

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Vocabulary is one of English subjects which is important in learning English. In an article entitled “Learning Vocabulary in English Subject”, it is stated that, “Vocabulary is one of the most important aspects of foreign language learning (par.1). Furthermore, Richards and Rodgers explain that, “language would never be built if there is no vocabulary over here because language is the set of many vocabularies, which was built and make something to express human emotion and others, which is called language” (qtd. In “Language Vocabulary” par.1). Therefore, teaching vocabulary to children is useful for developing English skills and communicating with others.

Teaching vocabulary to children is not easy. The teacher has to think creatively to make the children feel interested in the lesson. In an article entitled “The Teacher In The Future”, it is explained that, “Being a teacher must be creative and innovative. Creative and innovative is one way of thinking how to develop the existing into something different” (par.4).

I agree with that statement because to be a good teacher I must be creative in teaching vocabulary when giving the explanation for children.

Before discussing the problem, I would like to explain the characteristics of children aged six and seven years old. Brewer explains that a child of six years old “is able to group objects” (16), and children of that age “want to be first” (16-17). For example, the child is able to group objects such as fruits and animals. When I was teaching the children aged six at ACE KIDS, they usually want to be the first in playing the game. Furthermore, Brewer states that a child of seven years old “shows more persistence”, “is more independent at work and play”, and for him or her “talking and discussion are important (16-17). It is true, when I was teaching the children aged seven, they are more independent in doing exercises.

Based on my internship at ACE KIDS (henceforth, AK), I found a problem related to teaching vocabulary to children. AK is an English private course. I taught English vocabulary to two children aged six and seven years old twice a week for ninety minutes in one meeting. The children in AK have a book of vocabulary from AK. While I was teaching, I got some difficulties in teaching the vocabulary. When I was explaining the lesson to the children, they did not pay attention to me. They talked and also shouted. Therefore, the situation in the class was noisy. The children did not sit on the chair properly, sometimes they prefer to sit on

the floor. Therefore. In such situation, I could not teach English vocabulary effectively to the children. Therefore, I would like to obtain the solutions to handle the problem.

In this term paper, I would like to analyze how to overcome the difficulties in teaching vocabulary to two children aged six and seven years old at Ace Kids. I would like to find the best solutions to solve the problem.

## B. Identification of the Problem

Based on my experience as a teacher assistant at AK, I would like to analyze:

1. Why did I have difficulties in teaching new English vocabulary for two children of six and seven years old in AK private course?
2. How should I teach English vocabulary effectively to two children of six and seven years old in AK private course?

## C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out the causes and the effects of the problem namely my difficulties in teaching English vocabulary to two children at AK. Furthermore, I would like to solve the problem and to find the best solutions to the problem.

By writing this term paper there will be some benefits for the readers, the teachers at AK and especially for myself. For the readers, I would like to give some tips of how to teach vocabulary to children of six and seven years old effectively and make them interested in learning. For the teachers at AK, they could learn some ways to make the children interested to study. For myself, I could learn how to be a good teacher in teaching vocabulary.

By writing this term paper, I would like to share my experiences in teaching vocabulary for children of six and seven years old at AK. I could learn how to motivate the children to study the vocabulary. And if one day I teach in an institution of education I will know how to teach vocabulary well to the children.

#### D. Description of the Institution

This description is based on the information from Ms. Rhimelda as a supervisor at AK Bandung (see Appendix B). AK is one of private English courses in Bandung. It has a motto “AK starts with the end of mind”. The owner of this course is Dra. Leonny Siswanti Tanama. She first established AK in Jakarta. After that, she established AK in Bandung on the 1st of April, 2002 on Jalan Pajajaran no 87 Bandung. In August 2002, AK moved to a new location at Jln.Astina no 68D Bandung. Now, Ms Rhimelda is the manager of AK and the teachers are Mrs. Susanti and Mrs. Winne. AK has good facilities, such as airconditioners, televisions,

DVD players, whiteboards and playrooms. The children can learn many subjects at AK such as Vocabulary, Grammar, Speaking and Reading.

## E. Method of the Study

Based on my teaching experience, I choose to analyze the problem in teaching vocabulary for two children of six and seven years old as the topic of my term paper. For the process of collecting data I use several ways. First, I get data from teaching the two children during my internship in AK. Second, I use my internship journal which contains the data of my teaching experiences at AK. Third, I read some books from Maranatha Christian University's library that are related to my problem in this term paper. Last, I also read some articles from the Internet to solve the problem and to find the best solution based on the theories.

## F. Limitation of the Study

My term paper focuses on how to teach English vocabulary which is effective and interesting for the two children of six and seven years old at AK. The period of internship is from August 1st, 2011 to August 27, 2011 at AK Bandung. The subject of my research are two children aged six and seven at AK and also me as the teacher.

## G. Organization of the Term Paper

This term paper starts with the Abstract, the summary of the term paper in Indonesian. Next, there are Declaration of Originality, Acknowledgements and Table of contents. The content is divided into four chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, Chapter II is Problem Analysis, Chapter III is Problem Solutions, and Chapter IV is Conclusion. In the last part of my term paper there is a Bibliography containing the list of references, and Appendices (Flowchart, History of AK, sample of songs and sample of AK Vocabulary Exercise).