CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Language is a means of thinking and transferring culture from one generation to another as well as from one nation to another (Britannica). It is also a means of communication among people. It is reasonable, many countries emphasize teaching languages other than the native language to their citizens. Over the last three decades, English has become the most important foreign language in the world. At present, English is the language for international communication, sciences, commerce, advertising, diplomacy and advanced technology transmitting in our daily live we pursue activities, which often involve other people. During such activities we communicate by using oral language that makes us possible to convey our message, information, and expectation to other people.

English language is regarded as the first foreign language in Indonesia learned by Indonesian students. The students have got this lesson since they enter the elementary, even the university level. However, in fact, students are not able to speak in English.

In order to enable students to speak, one of the requirements they have to meet is vocabulary mastery. By acquiring adequate number of vocabulary, the students could be easier to work on the language skill.

Nowadays, the ability to speak English is so essential to participate and actualize one's self. The ability to speak is crucial in contemporary society and form gives a great deal of advantages to achieve the purpose, students need adequate number of vocabulary to master. Vocabulary is a very important language aspect to master. It is impossible to learn a language without learning vocabulary. The more students have stock of words used in a language, the better it will their performance in language will be.

Speaking and vocabulary are interrelated. However, vocabulary is one of the problems confronted by English learner. With the limited vocabulary, the learners could not communicate clearly to the other. Sometimes it is difficult to grasp the ideas expressed due to the lack of vocabulary. This problem occurs to students in Indonesia. It makes them unable to express their ideas when they speak in English.

A great deal of study have been conducted to reveal the correlation between vocabulary mastery and speaking skill. First, Aristi's (2017) study showing that the correlation between vocabulary mastery and speaking ability of the second year students of SMPN 12 Bintan was positive in a moderate level and the alternative hypothesis (Ha) was accepted. The second study by Fauzi (2007) shows the result of the analysis of the research at the first grader of SMAN 1 Ciputat academic year 2007/2008. It implied that when student's vocabulary increases at the same time, there is improvement in their speaking ability and when student's vocabulary lack at the same time their ability becomes weak. However, this finding needs further research.

At SMA Negeri 10 Bekasi the subject of vocabulary is shared into English subject. This subject is offered in every grade in Senior High School, and it is taught starting from the tenth to eleventh grade. That is why vocabulary aspects were chosen as one of variables in this research. The researcher tries to find out if the correlation between student's vocabulary mastery and their speaking skill was positive at this institution.

B. Research Question

Based on the background of study described, the question of this research was: "Is there a positive correlation between student's vocabulary mastery and speaking skill at the eleventh graders of SMA Negeri 10 Bekasi?"

C. Objective of the Study

The objective of this research was to investigate the correlation between student's vocabulary mastery and speaking skill of eleventh graders at SMA Negeri 10 Bekasi.

D. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research was focused on the correlation between student's vocabulary mastery and speaking skill, limited at SMA Negeri 10 Bekasi of the eleventh graders students in 2017/2018 Academic year. Student's vocabulary mastery is the independent (predictor) and speaking skill is the dependent (criterion) variable. This research using quantitative method to explain

phenomena by collecting numerical data analysed using quantitative based method.

E. Significance of the Study

The results of this study were expected to contribute to:

1. Students, the result of this research was expected to motivate students to increase their vocabulary mastery in order to improve their speaking skill.

2. English teacher, a information, the students' speaking skill and as a consideration to improve the teaching quality and the students' speaking skill

3. Researchers, as a reference for other researchers to conduct a further research on the similar problems, by using another design, such as an experimental research to develop the students' speaking skill, especially vocabulary mastery.