

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

A language is a communication tool used by humans to interact socially. Given the importance of language, one must learn a language to communicate. In daily communication, we use a medium called language. A language is a form and contact in which a person's thoughts and feelings can be symbolized to convey meaning to others. The primary function of language is as a means of communication. Therefore, it should not be surprising that there is a close relationship between language and communication in human life.

The collection of all the words that a person understands or is likely to use to form a new sentence is referred to as that person's vocabulary. Language cannot be separated from vocabulary knowledge since vocabulary is an essential component of language abilities. The more vocabulary a person has, the more skilled they will be in the language. In this case, vocabulary can increase writing, speaking, reading, and listening activities. A language's vocabulary is a component that includes all knowledge pertaining to word usage.

Learning a foreign language is a complicated and sometimes tiring, and sometimes even frustrating, endeavor. This is because learning a foreign language attempts to form and build new situations and conditions within a person to interact and communicate with foreign language owners.

Because English is the global language of communication, nearly no country does not teach it as a language of interaction for students or business people. As a result, comprehension and communication in this language are required. As previously said, vocabulary knowledge is one of the most crucial aspects of learning English. The more English vocabulary is discovered, the easier it will be to know and understand the other language. Students who are just beginning to learn English want vocabulary knowledge since they will comprehend the meaning of the English language if they have outstanding and enough vocabulary knowledge.

Based on the researcher's pre-observation at SMPN 2 Bintan, the student's English skills still need much improvement. The main problem at SMPN 2 Bintan, especially in ninth grade, is their vocabulary. They still find it challenging to form English sentences and convey them. Because of the lack of vocabulary, it also make student hard to speak English, cause they didn't even know the words they about to speak. However, the researcher considers it ordinary because now students in Indonesia learn English starting from junior high school, which previously started elementary school. The lack of students' vocabulary skills is what makes the writer want to overcome this problem. The method that the researcher wants to use is to use the help of the media.

So far, the majority of English learning is delivered using the lecture method. The use of learning media is very minimal. One of the supporting teaching materials in learning English is by utilizing learning media. The use of learning media at the learning orientation stage will greatly enhance the

presentation of messages and lesson content. Learning media may motivate and entertain students while also assisting in understanding development.

One of the media that can be used in language learning is flashcards. Flashcard is a medium for learning English that is quite effective, easy to make, and does not require much money. Flashcard is one of the types of visual media that tends to be easier to procure because it can be made or selected from materials that are relatively easy to obtain and often found in everyday life. At the same time, the price is also low or sometimes even without costing anything. Flashcard is an effective medium for learning English, and students can unconsciously fill the time with positive things through the flashcard.

### **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the study's background, the researcher would like to discuss and formulate the following significant problems:

- 1) In the teaching and learning process, media was rarely used.
- 2) They are less interest in English subject.
- 3) Students had lack of vocabulary.
- 4) They afraid to speak.

### **1.3. Limitation of Problem**

Because there were many problems found and researchers could not examine all the problems, the researchers limited the problem to point three, namely the lack of vocabulary of students at SMP Negeri 2 Bintan.

#### 1.4. Research Question

Based on the stated background, the research question can be formulated as: “is there any significant effect of using flashcard on student's vocabulary at SMP Negeri 2 Bintan?”

#### 1.5. Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this research is to find out the effect of flashcards on students' vocabulary at SMPN 2 Bintan.

#### 1.6. Significance of the Research

This research is expected to provide the following contributions:

##### A. Theoretical Significance

The theoretical significance of this study is anticipated to contribute to the creation of resources and references for individuals interested in conducting research on the same subject.

##### B. Practical Significance

Teachers, students, and other researchers may all benefit from this research.

These are what they are:

##### 1) Teachers

This research is useful for teachers, especially English teachers. They can utilize flashcards as a media to teach vocabulary in English classes.

##### 2) Students

This research is useful for students. They can increase their vocabulary using only flashcard.

### 3) Other researchers

For other researchers, it can be utilized as extra information in future study in the same topic.

## 1.7. Definition of Key Terms

To evade misconception, clarification on several key terms is needed to establish.

They are as follows:

### A. Flashcards

Flashcards are graphic cards that are used as learning medium to help students expand their vocabulary.

### B. Vocabulary

A vocabulary is a collection of significant and well-known terms.

