CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Language cannot be divided in human life because language is a communication tool used by humans. Rabia (2018:1) language is a means of communication that everyone uses in everyday life to convey information and arguments to others. This means that language is very important for humans, language will not be effective if the communication partner does not understand the language used. Meanwhile, Nasution (2020) language is an arrangement of sounds or voices and words that express thoughts and emotions. Meaning that language can convey ideas, thoughts, feelings, and desires by using sounds, voices, or words.

Vocabulary in learning a foreign language is very important and cannot be avoided because vocabulary is the strongest component of language. English was the first foreign language in Indonesia. Many schools or courses have given English as one of the lessons. English have four skills: speaking, reading, listening, and writing and vocabulary as component could be a tool to increase all the skills of English. Yudha and Mandasari (2021) said that the first and most critical step in language acquisition is vocabulary. Alqahani (2015) said a restricted vocabulary in a second language impedes successful communication, vocabulary knowledge is frequently regarded as a key tool for second language learners. Meaning that it will be difficult for someone to communicate if they do not understand vocabulary. Vocabulary should ideally be considered an important aspect of language learning that should receive a lot of attention in improving students' vocabulary fluency.

Based on observations and interviews that researcher conducted with English teachers at SMP Negeri 03 Mempawah Hilir, the researcher found that there were some problems faced by the students. First, the students still are not interested in English subjects. Second, the students still lack vocabulary mastery, the problem with students' vocabulary is understanding the meaning

1

of words, difficulty in pronouncing words correctly, students unable to spell words correctly, and students unable to use and understand references properly. The problems above will impact the students' learning results. So, the English teacher needs to help the students to improve their vocabulary to make the learning result get the beyond KKM.

To improve students' vocabulary mastery, media is needed in learning. According to Wahyuningsih and Fitriani (2021), media is very important in the learning process because the use of learning media makes the learning process more effective and enjoyable. Puspitarini and Hanif (2019) also said, that learning media that is used correctly in the learning process will become a more effective and efficient support aid in reaching the learning objectives. Therefore, researchers make learning media using word cards so that learning is fun, interesting, and effective.

Word cards are one medium that can be used to increase student vocabulary. Patau (2020) also said, that the use of word cards is not only for memorizing words but also for repeating words to help memorize them. That is, word cards are made so that students can repeat the vocabulary they have learned and memorize it. Word cards are made using paper by displaying pictures that match the learning theme and are made as attractive as possible so students don't feel bored in the learning process.

This word card media is to make students learn English while playing. Learning through games can assist students in better understanding learning material and increasing student enthusiasm, Sahrawi et al., (2018). So that it can increase students' enthusiasm and knowledge about English vocabulary. The existence of learning aids using word cards will help students master English vocabulary. In addition, the researcher hopes that the English vocabulary card media can provide learning media that can be used by teachers in learning English vocabulary and can interestingly facilitate teaching..

From the statements above, this study aims to help students improve their vocabulary mastery. This research tries to help students of SMPN 03 Mempawah Hilir by using research entitled "The Use of Word Card Media to

Improve Students' Vocabulary Mastery (Class Action Research on First Grade Students of SMP Negeri 3 Mempawah Hilir for the 2022/2023 Academic Year)". the researcher focused on increasing the student's vocabulary.

B. Research Question

The research question in this research is "How can word card media improve students' vocabulary mastery at SMPN 03 Mempawah Hilir?"

C. Research Purpose

The purpose of this research is "To find out how can word card media at SMPN 03 Mempawah Hilir"

D. Significant of Research

1. Practical Significance

   a. For the Students

      For students, it is hoped that they can master vocabulary in an easy and fun way. Therefore, they can get an understanding of the vocabulary. They can know the importance of mastering vocabulary and they can easily find out the meaning of vocabulary. This can also be the anticipation for students in mastering word cities where they can know what their difficulties are in mastering vocabulary.

   b. For the Teachers

      For teachers, this can provide information related to teaching techniques in mastering vocabulary. In addition, it can find out what difficulties students have in mastering vocabulary. They can find out the essence of mastering English vocabulary, and can also find out the factors that cause students to have difficulty mastering vocabulary. And can find the right steps to overcoming these problems.

   c. For the School

      After conducting this research, it is hoped that the school will be interested in this research method. This can also be a reflection to

improve effective and efficient teaching and can make innovative teaching.

2. Theoretical Significance

For another researcher, the researcher hoped that this research could be a reference for them in researching vocabulary mastery. That way this research can be useful for them as an additional reference.

E. Scope of Research

To clarify the term of this research, the researcher has described the scope of the research. There are two main scopes of research; they are research variables and terminology.

1. Research Variables

Variables are characteristics or attributes of the individual or organization under study Creswell (2012:112). This means that the variable can be considered as an object or subject that has various characteristics that can be measured and observed by researchers, in this study one variable was determined, namely increasing students' vocabulary skills in English learning.

2. Research Terminology

   a. Word Card Media

Word card is a game activity that be used in teaching-learning process. It was conducted by showing the pictures of the cards quickly to the students. This will help students to improve their vocabulary.

b. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is about the words by which people can understand or express ideas and communicate with others in that language, and can understand the objects around them, such as those often use at home.