CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

Chapter one will discuss about background of the research, statement of problem, objective of the research, significance of research, scope of research and operational definitifon. The researcher hope this introduction will give better understanding about main issues that will be explained further in the next chapters.

1.1. Background of the Research

English is one of the most influential language in the world therefore English has been included in elementary school curiculum for the last couples of years in Indonesia. There are four basic English skills must be mastered by students included reading, listening, reading and speaking. This is a big challenge for teachers. Teachers are requires to be creative in the implementation of learning this including strategics, techniques, and learning media in delivering learning materials.

Based on Permendiknas Number 22 of 2006 concerning Content Standards and Permendiknas Number 23 year 2006 regarding Graduate Competency Standards, English is one of the mandatory complimentary lesson for all elementary school students from class I to class VI with the allotment 2x35 minutes of study hours per week (Kalsum, 2016). Recently English lessons standard competency in the independent curriculum is determined by the BSKAP Decree No. 8 of 2022 regarding "Learning Outcomes in PAUD, Basic Education and Secondary Education in the Independent Curriculum".

Frida (2022) explained that learning media is tool that function as messenger that aims to provide real experiences that will make communication and interaction more effective and efficient between teachers and students in the teaching and learning process. Flash card is one of learning media that been used for decades all around the world.

Flash cards are visual teaching media in the form of small cards which contain picture, words and any other information that can help student in learning process. The use of flash cards aren" t popular enough among Indonesia" s elementary school students.

Regarding the benefit mentioned above, the use of flash cards as learning media for elementary school students in Indnesia are very rare. The learning process still used to the previous methods such as read aloud, writing and listening the teachers' explaination. That' s why the researcher determined to use flash cards to improve students vocabulary mastery. As we know vocabulary is one of the most important fundamental in English language. The research will be held at SDN Buwaran 03 since the researcher is also an English teacher there. The current situation of English learning progress in fifth grades' students is need to be improve since the students seems to have difficult time to understand basic English skills such as vocabulary mastery by using the previous methods.

This research aim to give the readers better understanding about the use of flash cards as learning media to improve students vocabulary mastery, in this case fifth grade students at SDN Buwaran 03. There are several previous research regarding flashcards as learning media that used as the background of this research. Frida (2022) on her research entitled "The Effect of Flash Card Media on English Vocabulary Ability in Children" found that it was easier for children to understand the meaning of vocabulary in English using flash cards because the pictures and colors on the flash cards could attract children's attention. Aisyah & Gina (2020) on their research entitled "Using Flash Cards to Improve Students' Vocabulary" conclude that the flashcards very helpful to improve the student" s vocabulary.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher would like to present the statement of the problem as follow : " Can flash

cards improve students' vocabulary mastery?"

1.3. Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is to find out the vocabulary masterys' improvement of fifth grade students of SDN Buwaran 03 by using flashcards.

1.4. Significance of the Research

The researcher hopes that this research will give some significance for many people. The significance of the research formulated as follows:

a. For the readers this research is expected will give better understanding about how important is learning materials especially flash cards for teaching and learning process.

b. For the teachers this research is expected will give a further explaination about how will flash cards improve students' vocabulary mastery.

c. For other researcher this research is expected will give references for future research about learning materials especially flash cards

1.5. Scope of the Research

Based on statement of problem that had mentioned before, the researcher would like to focused on the improvement of the students' vocabulary mastery by using flash cards as learning materials. The subject of this research will be fifth grade students of SDN Buwaran 03.

1.6. Operational Definition

Based on the title of this research , the researcher clarified the operational definition as follows :

a. Vocabulary mastery refers to a skill to understand the words, understand its meaning, and the number of words someone knows. The term mastery is not restricted to simply recognize the meaning of words, it is more precisely defined as "to know a word" because

the learners are said to have a good vocabulary mastery if they are able to recognize the meaning and understand form, grammar, collocation, meaning and word formation. In relation to writing subskills, vocabulary mastery can be defined as a number of vocabulary or words in the memory of learners.

b. The elementary school refers to fifth grade students of SDN Buwaran 03 which contains 20 students .

c. Students' vocabulary mastery improvement refers to the students understanding the meaning of words and the implementation on the sentences .

d. Flash card (also known as an index card) is a card bearing information on both sides, which is intended to be used as an aid in memorization. Each flashcard bears a question on one side and an answer on the other. Flashcards are often used to memorize vocabulary, historical dates, formulae or any subject matter that can be learned via a question-and-answer format. Flashcards can be virtual (part of a flashcard software), or physical.