocabulary competence

2. Practical significance

   a. Students

      The study is to increase students vocabulary knowledge and improve their vocabulary achievement. In addition, this study also will give

information about the technique that can develop students vocabulary knowledge and increase the students motivation in learning vocabulary.

b. Teachers

The study is expected to the teacher is able to use this strategy in teaching vocabulary. So that, the students vocabulary achievement can be increased. Moreover, it is also expected, semantic mapping can help the teacher to create the fun environment in teaching vocabulary.

c. Prospective Researchers

The study is expected to give an additional reference for the prospective researcher. Then, it is hoped the result of this study give the valuable information for the next researchers in conducting the study using semantic mapping strategy