

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The topic of my term paper is my difficulty in giving description to intermediate learners while teaching vocabulary. The reason of choosing this topic is because teaching vocabulary is interesting. It seems easy, but it is not as easy as I thought it to be. It is because the vocabulary, especially for the intermediate level, is quite wide and complicated. It challenges me to keep enriching myself and learning more. Moreover, vocabulary plays an important part in learning English. Furthermore, Crist states in his article that “We think with words, so the limits of our learning are related to the limits of our vocabulary” (par.2).

I did my internship at Fond of English (henceforth, FOE), an English course in Cirebon. I worked as a teacher assistant there. Sometimes Ms. Debie Sadikun, the owner of FOE, gave me some chances to teach in class. Each class consists of eight (8) students and I usually taught three (3) or four (4) classes in one day. The levels of the learners are divided into five (5) categories; elementary, pre-intermediate, intermediate, pre-advanced, and advanced level. The age level of the intermediate learners

is around 10-17 years old. The difficulty of vocabulary materials that are given is based on the learners' level of English. One meeting will last for one hour and the learners will learn at least twenty (20) vocabulary in one meeting. Usually, I distributed the list of English vocabulary materials with their meanings in Bahasa in advance of the next class meeting.

Based on the interview with Ms. Debie, one of the methods of teaching vocabulary applied in FOE is by giving the description or the definition of the words that will be asked to the learners. After the description is given to the learners, they have to guess what the answers are. For instance, the teacher is going to ask the learners about the word "plumber". Then, the teacher will give the description of the word plumber. Usually, he or she will mention the first letter of it and also the number of letter in the word. For example, the teacher will say, "what do you call someone whose job is repairing a tap? It is "P", it has seven (7) letters" (6th November 2012). The description will help the learners to find out the answer of the question. If the learners can answer the question, they will get a point. The learner who gets the highest point will get a present as a reward. Ms. Debie usually varies this method with a game so that the learners got excited and they could learn well. I choose to observe intermediate learners as the subject of my observation because I taught intermediate class most of the time during my internship.

It was a bit hard for me to describe the words that will be asked to the learners in a simple way so that the learners can understand the

description easily. Therefore, I would like to find the best solutions of my problem.

B. Identification of the Problem

This term paper describes a problem that I found when I did my internship as a teacher assistant in FOE. The problem can be stated into these questions:

1. Why do I have difficulty in giving description to intermediate learners while teaching vocabulary?
2. How should I improve my skills in giving description to those learners while teaching vocabulary?
3. What is the best solution for my problem?

C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

The objectives that I want to achieve at the end of the process of my term paper writing are I can figure out the causes and the effects of my problem, find some ways to improve my skills and find out the best solution of the problem.

The advantage for the institution is the teachers in FOE can learn from my term-paper so that they can give better description. The advantages for the readers are they can enrich their knowledge of teaching English vocabulary, especially in giving description, as one of the methods to teach vocabulary. They can learn from my experience during my internship

there. Besides, this term paper gives me an advantage. It makes me deepen my knowledge and skills about English teaching.

D. Description of the Institution

Based on the information from the FOE's company profile (Appendix G), FOE was established on Tuesday, 4 November 1997 by Debie Sadikun, as a dedication to her beloved parents. The name is chosen because she has conviction that by being fond of English, people will be committed to spend time learning English. Led and blessed by God, FOE has been thriving ever since it was founded. Having the high demand in providing more classes, Ms. Debie has extended the course by hiring more teachers since 2010. FOE is always committed to deliver excellence in English teaching for general, academic, and business purposes.

The vision of FOE is empowering the learners to develop confidence and persistence in learning English. The mission is encouraging learners to develop an interest in learning English on a lifelong basis. FOE has a motto that through English, FOE will embrace the world.

Nowadays, FOE is growing fast. The learners are increasing each year because of its high quality. This institution always develops its quality in order to fill the needs of learners in the English learning.

E. Method of the Study

In collecting data for this term paper, I use several ways. The first way is I get some data from my observation during the internship period. The

data is written down in a journal which records every activities that I have done during my internship. The second way is by reading some books in the library. The library provides a lot of good books to help me open my mind. I also read some journals as my references. The third way is by reading some English articles in the internet. Internet service provides some good articles that help me a lot in finding theories for my term paper. The fourth way is by interviewing Ms. Debie Sadikun. The period of collecting the data was from September until January 2013. The data is used to support and justify this term paper.

F. Limitation of the Study

The discussion of this term paper will limit on a certain method in teaching English vocabulary that is used in FOE while I was doing my internship from 16th July until 16th August 2012. The method is by giving description. I had to give some description when I taught vocabularies for the learners of intermediate level in FOE. The subject of the research is I, as a teacher assistant.

G. Organization of the Term Paper

My term paper starts with the Abstract. Declaration of Originality, Acknowledgements, and Table of Contents are following after the Abstract. Chapter I describes about Background of the Study, Identification of the Problem, Objectives and Benefits of the Study, Description of the Study, Method of the Study, Limitation of the Study, and Organization of

the term Paper. Chapter II describes the problem analysis. It will discuss the causes and the effects of the problem. Chapter III describes the potential solutions. It will discuss some potential solutions to solve my problem and some potential positive and negative effects of each potential solution. Chapter IV describes the conclusion of my term paper. It will discuss the summary of the previous chapters, statement of chosen solutions, justification points from the theories and contexts, and some suggestions and opinions. Bibliography consists of the sources of the theories. The last part will be Appendices which consist of the flowchart, the list of the interview questions, the list of interview transcriptions, example of vocabulary material, and company profile.