CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language learning may be considered as a hard work which sometimes may cause frustrating feeling. As a result, maintained efforts are required to understand, to produce and to manipulate the second language (read, English). Along with the process, common perceptions that all learning should be serious and solemn in nature, and that if one is having fun and there are hilarity and laughter, it is not really learning. In my opinion, these perceptions are misconceptions. It is possible to learn a language as well as to enjoy oneself at the same time. Games are one of effective ways of doing this. Well-chosen games are invaluable as they give children a break and at the same time allow children to learn language. Moreover, games can enhance the children's desire to learn the language. Based on that reasons, I created an educational game to help children in learning English vocabulary, especially English irregular verbs; one of essential words in making grammatical and natural English sentence.

In addition, games provide effectiveness on learning English in various ways. Since games bring in relaxation and fun, children can accept and retain new words more easily. Moreover, through games children experiment, discover, and interact with their environment, it is good for their social development. Games also add variation to a lesson and increase motivation. For that reasons, in this job training report I will discuss about the benefits of education games in learning

English irregular verbs. “The education game helps children in learning irregular verbs” is chosen as the title of this job training report.

1.2 Scope

The writer restricts the problems into four points:

1. What are the characteristics of children as learners?
2. What are the benefits of using UniCard in learning irregular verbs
3. What are the problems in the using of UniCard?
4. What is the solution of the problem?

1.3 Objectives

1. Describe the characteristics of children as learners.
2. Describe the benefits of using UniCard in learning irregular verbs.
3. Describe the problems in the using of UniCard.
4. Describe the solution of the problem.

1.4 Significant to knowledge

Theoretically, the description of how education games help children in learning irregular verbs may give valuable contribution in supporting the idea that mentions games are effective and useful in language learning.

Practically, UniCard is expected to give the teachers or parents an alternative idea in teaching irregular verbs to their students and children.

1.5 The framework of the theory

"*Children love to play and use their imagination"* (Slattery and Willis, 2001). Based on the assumption, it will be considered that children will learn their lessons more effectively if they use the learning method which gives them the freedom in playing and using their imagination. They love to learn while playing. Language games, for example, are believed can give the positive effect and joyful learning to the children in developing their language skills.

Playing language games will help the children to develop language and thought. In the activities of language games, the children will develop their ability to say what they mean to say and to express them clearly. *"Language games refer to games that children which enable them to learn the language"* (Wittgenstein as cited in Shawver). It can be said that language games not only function as time filling activities but also they can bring some educational values that enable the children to learn the language. There are a great number of language games. So teachers have a variety of choices. However, teachers must choose the appropriate games with the characteristics of the children; one of them is UniCard.

UniCard is designed as an educational game that can help children in learning English irregular verbs. It can be played at home or school, in group or individual. UniCard is a creative card with 80 irregular verbs and tenses. The main purpose of this creative is to cope the difficulty in memorizing the language units. On the other words, so many verbs children may learn easily.

There are almost 300 irregular verbs in the English language. Irregular verb are tricky verbs. A verb considered to be irregular, does not follow the regular pattern of adding a -d or an -ed to the end of the verb in the past tense and past participle verbs such as “am,” which becomes “was”; “tell,” which becomes “told”; and “sing,” which becomes “sang.” These are called irregular verbs because they do not follow the regular pattern. Therefore, irregular verbs are hard for some children to learn, but it can be easy if they have a knack for memorizing words as stated by Steven Pinker:

> *"Irregular forms are just words. If our language faculty has a knack for memorizing words, it should have no inhibitions about memorizing past-tense forms at the same time. These are the verbs we call irregular, and they are a mere 180 additions to a mental lexicon that already numbers in the tens or hundreds of thousands."* (Steven Pinker, *Words and Rules*. Basic, 1999).

It can be concluded that if children have a knack for memorizing words, they can learn irregular verbs easily. Activities and games can help them to remember irregular verb forms.

1.6 Research Method

This job training report used descriptive method involving gathering data that describe events. The data of job training were organized, depicted, and described.

The method of collecting data that was used is observation and interviewing. I did observation in SDIT Cordova and SDIT Al-Kautsar. The participants are students and teachers in those schools. I interviewed students and teachers by asking questions to get direct answers.

1.7 Place and Time

I did the job training in PT. Ardie Putra Grafindo that is located at Jl. Kasuari 9 No. 69 Cikarang Baru, SDIT Cordova and SDIT Al-Kautsar. I worked and did observation for about a month, started on 25 July until 24 August 2011. I started working from 8 am to 2 pm from Monday to Friday. The location of observation is SDIT Cordova and SDIT AL-Kautsar.