

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is used as a means of communication among human beings in order to establish social life. By using language, they are able to convey their communication, to express idea in oral, written, and signal language, so they can cooperate and get along with another. Language is human communication of ideas, opinions, knowledge, etc.

English is an effective language to communicate with other people around the world. As an International language, English has a large number of speakers who use it for their international communication. Because of that reason, Indonesian government stated English as the first foreign language. English has accordingly been chosen as the first foreign language to be taught in our school rather than French, German or even Chinese. It is reasonable to apply English teaching at school since English plays important language for many purposes. It is in order to increase the quality of education in Indonesia.

Indonesia has curriculum in English at almost all stages of the educational system. In higher education with the various fields of study use discipline specific curricula to teach English. For example the maritime students, based on the maritime Engineering Curriculum (2011:2) cited in Aeni et al. (2017:1) in

the curriculum in maritime studies, English communication is added because the graduates will be entering the international industry and English will be used in



the work area. In this case, the students who study in the nautical department who have future work in the ship need to learn and master English that is related to the field of seaman's activities. The nautical department students have to master of this kind of English learning that is called Maritime English.

For mariners, communication plays important role in the sea or land to make sure that the ship operation is safe, efficient and profitable. The need of appropriate teaching material for mariners help to get effective and communicative competency. The reason for this urgent need is that the case of the accidents at sea are caused by an insufficient command of Maritime English. The intention to use the exhaustive materials focus mainly on the mariner's basic four skills namely, listening, speaking, reading and writing (Brow, 2016:1). The International Maritime Organization (IMO, 2010) cited in Aeni (2017:1) also identified a problem with the English proficiency of many Asian graduates. Mariners may lose job opportunities in the global maritime labor market due to their poor English communication ability.

Based on the pre observation at SMK Pelayaran Semarang, unfortunately students have still lack of ability to understand or gain the maritime vocabulary. The students ignore the four competence of English because they thought English is not really important. Besides that, the way the teacher taught the students also influenced the interest of students in mastering English especially vocabulary.

Based on the situation above, applying the appropriate method for maritime students is important to create their motivation and interest in studying English

especially vocabulary. In this paper, I applied cooperative learning with the group investigation as the methodology in the subject of business letter. Business letter is chosen because vocational high school students are set up to face the work area after they graduate from the school. Vocational schools are preparing to set up the students to enter the work field and develop their professional attitude and skills. They need to master the skills of professionals in working area and writing business letter become one of the skills (Wahyuna, 2013:30).

Business letter is a formal way of communicating between two or more parties. Business letters can be informational, persuasive, motivational, or promotional.

. Based on the maritime English curriculum of SMK Pelayaran Semarang from Ministry of Transportation, business letter is added as one of the material in the vocational school curriculum specifically for grade XI both of nautic and technic.

Based on the situation above, the use of group investigation makes them share their ideas together, communicate one and another and provide investigation form that makes the study more detail and the students can investigate what is business letter, purpose, form and encourage them in mastering of maritime vocabulary.

1.2 Reason for Choosing the Topic

Maritime English is one of subjects in sailing school. It is different with General English and needs specific study for maritime. Nautical students need to learn Maritime English as taught in SMK Pelayaran Semarang.

SMK Pelayaran Semarang is one of the schools in Semarang. This school apply Maritime English as a subject but development of this subject is deficient. Developing Maritime English for nautical students is required for nautical subject.

I choose the topic for the study based on the following reason:

- a. Mastering English for maritime students is very important for their future career, with the fact that the maritime students still lack of motivation to learn English and also there is no specific material between English subject and Maritime English subject in learning process, different treatment and method should be applying for the students. By using the group investigation, the students will share their ideas in the form of business letter, try to communicate as a group what they know so it can improve their master in English vocabulary.
- b. The group investigation can help the teacher to teach the maritime student in the material of business letter easier. This method will be more interesting to the student because they do not need to listen the teacher all the time but create the interesting discussion among of them.

b.3 Statement of the Problem

Based on those general problems, I formulate some statements of problems as follows:

- a. What are the effect of using group investigation on students' mastery English vocabulary?
- b. What are the effect of students' motivation and students' capability to write business letter?

b.4 Objective of the Study

According to those statements of problems, the objectives of the study are as follows:

- a. To investigate the significant effect of using group investigation on students' mastery English vocabulary
- b. To find out the effects of using group investigation on the students' capability to write business letter.

b.5 Significance of the Study

The result of the study is expected to be used theoretically and practically:

- a. Theoretically
 - 1) For the teacher the result of the research can be consideration to widen their skill in teaching by using group investigation, especially for teacher who teaches maritime students who need special and different treatment.

- 2) For another researcher the result of the research could be reference to do the research using group investigation in writing business letter.

b. Practically

- 1) The teacher especially a teacher teaching maritime students is suggested to apply group investigation to increase students' ability in mastering English vocabulary.

- 2) The group investigation can make maritime students enjoy to learn English related to gained their vocabulary and improve their ability to write business letter.

b.6 The Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to the group investigation method in mastering English vocabulary and business letter. The subject of the study was nautical and technical students of XI grade in SMK Pelayaran Semarang.

In this study, I focus on how the students share and communicate with other in one team to cooperate discuss about business letter, and in the end, the result of their ability to write business letter.

b.7 Outline of the Study

The study is divided into five chapters. Those are introduction, review of related literature, methodology of the research, research findings and discussion, and the last is conclusion and suggestion.

In chapter I, introduction contains of background of the study, reason for choosing the topic, statement of the problem, the objective of the study, significance of the study, the scope of the study, and outline of the study.

Then in chapter II, review of the related literature covering of definition about maritime vocabulary, writing business letter and group investigation.

In chapter III, methodology of the research contains of research design, subject of the study, method and instrument of data collection, data analysis, and research procedure.

In chapter IV, finding and discussion contains of research result, the analysis of normality and homogeneity, the results data analysis of test tryout, the result of questionnaire.

The last, chapter V, conclusions and suggestions.