CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Vocabulary plays a significant role in daily communication and educational processes. Vocabulary is considered as one of the vital language components in English language learning. Due to its vital position, vocabulary has become one of language components that supports students in learning English.

Vocabulary is a language component that should be mastered by students. It is caused vocabulary is component that is used in constructing sentences for communication. In this view of language learning, vocabulary is the way of learning the language. It gives the learner prior knowledge to build up the understanding for using the language. When this knowledge is built up, the learner can begin to understand the goal of learning.

Teaching vocabulary is one of the foundations in mastering English. As the foreign language, English has many vocabularies which must be known by learners in order to master the language. Whilst Becker in (Sue hackman 2008:5) Ideatified that poor vocabulary knowledge as the primary cause of academic failure of disadvantaged students.

According to Kamil and Heibert in (reza 2012: 187), " vocabulary can be generically defined as knowledge of words or word meaning". Wilkins in (Thornbury, 2002:13) says, "Without grammar very little can be conveyed,

without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed". It means that without grammar people will get difficulties to express the ideas in the written or spoken form and without vocabulary people cannot express any ideas both of written and spoken form.

Vocabulary in teaching and learning process is often missed by most of English teachers in formal school. The teachers often teach English without building the students' prior knowledge such as teaching vocabulary. Besides that, however they teach vocabulary but the method used was still conventional. As the result, the students are not interested in learning and get difficulties in understanding the learning process.

This situation also occured at Vocational High School Ibnu Taimiyah, Pekanbaru. Vocational High School Ibnu Taimiyah is one of formal schools located at Jl. Hang Tuah. This school use School-Base Curriculum (SBC) as its guidance in teaching and learning process. English a taught twice a week in 90 minutes for every meeting. Based on the curriculum used by the school, it is stated that the minimum criterion score of the students in English ability is 75. Based on SBC (2006: 124) " the goals of teaching English are as follows: developing communicative competence in oral and written form to achieve functional literacy level, having awareness about sense and significant English in order to increase national competence in global society and developing students' understanding about relationship between language and culture. Moreover, one of the aspects to support the competence is linguistic competence (use grammar, vocabulary, phonetic, and syntax).

Based on the writer's teaching experience on September 2015, it was found that the teaching method which was used by the English teacher in teaching English was still conventional and there was no variation which was given to the students. The students were only given task taken from English text book. The method was quite good for years but in recent years some students were not interested in learning. They needed learning variations in the class in order to make them become more active in learning process.

Besides that, the English teachers also admit never did brainstorming before giving the task. They often asked the students to open their text book and do exercises directly without giving any prior knowledge that could help them in recognizing the material of the subject. As the result, some of the students got difficulties in learning English and got low score under 75. These cases could be seen from the phenomena as follows:

1. The students were difficult to remember the words.

2. The students had misinterpretation meaning toward the right meaning of words.

3. The students had problems in writing words correctly.

4. The students were difficult to understand the meaning relationship (synonym and antonym)

5. The teaching method that was used by the teacher was still conventional.

Based on the phenomena above, the writer concluded that it was necessary to improve the students' vocabulary mastery as good as possible because of the coventional method that was used by the English teacher in teaching was not

effective to increase students' vocabulary mastery. Moreover, there was an appropriate teaching method that could help students in mastering vocabulary is that Reading Comic. Comics are a form of visual communication media that have the power to convey information, popular and easy to understand. This is possible because the comic combines the power of pictures and writings, which strung together in story line drawings, make the information more easily absorbed. The text makes it more understood, and the story line is easier to follow and remember. As visual communication media, comics can be applied as a tool of education and be able to convey information effectively and efficiently. Comic can also be used to facilitate vocabulary teaching.

Based on the phenomena depicted above, it could be stated that some of the tenth grade students were still have problems in terms of their vocabulary mastery in learning English. Thus, the researcher was necessary to investigate the phenomena above into a research entitled: ***"The effect of using comic as media in reading to increase students' vocabulary mastery at tenth grade of vocational high school ibnu taimiyah pekanbaru.***

B. Problem

1. The Identification of the problem

Based on the background and phenomena above, the writer would like to identify the problem as follows:

a. Why were the students difficult to remember the words?

b. Why did the students had misinterpretation meaning toward the right meaning of words?

c. Why did the students students have problems in writing words correctly?

d. Why were the students difficult to understand the meaning relationship (synonym and antonym)?

e. Why was the teaching method that was used by the teacher was still conventional?

2. The Limitation of the problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, it was clear that there were many problems that were faced by the students related to their vocabulary mastery. Then, the writer used reading comic as the solution for the problems above. As the result, the writer focused this research on "'students' vocabulary mastery by reading comic".

3. The Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem stated above, thus the research questions are formulated in the following questions:

a. How is students' vocabulary mastery taught by using comic at the tenth grade of vocational high school ibnu taimiyah pekanbaru?

b. How is students' vocabulary mastery taught without using comic at the tenth grade of Vocational High School Ibnu Taimiyah Pekanbaru?

c. Is there any significant effect of using comic on students' vocabulary mastery at the tenth grade of vocational high school ibnu taimiyah?

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

a. To find out students' vocabulary mastery taught by using comic at the tenth grade of vocational high school ibnu taimiyah.

b. To find out students' vocabulary masetry taught without using comic at the tenth grade of vocational high school ibnu taimiyah.

c. To find out whether there is a significant effect of using comic on students' vocabulary mastery at the tenth grade of vocational high school ibnu taimiyah.

2. Significance of the Research

The result of this study is hopefully useful for:

1. The students of Vocational High School Ibnu Taimiyah to improve their vocabulary through comic and develop their study in order to be successful.

2. The English teacher of Vocational High School Ibnu Taimiyah to use the result of the study as a feedback in increasing the performance in teaching learning process.

D. Definition of the Terms

There are some terms involved in this research, thus to avoid miss understanding of the terms used in this research, the following terms are defined as follows:

a. Effect

Effect in Creswell (2008:639) is a means for identifying the strength of the conclusions about the group differences or about the relationship among variables in a quantitative study. In this research, the effect means the result of using comic on the students' vocabulary mastery at Vocational High School Ibnu Taimiyah Pekanbaru

b. Vocabulary mastery

Mastery vocabulary is comprehensive knowledge or use of a vocabulary or understanding vocabulary completely. Lewis and Hill (1990: 12) said that vocabulary mastery is important for the students. It is more than grammar for communication purpose, particularly in the early stage when students are motivated to learn the basic words. Without having proportional English vocabulary, students will get some difficulties in using English. Vocabulary mastery can be measured by the requirements of generalization (being able to define words) and application (selecting an appropriate use of it).

c. Comic

Geeky Teacher retrieved on *April 2nd 2011, 11.16 pm,* he said that Comics are a form of visual communication media that have the power to convey information, which is popular and easy to understand. This is

possible because the comic combines the power of pictures and writings, which strung together in story line drawings, make the information more easily absorbed. The text makes it more understood, and the story line is easier to follow and to remember. Comics are a visual communication and media that are also more than just a pictorial story of light and entertaining. As a visual communication media, comics can beapplied as a tool of education and able to convey information effectively and efficiently. Comic can also be used to facilitate vocabulary teaching.

According to Scott McCloud in his book *Understanding Comics*(1993), comics are juxtaposed pictorial and other images in deliberatesequence, intended to convey information or to produce anaesthetic response in the viewer. By this definition, single panel illustrations are not comics, but instead cartoons.

E. The Reason of Choosing the Title

There are some reasons why the writer chooses the title as follows:

1. The writer wanted to investigate the students vocabulary mastery through reading comic at Vocational High School Ibnu Taimiyah Pekanbaru.

2. The topic of the research was relevant to the writer as one of the student of English Education Department.

3. The writer was able to carry out this research regarding the time, finance and the writer's knowledge.