

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. The Background of the Study**

Language is an important part of human existence and social process that has many functions to perform the life of human beings. Language is an instrument to convey information. It is used to express ideas, feeling, purposes, thoughts, and opinions in written or oral way. Through language, we can share and transfer knowledge, transmit message from one to another, and from generation to the next generation. In short, almost all of human activities are conducted through the use of language.

In Indonesia English has been used as a foreign language. English is consists of four skills which have to be mastered by the students, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. In this case, the learners are required to comprehend (listening and reading) the language and produce (speaking and writing) the language. In teaching the language, between comprehending the languages as well as producing the language are exactly having a relationship. Before producing the language, students need to have some vocabularies; those vocabularies are gotten by the process of comprehending the language. For example, by having an activity of reading or listening, students will get an input data of what they have to express in term of writing or speaking.

Among the four language skills, reading is one of the skill that should be learned well by the students because by having reading skill they will be easy to

get information, knowledge, and science. Grabe & Stoller (2002:9) elaborate that reading is a way to draw information from printed page and interpret the information appropriately. Meaning that the students will find out the information from the text as efficient as possible.

In fact, the abomination of learning English is reading a text or a passage. Most of students are too lazy to comprehend a text through having a reading activity. A long text or passage makes them so bored to read; furthermore, the topic is not interesting for them; it is not related to their environment, and the text has too-complex grammar.

Based on the researcher's analysis of syllabus and teaching materials, particularly for the subject of English which are used by students of a particular SMK in Medan, it was found that the teaching materials were not specified for any certain vocations. In fact, students who take a vocation of cosmetics were taught by using teaching materials which were unrelated to the cosmetics. One of phenomena happened is that the students were taught by using teaching materials about English in General; it was unrelated to the vocation of cosmetics that the students have.

It is can be seen by the book that government distribute to the schools for students handbook. Specifically in SMK N 10 Medan researcher observed in some previous months (2015), the English reading materials they use is the same to other schools in other regions. They use "Buku Bahasa Inggris" published by Pusat Kurikulum dan Perbukuan, Balitbang, Kemendikbud, in 2014. There is no

material in their books which are representatives to their needs about cosmetics. Specifically in reading material, there are no even materials which are representative to Cosmetics.

It is proven by the data taken by the writer in which one of the reading materials, genre of procedure text, is not related to Cosmetology Department. The data is as follow:

How to make Orange Juice  
“Steps/Methods”

- “-First, wash the oranges and put them on a cutting board.
- Then, cut the oranges into halves.
- After that, prepare the handheld juicer and put the oranges on the juicer and squeeze them one by one.
- Continue doing this till all oranges have been juiced.
- If you want your juice without pulp use the sieve to take out all the pulp.
- Now, add 2 teaspoons of sugar and a pinch of
- Now, add 2 teaspoons of sugar and a pinch of cinnamon if you want and stir till the sugar and cinnamon has completely dissolved.
- Finally, your orange juice is ready to be served.”

The data shows that the reading materials are appropriate to the culinary program but inappropriate to Cosmetology program. The students find it hard to comprehend the difficult words like pulp, cinnamon, and sieve. The result is they are not enthusiastic and interesting to learn the reading materials, simply because they think it will not affect their Department and future job.

After reading the text, the students were asked to answer some questions about the text. Besides, there were some teaching materials which were not relevant to the vocation that the students have; for example in reading materials. Specifically in procedure text. The texts used in their book most about west story. The text such as how to cook and make something for procedure text. They do not

know about the object of the text so the students are not interested to learn about it. It is supposed that the schemata assumed by researcher is not same each students.

Actually, the students having vocation of cosmetics need to study English to support their vocation, but the English should be specialized; the English should be relevant to the specific purpose that they have, so there will be no gap between the English materials and what the students need about English as an international language related to a vocational purpose that they have.

As an international language, English is needed for many specific purposes; that is why there is a term of ESP (English for Specific Purpose). In practice, there are variants of English use; depending on the specific purposes. This specification of English use will help learners to master English as well as what they need in term of specific purpose that they have.

In education, ESP needs to be applied. From the above explanation stating that many students are bored in reading a text which contains unrelated topic to their environment, it can be implied that ESP can reduce this bad condition. Through ESP, students will find some teaching materials which are related to the vocations that they have. Thus, it will be interesting for the students to read the text, and finally the text will enrich the students' knowledge about their vocation. In other words, by having ESP, students will learn English based on what they need.

In Indonesia, ESP is applied for fulfilling students' needs. Since there are so many vocational educations in Indonesia, ESP is essential to design teaching materials in meeting students' needs. Thus, when teaching English in Vocational School or other vocational institutions, teachers should take notice of designing teaching materials based on students' needs related to the vocations that the students focus on. If the process of English teaching in a Vocational School does not apply ESP as an approach to meet students' needs, there will be a condition that the English taught to the students will be useless because of the gap between the English materials and what the students need about English as an international language related to a vocational purpose that they have.

From the background above, it was suggested that teachers have to develop reading materials based on students' need –vocational purpose as an application of ESP. By being provided reading materials based on a vocation that they focus on, the students will get easier to understand the text and get more interested in reading it.

### **B. The Problems of the Study**

Based on the background above, the problem of study is formulated as follows. :

1. What reading materials are suitable to the students of SMK N 10 Medan which is matched to their needs?
2. How to design English reading materials which is suitable to the needs of students of SMK N 10 Medan?

### **C. The Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are:

1. to develop the suitable reading materials based on students' need.
2. to design English reading materials which is suitable to the needs of students of SMK N 10 Medan

### **D. The Scope of the Study**

The developed materials are based on students' need. The materials will be applied in the Second grade of Vocational School – Department of Cosmetics, and the skill concerned on is reading comprehension, particularly in procedure text.

### **E. The Significance of the Study**

This research is expected useful to give some valuable contributions theoretically and practically, as follow:

1. Theoretically, the findings of the study will help the researcher later to make a further research which is related to the study in area developing English reading materials with the new information and theories in this study.
2. Practically, the findings become the source of reference for students and English teachers especially in SMK N 10 Medan to develop the materials.