

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this first part the researcher emphasizes the explanations of why the researcher conducted this research. It is discussed through some subchapters including the Research Background, Research Question, Research Purposes, Research Significance, Limitation of the Research and terminology.

A. Research Background

English as an international language makes it a very important language to be learned by the whole world. The role of English as an international language has a major impact on the need for every country in the world to learn English. In accordance with its role which is officially recognized as an international language, English is the official communicative link language for every country with one another. Therefore, it is not uncommon to find that English is used as a second language in many countries. Such as the establishment of language regulations in Indonesia, as applied in Indonesia, English is a language that must be mastered after the mother tongue and Indonesia language. Based on some of the explanations above, it can be concluded that English is very necessary and important to master in this era.

Vocabulary is defined as a total number of words and a language, all the words known to person or used in a particular book, subject, etc., and it is list of words with their meaning. it means that vocabulary is a basic skill which becomes the most important skill to master as the reason that language is the unity of words to be a sentence and the vocabulary is a part of the skill.

Vocabulary is the basis for learning a language, including learning English. To get good results in the learning process, it must be carried out according to the appropriate structure and steps. Therefore, in language, you must also start from learning the basics first, namely vocabulary, because without vocabulary it is impossible to master a language, but people who have sufficient vocabulary to ensure that they are able to communicate using the language they are learning. As well as the purpose of learning a language is to be able to communicate using that language.

Although vocabulary very important to learn. At SMPN 04 Sintang researcher found that there are still many students who are not interested in learning English especially vocabulary this is caused by several factors including their lack of knowledge related to English itself and lack of vocabulary, whether related to why it is important to learn vocabulary and what are the benefits, on the other side there are some students who never learn English and they just discover English courses in junior high school, many students will state the opinion that vocabulary is not interesting to learn because it is not easy and very boring.

According to these statements, it is important for a teacher to change the student's perspective related to English subject especially vocabulary mastery itself beginning from introducing what is vocabulary, what are the benefits of learning vocabulary and growing students' interest in learning more vocabulary by making English class more active by selecting techniques and methods that are more interactive adjustable to the needs of the class. The most important thing teachers should do before introducing further about the important parts in English, such as writing, listening, reading and speaking. One of the basics of the four skills is students must have sufficient vocabulary first because the biggest factor that makes learning English difficult is the lack of vocabulary that students have that makes English

uninteresting to learn while in English the vocabulary is the first step that must be taken before learning the four common skills in English.

For junior high school students, because they help students to understand new words and increase their wealth of vocabulary, and encourage them to become independent learners. However, English lessons in junior high school do not provide specific classes on technical vocabulary. As such, the students cannot always rely on their teachers. They need to master their own strategies of determining the meanings of unknown words independently so that they can better understand their class materials.

From these explanations and problems before, it is important for a teacher to be able to foster a passion for learning English in students and introduce how important to mastery vocabulary as a first stage to improve some skills in English such as reading, listening, writing and speaking. Teacher must provide a different atmosphere in English class so that these difficulties do not become a reason to not learn English, but it becomes a challenge in itself so that students are able to compete.

When researcher conduct independent observations to ascertain what problems existed in the class and what researcher could do to overcome existing problems where researcher found that students there were still very low in vocabulary. In this case, researcher recommend to use techniques, methods or games that according to what class needs, techniques and methods or games which make class more interactive, not boring and getting for students to move more so that the class become lively, there are many techniques and methods or games used by various teachers in class and in this research due to the main problem why students difficult to master English due to students lack of vocabulary, therefore, one of the games used by

researcher that can help students more easily memorize English vocabulary, in this research researcher will use a crossword puzzle game where the use of this game is expected to be able to overcome students' problems in learning English.

Crossword puzzle is a game that can be used to teach vocabulary, where in its application students are asked to fill in the available empty boxes with vocabulary according to the instructions given by the teacher. Thus, during the class, the teacher and students can be sure to be equally actively involved in the teaching and learning process. Besides that, through this game it is also certain to create a more fun class and in its implementation it is very necessary for teachers to be creative and able to apply this game properly so that students have their own interest when learning English using the crossword puzzle game method.

Some cases above can be overcome by changing the learning method to be more fun and interesting and making it easier for students to memorize existing vocabulary while playing so that students have a new perspective on learning English itself, therefore researcher chose the crossword puzzle game as one of the effective learning methods that can overcome the problem of learning vocabulary in SMPN 04 Sintang to make it more fun, interesting and challenging to learn. From these explanations so the conclusion, this research is about teaching and learning activity in a classroom so researcher uses Classroom Action Research as a research design.

B. Research Question

Based on the background of this research, the research questions are as follows:

1. How can Crossword Puzzle Game improve the students' participation in learning activity among eight grade students in SMPN 04 Sintang?

2. How can Crossword Puzzle Game improve vocabulary mastery of eight grade students in SMPN 04 Sintang?

C. Research Purposes

In line with the research questions of this research, the purpose of this research are as follow:

1. To describe the improvement of students' participation in learning activities through the implementation of Crossword Puzzle Game.
2. To recognize the improvement of students' vocabulary mastery through the implementation of Crossword Puzzle Game.

D. Research Significance

Significance of this research is supposed to be useful :

1. For students

Through the application of the Crossword Puzzle Game Method in learning English, it is hoped that it will be able to change the perspective of students regarding English lessons themselves, both in how important it is to learn English to change their perspective regarding learning English, both those who previously thought English was difficult and boring, but with the Crossword Puzzle Game Method used in teaching activities in the classroom, it is able to provide improvements in the learning atmosphere in the classroom where students can play while learning in this way the lesson will not be boring and students also do not feel burdened by the difficulty of the lesson learned.

In addition, the Crossword Puzzle Game Method is also expected to be one of the solutions for students to be able to master vocabulary that makes it easier for them to learn English so that they are able to become students who are well prepared to compete in the world of education both in the national and

international scope in order to improve the quality of education in Indonesia through the younger generation.

2. For English teacher

This research can be used as a guide for English teachers on how to increase students' interest in learning English, especially how to increase students' vocabulary. Researcher also hopes that the chosen learning method can give the results as expected so that in the future this research can be useful for English teachers to increase students' vocabulary while playing so that English teachers are also able to create fun English classes so that students feel more interested in learning English so that teachers who experience similar problems in the classroom can try similar methods to overcome existing problems.

3. For other researcher

For other researcher, this research is expected to be one example of research that can be taken when encountering similar things, especially as an English teacher, other researcher can use similar methods even though it is for different students. The researcher also hopes that other researcher will be able to develop this research if it is considered that there are still things that need to be added so that this type of research can be used more optimally to overcome existing learning problems and can also be useful not only for classmates but also for other researcher in the future.

4. For STKIP Persada Khatulistiwa Sintang

This research is expected to be a supporting material for other researcher in the future STKIP Persada Khatulistiwa Sintang. And the results of this research can also be reading material for students at STKIP Persada Equator Sintang as a

reference in teaching English and a reference to overcome problems in learning English if later they find similar problems.

E. Limitation of the Research

Based on what problems the researcher encountered so that this research only focuses on the research objectives that the researcher have stated before, namely focusing on improving student vocabulary and also increasing student participation in teaching and learning activities by using the Crossword puzzle game method to determine student vocabulary mastery in eight grade SMPN 04 Sintang.

F. Terminology

In line with the variable of this research, there were some terminologies in this research that are:

1. Vocabulary is one of the important parts in learning a language including in learning English where vocabulary is a collection of words that a person knows about a particular language, before mastering other skills such as writing, listening, reading and speaking vocabulary is also an important part and the main step that helps and makes it easier to master English.
2. Crossword is one of the games that can be used to help students in the teaching and learning process, especially to improve their vocabulary mastery. Crosswords are puzzles where words must be guessed from clues and written in the spaces in the grid.
3. Teaching vocabulary is the way to showing somebody to study, giving instruction, guiding, providing with knowledge to mastery student's vocabulary, and it use through some methods, techniques, and media.

4. SMPN 04 Sintang is located in Ulak Jaya village, Sintang sub-district, Sintang Regency. Where the subject of this research is eight grade students at SMPN 04 Sintang. The obstacle of learning English in this school is due to the lack of student interest in English which causes them to have very low vocabulary. Based on this, the researcher is interested in working with the school and also the English teacher at SMPN 04 Sintang to overcome these problems by suggesting learning methods that can overcome existing problems and students can master vocabulary and be able to master English well.