CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this first chapter, the researcher is going to give the introduction section. It covers some subchapters which are background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and the last is definition of key terms. All of the subchapters will be explained as below:

1.1 Background of the study

In this globalization era, it cannot be denied that ability of English is really needed. The ability of English is not only required for education or communication but also for job hunting. As the examples, in tourism the ability of English is needed for guiding foreign tourists, as a hotel receptionist the ability of English is required for serving the guests from foreign countries. Nowadays, the opportunity to get a job in company is easier for people who are able to speak English than people who are not able to speak English, because many companies’ owners will prefer applicants who have ability in English to join and work in their companies. Based on that explanation, it can be concluded that English has important roles in our life. Therefore, the ability of English is very necessary in order to face the more globalizing world and to achieve a better life in the future.

In Indonesia, English is one of compulsory subjects which is taught in certain educational levels and has to be mastered by students, especially in junior high school. Regarding one of the curriculum objectives is to achieve the skill aspect, there are four important major skills of English that have to be mastered by the students. Those four
skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. There is one of crucial components to improve those four important skills, namely vocabulary. As stated by Richard and Renandya (2002: 255), “vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis of how well learners speak, listen, read and write”. From that statement, it can be concluded that vocabulary is one of components that connects those four skills together.

As a student of English education department who has experienced teaching Internship 2, the researcher realized that being a teacher is not an easy case, especially in teaching learning vocabulary. Students often found various problems that made them really difficult to learn English vocabulary, such as: remembering the meaning of vocabulary, pronouncing the words, write the words and so on, as results students also feel bored and not interested in learning English. Consequently, the teachers should be more creative in teaching English. In order to solve those problems and make students more interested in studying English materials, the teachers need to choose the appropriate teaching techniques that make the students understand or even interested in learning English in the class. As Brown states, “Technique is any of a wide variety of exercises, activities, or tasks used in the language classroom for realizing lesson objectives” (2001: 16). In other words, the teachers’ teaching techniques are the main key that can give a big influence in language classroom to achieve the success of learning process.

In teaching learning process, media are used as a means of achieving the learning objectives. Media helps the teacher in teaching a lesson in order that the teaching learning process will be more interesting. According to Ohm (2010), there are three categories of
media: auditive media (e.g. piece of music, radio programme etc.), visual media (e.g. picture, silent film, etc.), audiovisual media (e.g. sound film, TV programme etc).

In this study, the researcher is interested in teaching vocabulary by using English pop songs. Pop song is one of genres music which can be categorized as auditive media. English pop songs can be integrated as attractive thing that hopefully can make the students interested and it is expected that English pop songs can improve students’ vocabulary mastery in the process of teaching learning English.

Related to the previous studies about the use of song in English teaching learning, conducted by Sonianingsih (2004) in her paper entitled “The Correlation between Students’ Interest in English song and their Vocabulary Mastery” reports that students’ interests in English songs could help their vocabulary building. Students will find words easier to remember and will be motivated in the class. Songs cover all teachers’ and students’ need in teaching and learning a language because it is the easier way in learning a foreign language. Furthermore, Dito (2010) in his paper entitled: “Improving Students’ Speaking Skill Through The Use of Alternative Rock Songs of the XI Grade at SMA Negeri 1 PLERET in the Academic Year of 2010/2011”, he tried to investigate the effectiveness of alternative rock songs in the process of teaching learning English. The result mentions that the implementation of alternative rock songs was effective to improve the students’ speaking skill. Moreover, the students were more interested and actively involved in the teaching learning process. Based on the benefits of the studies above, the researcher tries to use of English pop songs to make differentiation between this research and the previous studies to be applied at second grade of SMP PGRI 2 BATU.
Nowadays, an expression about “song is everywhere“ is not just a nonsense because song has become a part of our daily lives which is often used everywhere such as: movies, advertisements, radio, and video games even song that is played in public places like shops, restaurants, markets and cafes. Almost everyone loves music especially students. They often use their mobile phone or mp3 player just for listen to their favorite songs any time at anywhere. Moreover, English pop song which is always listened by the students will make them wonder to know the meaning of unfamiliar English words from the song.

Considering the popularity of song based on the explanation and the previous studies above, the researcher agrees that involving song in language teaching learning can be very beneficial to introduce the students’ new English words easily. So, the researcher would like to conduct a research entitled “The Effectiveness of Using English Pop Songs on Students’ Vocabulary Mastery at The Second Grade of SMP PGRI 2 BATU” which is located in Raya Pandanrejo street No. 1A Bumiaji, Batu. Besides, the researcher is very interested in conducting this research because this is the first time that English pop song is used as a teaching technique in this school. So, that is why this research is urgent to be conducted in order to know the effectiveness of pop songs in the process of teaching learning English at SMP PGRI 2 BATU. Hopefully, this study can improve students’ vocabulary skills and can increase students’ motivation in learning English with a new experience.
1.2 The Statement of problem

Based on the background of the study stated above, the researcher formulates a research question as follow:

1. Is the use of English pop song effective to improve students’ vocabulary mastery?

1.3 Hypothesis

1. Alternative hypothesis (Ha): English pop song is effective for improving students’ vocabulary mastery at second grade students of SMP PGRI 2 BATU.
2. Null hypothesis (Ho): English pop song is not effective for improving students’ vocabulary mastery at second grade students of SMP PGRI 2 BATU.

1.4 The purpose of the study

Based on the formulation of problem above, this study is aimed at knowing whether the use of English pop songs is effective on students’ vocabulary mastery of the second grade at SMP PGRI 2 BATU.

1.5 The significance of the study

In this study, there are some advantages that hopefully can be achieved. The result of this study is expected to give contribution to the teachers, the students, and the researcher that can be described as follows:

1. For English Teachers

The result of this study can give the English teachers inspirations about the effectiveness of pop songs which can be implemented in classroom activities to support
students’ vocabulary mastery in English language teaching. Also, it is expected that the teachers will enrich their knowledge in English teaching learning process by using this technique.

2. For the Students

The result of this study can give a solution to help the students who want to improve their vocabulary skills easier and increasing students’ motivation in learning English with a new experience.

3. For the Researcher

As a student of English education department, this study really gives the researcher a useful experience and knowledge which is important for the development of the researcher’s competences. This research provide a chance for the researcher to apply what has been earned from academic learning in order to give contribution to solve real problems in the field. Moreover, the result of this study can give some advantages to other researchers who conduct the same research topic as the reference.

1.6 The scope and limitation

This study is about a classroom experimental research and the scope of this study is teaching vocabulary by using English pop songs at the second grade of SMP PGRI 2 BATU. Meanwhile this study is limited only to find out the result of teaching vocabulary for students who are taught by using pop songs and those who are taught without using English pop songs and to know the difference between the mean scores of the students’ completion tests in order to measuring the students’ ability.
1.7 The definition of the key terms

To avoid the misinterpretations of the terms used in this study, defining the key terms as follows is needed:

1. **Vocabulary:**

Vocabulary: a list or set of words for a particular language or a list or a set of words that individual speakers of language might use (Hatch & Brown, 1995).

2. **Teaching Technique:**
   A. Teaching: “Teaching is guiding and facilitating learning, enabling the learner to learn, setting the conditions for learning” (Brown, 2007).
   B. Technique: Technique is any of a wide variety of exercises, activities, or tasks used in the language classroom for realizing lesson objectives (Brown, 2001).

3. **Pop Song:**

Pop song or popular music well like genre of music it is more well likes than many examples of so called- ‘authentic’ popular forms like blues, folk, country, heavy metal, rock, rap, and techno (Chris Rojek, 2011).