

## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

This chapter covers the background of the research, research question, and the aims of the research. Furthermore this chapter also consists of the scope of the research and the objectives of the research. At the end of this chapter it discusses about the significance of the research.

### **Basic Consideration**

Teaching English as the foreign language in Indonesia is a challenge for Indonesian English teachers in all academic level. Particularly in junior high school where the English subject taught. The biggest challenge for the teacher is how to create or to apply the appropriate teaching strategy and teaching medium in approaching student's characteristics to achieve the goal of the teaching and learning.

The successful of teaching and learning English can be seen on students' progress during the learning process, but it cannot be denied that there are some factors that make the teaching and learning process does not run very well. As the example is the student's lack of vocabulary. This is the common problem that faced by the learners and the English teachers during the learning process. This problem is also had been experienced by the researcher during the teaching practice at junior high school. It was found that, in this educational level the learners were still difficult to produce the language caused of their lack of vocabulary. Therefore to overcome this problem, the vocabulary teaching is very important for the beginner learners of English.

Vocabulary is very important for the English learners as their foundation in learning English. According to Richards (1984, p.225) he states that vocabulary is the core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis for how well learners speak, listen, read, and write. Regarding to this theory, it is believed that vocabulary is the most important part of language as the main skill that learners should be mastered to make them easier to learn English. Therefore the more learners mastering much vocabulary the easier they construct their language.

To overcome this problem, it should be considered by the teacher to apply the appropriate teaching medium and strategy in teaching English, particularly English vocabulary in achieving the successful of teaching and learning.

According to Nation (2005) he states that to enhance learners' vocabulary knowledge and skills, second language teachers need to consider vocabulary learning strategies, learning goals, and teaching techniques. Therefore in teaching vocabulary the use of teaching medium and strategy are necessary to attract learners' attention toward the materials.

Some of English teachers have done their best to help the learners in mastering vocabulary, but some of them are still not getting its success during the learning process. For example: they ask their students to remember several vocabularies as the key of entering the class, sometimes the learners cannot be forced in their learning process when the teaching medium or strategy is not suitable with their learning style. Therefore it is important to get their interest first, like giving them a motivating learning medium. Thus in teaching process,

selecting the appropriate teaching medium of vocabulary is not only how we can help the learners to learn easily, but also how we can apply the appropriate teaching medium and strategy that makes them interested toward the materials. Because once they are interested to the learning medium and strategy they will feel enjoy learning, and it can be guaranteed that they would be helped during the learning process.

Regarding to the phenomenon above, this study is offering English pop song as the medium of mastering vocabulary toward junior high school learners. Instead of the medium of entertainment, English pop song has many benefits to the learning process. According to Harmer (2001, p.242) he stated that A piece of music can change the atmosphere in classroom or prepare students for a new activity. It can amuse and entertain, and it can make a satisfactory connection between a world of leisure and a world of learning. Therefore the use of music or song in this learning process expected to create a good learning atmosphere where the learners can enjoy learning without pressure.

In qualifying the song, this research used the older song such as the songs of “Michael Learn to rock and Westlife” which have popular in a particular time. According to Harmer (2001, p.242) he suggested that there are two ways of selecting the song, such as asking the students to bring their own favorite song, and the other solution is using older song. When we ask the learners to bring their own favorite song, it must take a longer few days for the teacher or researcher to listen and to try to understand the lyric of song. Therefore, to make it simple, this research used the alternative way that used the older song. The selected song that

used in this research is considered as the song which clearly pronounced and easy to understand. Moreover the diction of their song lyric is simple and contextual that makes the songs easy to remember and easy to understand by the learners.

Considering the focus of this study, this process of teaching English vocabulary only focused on the aspect of vocabulary such as meaning, synonym, and antonym as the indicators in this research. It is believed that in mastering vocabulary, those aspects of vocabulary are necessary that the learners should be acquired in learning vocabulary. Therefore in this learning process the use of the song collaborated to vocabulary teaching and learning where the learners would be asked to listen to the lyric of English song when the song is playing then they would be asked to make a list of every single vocabulary that they got from what they listen. Finally, they would be asked to find the meaning, synonym and antonym of it from the song lyric.

The topic of this research has conducted by Masning Zahro in (2009) with the title of research "The use of song lyric to improve student's vocabulary of verb". His research is also objected to junior high school which is similar to this study. But the different is in his research used the text of song lyric in conducting his research while this research is not. As the result, his research was successful to increase student's ability in mastering vocabulary which can be seen on the different score of pre test and post where the result of post test was higher than pre test. Zahro's research is good enough to encourage this research to find out the students progress in mastering vocabulary through English pop song, particularly students at the second grade of SMP Negeri 2 Pulubala.

This study purposed to the second grade students of SMPN 2 Pulubala as the reinforcement for them as the beginner English learners to have a strong basic in learning English. In the other side, junior high school learners are the individuals who are loving to learn fun, therefore the English pop song brings to their learning process to get their interest toward the materials and also to make them feel enjoy learning. Moreover the material of song is covered in the second grade of junior high school which is suitable with their running curriculum. Therefore the English pop song purposed to the second grade of junior high school learners as their medium of learning English, particularly English vocabulary.

### **Research Question**

Based on the description above, it can be formulated the research question of this research is “Can English pop songs influence students’ ability in mastering vocabulary?”

### **Aims of the Research**

This research aims to investigate and to find out whether the English pop song can increase students ability at the second grade of SMP Negeri 2 Pulubala to mastering vocabulary.

### **The Scope of the Research**

This research talks about the use of English pop songs in mastering vocabulary, particularly the aspect of vocabulary (Meaning, synonym, and antonym) toward the second grades learners of SMPN 2 Pulubala.

### **Significance of the Research**

The significance of this research purposed for both the learners and the teachers: For the teacher, in teaching English they can use this medium to teach their student in different way to keep the learners' mood in learning English by putting them into interesting learning atmosphere. The use of English pop song is also expected can help the teachers to motivate the learners to be interested to the materials. While for the learners, the use of English pop song expected can motivate them to learn English, especially in learning vocabulary. Through this medium they can learn English relax and enjoy, furthermore, through this medium of learning the learners can learn English independently through the English song without teacher's assistance.