

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, explains background of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research, and operational definitions.

1.1. Background of the research

Language is one of the most important things in this world. Human can not live without language, because as social beings, human need to communicate with each other and language makes communication easier. One of the languages most widely used throughout the world is English. According to Richards & Rodgers (2019) English is a universal language that is used by all people to communicate around the world and English has become the most studied foreign language in the world. English is taught from the elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, and universities.

One of favorite Senior High Schools in Kudus is SMA 1 Kudus. English is compulsory subject that is taught in SMA 1 Kudus. The curriculum used in this school is Kurikulum 2013. Based on the syllabus and lesson plan used, one aspect of English being taught is vocabulary. For vocabulary learning, teachers used song as media. Teachers use popular songs among teenagers. The material in this learning is “meaning through music”. The song title used is “heal the world”. Teachers used laptop, LCD, and speaker to play the song. Based on the lesson plan, the students listen to the song without the lyrics and then the students fill the gaps sentences. And the students write down the new words that found in the song lyrics. After that, the students also write the message contained in the song.

In the use of song as media for this material, there are several difficulties experienced by students. Among them are, when students write down the lyrics, students hear but do not understand the spelling of each word. There are also students whose pronunciation does not match with the lyrics. But, song used by teacher because it is considered more comfortable for students during learning process.

Song is one of media for students that can be used to learning English vocabulary because there are variations of new words with many different themes in song. Students learn to use a song by hearing them many times, perhaps memorization occurs through repetition. Claerr and Gargan(2019) stated that through some imagination, songs can be used to teach all aspects of a foreign language, and one of the aspects in English is vocabulary.

Vocabulary is useful especially for understanding the English text, even the simple one. Without knowing most of words, the students' find some difficulties in speaking or writing. In addition, most students regard learning by listening to English songs as entertainment, they also learn spontaneously and unconsciously, which is much more fun and efficient way to increase language awareness better than mechanically memorizing tedious course-books of vocabulary and grammar (Shen, 2003). Thus, memorizing English songs can be considered useful to learn vocabulary easily.

1.2.Statement of the problem

Based on the background of the research previously presented, the researcher formulates the statement of the problem as follow :

What are the perception of the 12th graders of SMA 1 Kudus toward “heal the world” song as media in learning english vocabulary?

1.3.Objective of the research

Based on the statement of the problem, the aim of this research is to know about the perception of the 12th graders of SMA 1 Kudus toward “heal the world” song as media in learning english vocabulary.

1.4.Significance of the research

The study has theoretical and practical significance.

a. Theoretically

It is expected that the result of this research can support or can be used as one of the references by the future researchers who will conduct research related to vocabulary learning with the song as media.

b. Practically

Hopefully this research can provide information to students, teachers, or lecturers about learning vocabulary by using song as media so that it can reflect teaching and learning process, increase students motivation, and improve students' ability.

1.5.Scope of the research

This research is focused on the perception of the 12th graders of SMA 1 Kudus toward song as media in learning English vocabulary. The participants of this research are the 12th graders of SMA 1 Kudus.

1.6.Operational definition

Based on title of this research, there are some terms that should be defined in this research to avoid misunderstanding. So the researcher attempts to define the terms as follows :

1. Perception

Perception is the act of recognizing, identifying, and interpreting of sensory information in order to represent and understand the presented information or environment.

2. The 12th graders of SMA 1 Kudus

The 12th graders of SMA 1 Kudus are the 12th grade students of science studying at SMA 1 Kudus.

3. Heal the world song

Heal the world song is one of popular songs by legendary singer Michael Jackson, which was released in 1991.

4. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a language component that contains information about the meaning and usage of words in the language.