CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

At present, understanding and learning English seems to know no age, both young and old. Someone is increasingly aware of the importance of mastering English in this modern era, with increasingly advanced technological developments, we inevitably have to enter that realm. As the younger generation who in fact are the spearheads of the nation's struggle relay, like it or not we must continue to upgrade ourselves to improve our skills in various fields, so as not to be eroded by the progress of the times. This can be used as the reason underlying the need for learning English from a young age, even when children are still in kindergarten, because if children are taught from a young age, the knowledge they acquire will stick around longer.

In Islam itself, the concept of educational development for children in Islam focuses on the concept of tarbiyah which refers to affectionate treatment to foster a sense of

empowerment and develop children's independence in the form of self-care skills, as well as the ta'dib whose concept refers to the process of applying values, such as discipline and order. Islam provides the view that children's education begins with the family, parents have an important role in educating, directing and teaching children. As one hadith from Abu Hurairah, that Raulullah Shallallahu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam said "Every child is born in a condition of fitrah, except for the parents who make a person remain in a state of fitrah or direct the child to become a Jew, Christian or Zoroastrians." (HR. Bukhari and Muslim).

In an Islamic perspective, learning is an obligation for every Muslim in order to acquire knowledge so that the degree of his life increases. This is stated in surah Mujilah is verse 11 which means "undoubtedly Allah will increase several degrees to those who are knowledgeable". Knowledge in this case, of course, must be knowledge that is relevant to the demands of the times and is beneficial to the lives of many people (Aini, 2020). The factor of modernization and globalization is

something that is inevitable for the inhabitants of the earth, this of course has such a big impact, one of which is of course regarding learning foreign languages, because the more advanced the times, then of course someone will have the desire to travel around the world for various reasons, could be because of education, job demands, or just a vacation. As a means of communication, the language must be mastered well in order to be able to communicate well with other people, a person has a duty to strive to be able to learn and understand a foreign language so that the foreign language can be mastered.

Muljanto Sumardi dalam Wardah (2016) argues, that whatever the goals to be achieved by someone who learns a foreign language, the ultimate goal is so that he can use the language both orally and in writing accurately, fluently, and is free to communicate with people who use that language. It is also undeniable that the demand for foreign language skills is increasing, in line with advances in science, technology, information and other fields. When we can learn a foreign language well, then a person will be more free to establish

communication between people, this proves that learning a foreign language is very beneficial, both for individuals/self, groups, and nations (Wardah, 2016).

In Indonesia, English is important for spurring economic growth, understanding all things related to technology, as well as the interests of science and technology. Some of these reasons are the background for having to learn English from an early age, besides that English is also an international language, of course its use is spread all over the world. The basic ability to speak English includes four aspects, namely: reading, listening, writing and speaking. According to Kasihani dalam Nurhasanah (2022), English is the first foreign language that is considered important for the purpose of accessing information, absorption and development of science, technology, arts and culture and fostering relations with other nations (Nurhasanah, 2022).

Meanwhile, according to Wells quoted from the Ministry of National Education in Kepmendiknas No. 22 of 2006 :

English is a tool for communicating orally and in writing. Communicating is understanding and expressing information, thoughts, feelings, and developing science, technology, and culture using that language (Eryanti, 2018). Indeed, we cannot deny that the ability of a child's brain, especially the child's memory, varies for each individual, some are easy to remember and their memory can last a long time, but some are hard to remember and don't last long, but this should not be an excuse. So that we don't learn, precisely with this phenomenon we must be motivated to continue to learn and gain knowledge.

By learning, their abilities will be honed, of course their knowledge will also increase. If you don't start from a young age, it will be difficult for children to accept new material, because the older children get, the more burdened their minds will be. Elementary school age is the right age to bombard children with new knowledge, apart from their fresh minds, Elementary schools also have a longer study time capacity than other levels of education, which is six years. Over a

period of six years, there is much that teachers can give and students receive. Teaching English in elementary schools can start with the introduction of basic English vocabulary related to everyday life, such as numbers, animal names, fruit names, or objects in class and others.

There will be no sense of loss for the teacher and students in the learning process, it does feel a bit difficult at first, especially since English is a foreign language, children who use their mother tongue in their daily lives, especially if their mother tongue is a regional language, will find it more difficult. However, this is where the challenge of a teacher is to continue to survive in order to educate the nation's children. According to Chodijah dalam Afriyah Robbi'atur Roikhah, learning English is needed for all people, both at an early age and in adulthood because English is an international language that everyone must know.

In addition to paying attention to teaching materials, another thing that needs to be of concern to the teacher is the

teaching method, because the right teaching method will make students comfortable and easier to grasp the material provided. A comfortable learning atmosphere will make students more focused and more enthusiastic about learning. In addition, the stigma that considers English to be difficult also affects the learning process and learning outcomes. By alternatively choosing to use the right teaching method, students will forget the stigma and learning will go well.

There are several ways a teacher can choose to do change the learning atmosphere so that it is no longer monotonous and make the learning comfortable, one of which is by applying ice breaking, there are several types of ice breaking that we can use, namely games, singing, yelling, guessing, humor, telling stories, gymnastics, claps and others (Roikhah, 2022). The game is felt to be the right choice, because after all this time students learn with a monotonous method of course they need new colors in the learning process, the games we can use are flashcards. The learning using flashcards media is a very practical and economical learning method, because teachers

can make it themselves without having to buy it. In addition, flashcards are also easy to carry everywhere. Flashcard merupakan media pembelajaran bernbentuk kertas bergambar, gambar yang disajikan pada flashcard dapat akan memudahkan siswa untuk mengingat informasi, karena siswa akan menjadi tertarik terhadap gambar tersebut. Terutama untuk usia sekolah dasar, mereka cenderung mengingat apa yang sudah pernah mereka lihat sebelumnya, hal ini sepadan dengan flashcard yang merupakan media visual sehingga kan memudahkan siswa dalam menangkap informasi. Flashcard juga media yang fleksibel dan menyenangkan ketika digunakan.

According to Susilana & Riyana, flashcards are classified as visual media (pictures) . Meanwhile, according to Hotimah flashcards are a form of educational media in the form of cards that contain pictures and words whose size can be adjusted to the students they are facing. This media is a learning medium that can help improve various aspects such as: developing memory, practicing independence, and increasing vocabulary

(Sulaiman & Akidah, 2021). The use of flashcard media is indeed effective for learning in elementary schools, because elementary school age children still like fun things, moreover flashcards can be designed with various colors, of course children will feel interested, but of course everything has its drawbacks. Of course, this flashcard also has drawbacks, namely the image only emphasizes sensory perception, and is too complex so it is less effective for education levels above elementary school, and is not suitable for learning in large group scales (Angreany & Saud, 2017). In addition, because these flashcards are of course made of paper, they are prone to tearing and damage, especially if exposed to water, and easily scratched if not cared for carefully both in use and storage so that it is durable so that it can be used over and over again.

The use of flashcards has also been studied by another researcher named Husni Andalas with the title The Use of Flashcard Teaching Strategy to Increase Students' English Vocabulary Mastery (A Classroom Action Research at the Fifth Grade Students of SDN 024 North Bengkulu in

Academic Year 2017/ 2018). The results of the study revealed that the flashcard teaching strategy method was an effective strategy in helping fifth grade students improve their English vocabulary mastery with an average researcher score from the pretest of 58.46% of students who had not been able to achieve the minimum completeness criteria (KKM). In the first cycle, there were 65,38% of students who had not reached the minimum completeness criteria (KKM). The average student in the second cycle is 73,65% of students have not reached the minimum completeness criteria (KKM). Meanwhile, in the third cycle there were as many as 83,08% of students who were able to achieve the minimum completion criteria (KKM). That is, it can be concluded that the flashcard teaching strategy is effective in improving the English vocabulary mastery of fifth grade students at SDN 024 Bengkulu Utara. That way, it is hoped that the use of these flashcards can also be used successfully at SDN 110 Bengkulu Utara.

Based on an interview that have been conducted at SDN 110 Bengkulu Utara to one of the teachers who taught English

subjects on December 15th, 2022 through private chat via Facebook, the data resecher obtained in the form of one of the reasons underlying the problem of students' lack of memory in English lessons is because English is a very foreign language in their lives, because it is rarely used and encountered, this causes students to find it difficult to remember the material taught so that student achievement is difficult to improve. Moreover, the form of teaching methods is still teacher-centered, namely using the lecture method, so that students do not actively participate in learning. The data obtained concluded that there is only one teacher who teaches English subjects from grades 1 – 6, the number of students in the third grade is 13 students, the method used in the teaching process is the lecture method, this is based on the reason that the third grade age is still small so if you use the discussion method they will find it difficult to understand.

Finally, about the material taught, which is about the vocabulary of colors, the operations of counting numbers and objects in the classroom. Arsyad stated that flashcards are

small cards containing images, text, or symbol signs that can improve and direct students to something related to the image, the hope is that there are new colors in the learning process so that it is not monotonous, because there has been no new breakthrough in learning at SDN 110 Bengkulu Utara and can be packaged in the form of a game that can make students not feel bored and comfortable when learning, especially after a long time students experience online learning, of of course, there must be new innovations so that students are more enthusiastic about starting this offline learning.

In addition, to the weight of teaching materials, comfort is also important in the learning process, because knowledge will be absorbed more easily by children if children are comfortable in the learning process, of course, children will also be more enthusiastic. Flashcards can also be adjusted to your needs, because there are words and pictures on each card with bright and eye-catching colors, and can be taught since the child is 6 months old. In addition to training memory, students can also be trained in creativity, because teachers can

invite students to make flashcards together, so that there are other benefits that we get indirectly, children's brain stimulation can also be trained, as the saying goes "Killing two birds with one stone" and can be taught since the child is 6 months old. In addition to training memory, students can also be trained in creativity, because teachers can invite students to make flashcards together, so that there are other benefits that we get indirectly, children's brain stimulation can also be trained, as the saying goes "Killing two birds with one stone".Therefore, researchers are trying to find solutions so that there are new nuances in the learning process so that student learning outcomes can improve. Based on the background of the problem, researchers compiled a class action study entitled "The Use of Flashcard to Increase Students' Memory in English Lesson at Third Grade Students of SDN 110 Bengkulu Utara"

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background that has been described previously, the following is the identification of the problem in this study:

1. Teaching and learning activities at SDN 110 North Bengkulu are centered on the teacher so students are less active.

2. Teachers do not involve students directly in learning activities.

3. Lack of variety learning ways used in the learning process.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the limitation of the problem in this research is about using flashcards to increase students' memory in English lessons at Third Grade at SDN 110 Bengkulu Utara.

D. Research Questions

Based on the problem above, the problem of the research is to how does the use flashcard in English lesson improve students' memory ?

E. Research Objectives

The objective of this research is to find out how far the use of flashcards can affect students' memory in English lessons ?

F. Definition of Key Terms

In leading the analyst, it is important to figure out the meaning of key terms which is planned to clear the misunderstanding of the ideas used in this exploration, that are :

1. Flashcards

Flashcard is a visual media in the form of picture cards used in the learning process with the aim that the learning process is more varied and not monotonous, so that students

are more comfortable in learning and easy to remember the material provided.

2. Students' Memory

Student memory is an important factor in learning, because memory can be a benchmark for learning success, good memory will facilitate the achievement of learning objectives.