

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of The Study

In language learning, words are the most influential part. Some combinations of words form sentences that are used as communication tools to provide good information. The language user must understand the meaning of words which is called vocabulary. Milton (2009) asserts that words are the foundation of language and that there would be no language without them. Therefore, vocabulary mastering should be the first step in language learning.

Learning new words is a crucial part of learning English. The four skills of learning English involve the use of phrases, sentences, and paragraphs that are formed using vocabulary. They are speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Vocabulary has a big influence on students' ability in learning English, students will find it difficult to convey information or ideas if they lack of vocabulary mastery.

According McCarten (2007), Vocabulary is essential to language and crucial for language learners of all levels. The amount of vocabulary one has learnt affects how well one learns a language. Vocabulary is crucial since it enables us to interact with others in everyday situations, particularly for junior high school kids. Based on the results of pre-the researcher observation at SMPN 2 Tanjungpinang, the researcher found that some students were unable to answer some of the

questions from the researcher because they did not understand and did not know what the researcher was asking about.

Vocabulary mastery is highly recommended to be developed and extended to learners. Particularly in English, vocabulary plays a significant role while learning foreign languages. The more vocabulary children know, the easier it is for them to do it well when learning English. According to Dellar and Hocking (2000), learners would see the most improvement in their English if they learned more words. Therefore increasing vocabulary mastery will show an increase in the success of language learning.

Looking at the curriculum used today, junior high school students are required to achieve certain competency values and skills as a result of the learning process at school. Some of the obstacles that make students unable to achieve the provisions of the value of learning English at SMPN 2 Tanjungpinang are students' inadequate vocabulary mastery because students have difficulty remembering the word. Then, in mastering vocabulary, the students had difficulty in writing the spelling of words and the researcher also found that the students had poor pronunciation skills. Moreover, the learning techniques applied by the teacher in the classroom are less attractive and the media used by the teacher is too simple so some students are slow to understand learning. Besides the simple techniques and media, the classroom atmosphere during learning looks less enthusiastic, there is a lack of interaction between students and teachers, and when learning only a few students were active. Based on the description of the problem above, the teacher must increase the learning motivation of different students by

choosing good learning strategies by creating an exciting learning environment in the classroom through the use of engaging instructional materials.

Word wall media is one of the more effective types of media. A word wall, according to Kigerand and Cooper (2003), is a list of high-frequency sight words that are age-appropriate, organized into categories, and placed on the wall of a classroom so students can see them and learn them effectively. Additionally, word walls provided as a visual aid for teaching pupils how to connect different words (Callella, 2001). A word wall is a collection of words which are already posted on the classroom wall in capital letters. and bulletin board that are made as attractive as possible to make it easier for students to pay more attention to these words.

Therefore, by considering the students' problems, the researcher will examine how to improve vocabulary mastery of word wall, entitled, Improving Students' Vocabulary Mastery By Using Word wall At Eighth Grade Students Of SMPN 2 Tanjungpinang.

## **1.2 The Identification of The Problems**

Based on the research background above, there are several problems that can be identified as follows :

1. Students do not master the vocabulary in the text.
2. Students have difficulty understanding the vocabulary.

### **1.3 The Research Question**

Based on the background of the problem, the researcher has the research question “how can the word wall improve students’ vocabulary mastery at the eighth grade of SMP Negeri 2 Tanjungpinang?”

### **1.4 The Purpose of The Study**

The objective of this research is to describe how the word wall can improve vocabulary mastery among eighth grade students at SMP Negeri 2 Tanjungpinang based on the problem formulation presented above.

### **1.5 The Limitation of The Problem**

Based on the method and title set by the researcher above, for eighth grade students at SMPN 2 Tanjungpinang, the researcher only focused on enhancing students' vocabulary acquisition by implementing word wall media.

### **1.6 The Significance of Study**

The results of this study are expected to provide useful information for:

#### **1. Theoretically**

The general theoretical benefit of this research is used as a reference for anyone who is interested in improving students' vocabulary mastery by using the word wall media.

## **2. Practically**

### **1. English Teacher**

Providing as a reference for teachers of English to enhance the excellence of the English teaching and learning process and resolve vocabulary teaching challenges for junior high school students using word wall.

### **2. Students**

To improve vocabulary mastery after being taught learning by using the word wall.

### **3. The researcher**

This can be considered to be a source of data for more studies that are comparable, and other researcher can use this research to acquire fresh insights into the teaching and learning process.

## **1.7 The Definition of Key Terms**

Based on the title of the research, the definitions of the key terms are identified as follows:

### **1. Vocabulary mastery**

Vocabulary mastery is the understanding and mastery of the meaning and function of vocabulary, sets, and collections of words that are mastered by students in reading and understanding the meaning of a text.

### **2. Word wall**

A word wall is a string of words that are exhibited on the walls of the classroom and class blackboards that are written attractively in capital letters that function to make it easier to remember words and spell them at a glance.