

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problems

Teaching of English to young children has become especially important in recent years. The presence of a language is necessary for people to interact with one another and also to transfer science and knowledge. Nowadays, English has become an international language so it is important for us to learn it. Since 1994, the Department of Education has stated that English should be taught early starting from the fourth grade of Elementary School.

Based on local content of GBPP 1994, teaching English in Elementary school is around simple vocabulary. The local content of Elementary school curriculum has outlined that the objective of teaching English in Elementary is to raise students' interest and motivation in studying English. Besides they are expected to be able to communicate in very simple way, starting from what they have in themselves and their environment.

In teaching English, a teacher has to know the target that should be reached. Such as, for the fifth grade they have to have reached 100 words, and for the sixth grade, they have to have reached 300 words (Department of Education, 1994).

Learning vocabulary is not an easy matter, because sometimes learners find some difficulties in learning vocabulary, such as: (1) vocabulary which is not suitable

for the students' needs, they do not understand what the words mean, because the vocabulary given by the teacher is not suitable for their level as beginners, (2) they are not familiar with the vocabulary taught by the teacher, since the vocabulary do not refer to their environment. To overcome their problems the teacher should be able to find out ways to solve the problem that may appear in teaching learning process.

Songs are often regarded as an extra in the classroom and are used for a change of focus and not where the core learning takes place. Song can be used to develop students' listening skill, pronunciation and vocabulary.

In fact, variety is one of the most important factors in maintaining the high level of motivation and interest among the students. There are many 'real life' activities that can be brought into the classroom to add variety, not only to the learning process but also to the students' experience in English. And one of these activities is song.

Song and music can help develop listening comprehension, facilitate the acquisition of pronunciation, vocabulary, structure, and about culture. Songs are valuable aids in developing students' listening skill. There are many advantages of using them in the classroom: they present new vocabularies an experience in context, through them, students become familiar with the pronunciation of native speaker, they provide a break from textbook and workbook routine. Students will feel enjoy learning,

Technique is one way that is used by the teacher in teaching learning process.

There are many techniques that can be used to teach or to improve students' vocabulary, such as cross words, puzzle, words games, words selection, picture, song etc. The teacher should choose the appropriate technique to make the materials more enjoyable, challenging, and interesting in order to avoid the students' boredom.

It is already stated previously that teaching English through song is one of the effective ways to teach children. It will be easier for the learners to accept the materials when they are interested in it. It can raise students' motivation and attention. The students find that it is easy to learn English through song. Using song to teach English is indeed beneficial because songs are part and parcel of every kid's life, the children will naturally like to sing a song. A child who does not want to read a normal text might want to read the lyrics of a song, as she/he desires to sing the song. There is motivation; we could easily exploit the song in various ways to cover different skills, forms and function of the language.

Here the researcher uses song as one alternative media. Because it can create an enjoyable teaching learning activity, which can make students forget that they are learning. Teaching vocabulary through song can help students to learn naturally. Song is valuable aids in developing students' vocabulary mastery. There are many advantages of using it in the classroom: they present new words and expression in contexts and the student become familiar with the pronunciation. It means through song teacher can create very joyful teaching learning activity and make student

learning easily without felling afraid, so students have good motivation in learning English vocabulary.

Considering the advantages of the song, the researcher would use song as an alternative media in teaching vocabulary. The researcher assumed that this media can improve students' vocabulary achievement. Therefore, the researcher entitled the research "Increasing Students' Vocabulary Mastery through Song as A Teaching Media at the Fifth Year of SDN 4 Gadingrejo".

B. Identification of the Problems

Based on the background of the problem above, the researcher identified the following problems:

1. The students' average result of their English subject was very low.
2. Only several students were interested in studying English.
3. The students lacked of vocabulary.
4. Students had low motivation in English lesson.
5. Many students were afraid of making mistakes when they are answering questions.
6. Many students had limited words in speaking.
7. Students' attitude and perception of English and their previous knowledge of English was still low.
8. Most teachers did not master the materials. Mastering the teaching materials is one of the key to be success in carrying out the subject.
9. The teacher seldom used media or games in their teaching.
10. Teachers taught English monotonously so the students got bored.

C. Research Questions

Based on the background of the problem above, the researcher tried to formulate the problem raised in the classroom action research as follow:

1. Can song as a teaching media be used to increase students' vocabulary achievement at the fifth year of SDN 4 Gadingrejo?
2. Can song as a teaching media be used to increase students' activity at the fifth year of SDN 4 Gadingrejo?

D. Uses of the Research

The researcher expected that the findings of this classroom action research can be used:

1. As information for English teachers that song as a teaching media can be used to increase students' vocabulary achievement, and
2. As a consideration policy information for English teachers that song as a teaching media can be used to increase students' activities related to the development of teaching English at elementary school.

E. Scope of the Research

This classroom action research was conducted at SDN 4 Gadingrejo Pringsewu. The subject of the research was fifth year students. This class consisted of 30 students. Before doing this classroom action research, she prepared the material, and which is based on 2009 English curriculum for elementary school. She applied songs as the material. Actually there were some ways in teaching

vocabulary, but she would only apply memorizing vocabulary through song as a teaching media.

F. Terminology

1. Vocabulary is a list of words, usually in alphabetical order and with explanation of their meanings, less complete than dictionary. It means that we should understand the meaning.
2. Teaching and learning vocabulary is an activity where the teacher and the students reintroduce some vocabulary items with all the structure and in the entire situation in which they can logically be used.
3. Song can perform different function in language teaching. Song marked by richness of content, poetical metaphor and symbols that emotionally reflects the word we live in.
4. Teaching media are equipment physically used to deliver a lesson such as book, tape recorder, cassette, video camera, video recorder, film, slide, picture, graphic, television, computer, etc.