CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

The most important language in the world is English, because English as the primary international communication. It is the reason why many people want to study it. English is the first foreign language taught to students of elementary school.

Since 1992, English has been taught at elementary school in Indonesia. But in recent year, teaching English in elementary school becomes a supplementary subject. It is because of the regulation of Indonesia government which stated in the policy of ministry of Education and Culture and Number 0487/4/1992, Chapter VIII. The regulation explains that an elementary school can include extra lessons as long as they are not in contradiction with the objective of the national education. As the decentralization of education in Indonesia, many elementary schools decide to teach English since early age for their students in order to help them master English as early as possible.

Teaching English has very limited function for the young learner’s social communication so that they do not have high motivation to learn English. Teaching English to young learners are different from that to adult because they have their own characteristic so that the teachers could not only focus on their lesson plan. The teachers should strive to make young learners interested and focused on the class because they have short attention span (Brown, 2001).
In order to facilitate young learners to master English, the teacher needs to teach vocabulary before teaching more about English. Vocabulary is an important part of learning a foreign language. It would be impossible for young learners to learn English without learning vocabulary because vocabulary is one of the major components used in verbal or non-verbal communication.

According to Thornbury (2002) vocabulary as a collection of all words in particular language and has a form of an expression that is associated with meaning. It means vocabulary is student needs which can support them to produce and use meaningful sentences. That is why vocabulary is very essential to be mastered.

According to Linse (2005) vocabulary development is an important aspect of their language development. It is means to help the young learner develop their language and feel enjoy the learning process. They need some coursebooks because they are easy to illustrate and because often young learner don’t have literacy skills so the only words can easily be feature are vocabulary. It is important aspect for young learners try to learn and have a new word of English in other hand the students more easily understand using vocabulary in the text.

To teach English vocabulary the teacher should knowing the situation and characteristics of the students, the teacher should take into account the way young learners learn. The teacher should recognize that young learners can learn language easier than adult when learn by doing. They will learn English
vocabulary easier when the teacher give direct experiences and physical activities such as playing games in the teaching and learning activities. But, when teaching English vocabulary to young learner take place, the crucial problems also could arise. It is because sometimes young learners have difficulties to spell, pronounce English words, and memorizing words meaning. So the teachers should have appropriate teaching technique so the students will enjoy and learns the language easily. The teachers also have purposes or expect that the students will master and understand the materials. Harmer (2007) explains that in the teaching process of teaching and learning, teacher should use appropriate media and technique based on the students’ ability. It means that, by using suitable technique teacher should provide the unique technique in order to make the student feel enjoy and catch students’ attentions. According to Harmer (2003), methods are about the types of activity, role of teacher and learners and about which kinds of materials suitable for teaching. So, it means that methods more emphasize on theory of teaching while technique is the practice in teaching using the teaching methods.

Pertiwi (2008) who conducted a research on the technique of teaching vocabulary to the fourth grade student at SDN Parangargo 02 Wagir Malang found that technique were the visual technique, mime and gesture technique, contrasts technique, scales technique, example technique. The teacher used those various techniques to make the students could learn to comprehend the vocabulary used in a text more easily. Another research by Rahmanda (2009)
entitled “A Study on Vocabulary Teaching of Fourth Grade Students at SDN Bakalan Pasuruan” found that there were six teaching techniques that applied by the teacher, they were; Using Flashcard or pictures, Using translation technique, game technique, the type of example, singing a song, guessing words.

SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu is one of Elementary Schools that applied the 2013 Curriculum in which English is as the Extracurricular. The 2013 Curriculum provides a new approach which only focuses on recent teaching methods or strategies to develop students’ competence in teaching process as demanding in the global era. Therefore, it provides scientific approach to develop the students’ knowledge, attitude, and skill. In scientific approach, learning phases are constructed from observing, questioning, collecting information or experimenting, associating, and communicating (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2013). Moreover, students are predictability have good knowledge and skills in English.

The writer chose the English teacher in SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu because he has important role in English students’ mastery. He is the only English teacher in that school. He does not have any English education backgrounds, however he has an ability to teach various teaching technique.

SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu, with its strategic location, is accessible and well recognized by public although it is not a favorite school. SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu has once become the winner when the students join an English competition in Batu. One of the most important subjects in SDN Torongrejo 1
Batu is English. In teaching English it is necessary to learn vocabulary, grammar.

This study focuses on technique teaching English vocabulary that used by the teacher in SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu. Since by learning English makes the students improve their speaking skill, the students enjoy and excited learning the language.

When the writer conducted pre-research in SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu, the writer had conversation and interview with the former teacher of fourth grade. The teacher explained that he taught the students using common media such as book, games and using drilling technique. He also mentioned the English score of students are quite good. Above all, the writer is interested in investigating in four grade of SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu. The writer wants to know and describe the teaching technique vocabulary used by the English teacher and the way to apply the technique.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background, the writer formulated the problems as follows;

a) What are the teacher’s techniques in teaching English vocabulary at four grade of SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu?

b) How does the teacher apply the techniques in teaching English Vocabulary at four grade of SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu?

1.3 The Purposes of The Study

The aim of this study elaborated as follow:
a. To describe the techniques used by the teacher in teaching English vocabulary at four grade of SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu

b. To know the teacher applies the techniques in teaching English vocabulary at four grade of SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu.

1.4 The Significance of The Study

The significance of this study expected to be able to improve and elaborate the knowledge about techniques in teaching English vocabulary. In this case, by knowing the techniques in teaching English vocabulary and how to apply the techniques, the result can give contribution to the students who want to conduct the same subject of study, also this result of this study can give knowledge about the teaching technique used by teacher in SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the technique used by the teacher in teaching English vocabulary and the way to apply them in the classroom. In addition, the subject of this study is limited to the fourth grade English teacher of SDN Torongrejo 1 Batu.

1.6 The Definition of key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of this study, the following essential terms are defined:

1. Teaching: According to Brown (2007), teaching is showing or helping someone to learn how to do something, giving instruction, guiding in the study of something, providing with knowledge, causing to know or
understand. Teaching means showing or helping someone to learn how to do something but which it different is the target of learner.

2. Vocabulary: the most important elements in learning foreign language. It should be mastered by the learner if they want to be successful in learning English. Vocabulary is total number of words that makes up a language: vocabulary mentions to all words in the whole language or the words and phrases used in particular variety (Nation, 1990). So, Vocabulary is the total of words in particular language. Mastering of vocabulary can help students to improve their English achievement easily.

3. Teaching Techniques: Harmer (2007) concludes, a term that is also used in discussion about teaching is ‘modal’ used to describe typical procedures or sets of procedures, usually for teachers in training. So, teaching technique is a well-defined procedure used to accomplish a specific activity or task.

4. Young Learners: the students who are in first until sixth grade of elementary school.