

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents the background of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, limitation of the research, and operational definition.

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

There are many problems in learning English for young learners. It is like less vocabulary, grammatically, wrong pronunciation, etc. To learn and memorize English vocabulary is still difficult. Layli (2018:17) found out that “the main students’ difficulties in remembering vocabulary cover: (1) short memory in remembering the English vocabulary (2) short memory in remembering the meaning of the vocabulary”. Those are the common difficulties faced by the students. They tend to have short memories of remembering vocabulary and its meaning. These kinds of problems often occur in the process of learning vocabulary and need to be solved properly by the teacher.

Vocabulary is one of the important things in learning about English. When the students have mastered it enough, it can surely support their skills in listening, speaking, reading and also writing. Mamik and Cristiani (2016:2) say that “in the world of education, students are expected to master enough vocabulary to support their English skill”.

Using media in the English learning process is more effective to enrich students’ vocabulary. Mateer (2018, para.2) says that “using media engages students, aids student retention of knowledge, motivates interest in the subject matter, and illustrates the relevance of many concepts”. There are many media in teaching and learning activity (the example of media is like the picture, audio media is like the song, audiovisual media is like video, and etc). The benefits of using media in teaching and learning are the students more easily understand the material, the students more interested in the material, and the students enjoy it when the teacher explains the material.

One example of popular media is Comic Strips, Comic Strips as series pictures drawn on the certain panels that tell the story. This media is effective in teaching-learning. Wright and Sherman (1999:2) write that “a teacher's use of Comic Strips as a method and a media of instruction, can provide instructional sessions which both stimulate and activate students' thought processes”. Csabay (2006:24) says that “comics also can be used to facilitate vocabulary teaching. Vocabulary competence can be improved as well with the help of comic strips”. It means that Comic Strips help the students more easily to understand the vocabulary material. The story of Comic Strips helps the students easy to understand about the information of the storyline. Khoiriyah (2010:3) says that “comics are a form of visual communication media have the power to convey information in a popular and easy to understand”. The story in Comic Strips can make the students become interested and enjoyable in the learning process. Using Comic Strips as media helps the students more easily to remember the vocabulary in the storyline of Comic Strips.

Based on the interview with the students of the fifth grade students at SD N Gegersimo Rembang, they have difficulties to remember the English vocabulary and the meaning of English vocabulary. They still have difficulty remembering, because they seldom to read the textbook and seldom to open the dictionary if they do not know the meaning the English vocabulary. In teaching and learning process usually, the teacher uses the whiteboard, marker, and textbook as the media to teach the students. Based on the observation and the interview with the English teacher at SD N Gegersimo Rembang, also the teacher finds out difficulties about to make the students easily remember the vocabulary, to make the students joyful and fun in the teaching-learning process.

Moreover, this teaching media can be used as an alternative teaching tool that the students can remember vocabulary easily, and learn with joyful and fun. So the writer is interested in implementing Comic Strips as media in the teaching-learning process of the fifth-grade students at SD N Gegersimo Rembang in academic year 2019/2020 and wants to know that implementing Comic Strips in the teaching-learning process can enrich students' vocabulary.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the statement of this problem is:

Is there any significant difference between the students' vocabulary mastery of the fifth-grade students at SD N Gegersimo Rembang in academic year 2019/2020 before and after being taught by using Comic Strips?

## 1.3 Objective of the Research

From the statement of the problem, the objective of this research is:

To know whether there is any significant difference between the students' vocabulary mastery of the fifth-grade students at SD N Gegersimo Rembang in academic year 2019/2020 before and after being taught by using Comic Strips.

## 1.4 Significance of the Research

The writer believes that this research provides some benefits. This research is hoped to give some benefits to the English teacher, the students, and other researchers. They are formulated as follows:

1. For the English teachers

This research is expected to give a contribution to the English teachers that Comic Strips are alternative media in the teaching-learning process to enrich students' vocabulary.

2. For the students

This research is expected to enrich students' vocabulary and the aims to make students remember vocabulary easier and make the students interested and enjoy the learning process.

3. For the other researchers

This research is expected to give information to be developed for further studies. The writer hopes that other researchers who are conduct further study to get useful information.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Research**

This research focuses on teaching vocabulary about hobbies as the material. In the teaching-learning process, the writer uses comic strips to teach the students. Comic strip in this research is a media of teaching including the series of pictures dawn on the certain panels which explain the material. The subject of this research is the fifth grade students at SD N Gegegrsimo Rembang in academic year 2019/2020.

### **1.6 Operational Definition**

This operational definition can be seen as follows:

1. Teaching vocabulary is a teaching activity which helps the students more easily to remember the vocabulary.
2. Comic Strip in this research is a media of teaching including the series of pictures dawn on the certain panels.
3. The fifth grade students at SD N Gegegrsimo in academic year 2019/2020 mean that the students who are studying in the fifth grade at SD N Gegegrsimo in academic year 2019/2020.

