CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Recently, Indonesian government incessantly develops vocational schools in order to decrease the number of unemployment. Vocational schools are considered as a way to prepare students' readiness and capability to face the real job life directly. It is proven that without having a college, alumnus of vocational school has skills in their job field. In vocational schools, students decide their major they want and taught based on the major materials specifically so that they really master on their future job fields.

As one of the compulsory lesson in the vocational school, English is needed to be mastered. It is not deniable that English will support the students to get better jobs since English is an international language. By mastering English, students can calibrate their knowledge and competitiveness in the world scale. The English materials taught to vocational school students will be different with the elementary school, junior high school, or even senior high school students. It is influenced by the purposes which students want to achieve. Elementary school, junior high school, and senior high school still implement the idea of English for General Purposes (EGP), while vocational school implements the idea of English for Specific Purposes (ESP). It is engendered by the students of vocational school have a specific purposes in learning English. Factually, the students' needs of English are different for each major. "ESP (English for Specific Purposes)

involves teaching and learning the specific skills and language demanded by particular learners for particular purposes" (Day & Krzanowski, 2011).

In learning English, there are four skills that the students need to be mastered, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Amirian & Reza (2013) clarify "certainly, if we consider the study of English as a foreign language around the world, the situation in which most English learners find themselves, reading is the main reason why the students learn the language". It shows that reading is the most essential skill which the students need to learn before learning others skill. Without having a solid skill in reading, students will fail to master listening, speaking and writing skills.

In having a solid reading skill, the crucial thing needs to be concerned is the reading material. The failure of choosing it will bring the students to the wrong guidance. Nuttall (1996) asserts that there are three main criteria of choosing the texts to be used in the classroom; they are suitability of content, exploitability and readability. Each textbook used in the classroom should cover the three criteria of choosing texts to gain the students' motivation and meet their needs, to ease the students function the reading based on their purposes, and to adjust the students' level of language proficiency. In the vocational school, it is applied in the form of the textbook given. The textbook provides some reading materials which deal with the students' level of grade and the students' need of English. It is expected to be able to function in improving the students' skills and achievements. Also, the reading materials should be based on the students' purposes and wants. Even in the

vocational school, it must be based on the students' major to make sure English reading material will support their future jobs.

But what is happening nowadays is the reading materials don't support the students' future job. It is proven by the primary observation done by the writer in SMK Gajah Mada Medan showing that reading materials for them are exactly what the senior high school students use. They use "Buku Bahasa Inggris" published by Pusat Kurikulum dan Perbukuan, Balitbang, Kemendikbud, in 2014. Although we know, the vocational school has a specific purpose while senior high school has the general one as well as the needs of each school must be different. The reading materials of Information Technology Program should talk about English used in the computer while the textbook applies the general one. 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 computer. The data is as follow:

"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 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 information technology program. The students find it hard to comprehend the difficult words like cinnamon, sieve, and cutting board.

The result is they are not enthusiastic and interesting to learn the reading materials, simply because they think it will not affect their major and future job

In this research, the writer puts fully concern to eleventh grade of Information Technology Program students. The students complained that the textbook is hard to be understood and consists of unfamiliar words. Goodman and Wang (2013) describe "choosing an appropriate textbook is a major responsibility, insofar as the textbook has a significant influence on students' meeting their language learning objectives and therefore can be said to affect both the process of learning and its outcomes". Factually, the textbook provides reading materials which different to their major field and do not support the students' future job. As the result, they put less motivation, want and interest in learning English.

"Teachers who work with these students often find that existing curricula and instructional materials do not properly address the students' needs in reading" (Seright and Thompson, 1986). The teacher also finds it hard to teach the students using the textbook since it doesn't support the students' needs. If this keeps going on, the teacher will take a long time to teach the students first about the materials to make sure they comprehend the text. Yet, it will not run effectively in teaching learning process.

The only one solution for this problem is developing appropriate reading materials to the students of Information Technology Program of SMK Gajah Mada Medan. The development of the reading material is based on the students' needs and supports their future jobs which hopefully will increase the students' motivation and enthusiasm to learn English.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the problem above, the problem of the study is formulated as follows: "What reading materials are appropriate for the eleventh grade students of Information Technology Program of SMK Gajah Mada Medan?"

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to develop the appropriate reading materials for the eleventh grade students of Information Technology Program of SMK Gajah Mada Medan.

D. The Scope of the Study

This study will cover the developing of English materials specifically in reading materials. These recommended materials will be relevant to the capacity of the learners and the curriculum implemented for even semester of eleventh grade of Information Technology Program in SMK Gajah Mada Medan. These materials are developed based on the needs analysis of the learners which will support their future job. They also will be limited to only procedures texts since this genre will be taught in the even semester.

E. The Significance of the Study

The findings of the study are expected to give theoretical and practical contributions, as follow:

1. Theoretically, the findings of the study will extend and enrich the horizons in theories which related to the areas on how to develop reading materials to English for Specific Purposes learners.

2. Practically, the findings of the study can be the recommended reading materials for the students of SMK Gajah Mada Medan, as it motivates their enthusiasm and based on the their future job. Besides, it will ease the teacher to teach English to the students.