

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

English becomes an important subject at schools in Indonesia. Learning English in Indonesia is different from the other country since English is a foreign language in Indonesia. This condition affects the students' ability to learn and comprehend the language itself. English as a subject taught at school and college deal with the students' understanding and use of language (Guth 1973:1). English is important to be practiced in teaching to the students in school. English can be improved with reading a lot of information from some sources. English in Indonesia is generally taught as foreign language.

In English there are skills that aims to master these four skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. These four skills are taught in teaching learning process. Not only students in general school, students in vocational school also learn those skills. All those skills are related one each other. If there is someone speaks there is someone listens and there is someone reads there is someone writes, so these four skills are a united activity in teaching language.

Among the four language skills, reading is one of very important skills and students are expected to master it. Reading skill plays an important role in English learning process, especially when students have to deal with National Examination which includes reading and writing skills (Herlina, 2012:17). Reading skill is needed to achieve the ability to understand English text. It is

difficult because it needs the comprehension to understand the text. But some facts show that many students do not master reading skill which they have in teaching learning process, such as, many students know how to read, but do not understand what they read and what information to look for in the text (Riskiawan, 2014:5) and students are too lazy to comprehend a text through a reading activity. A long text or passage make them so bored to read, furthermore, the topic is not interesting for them, the text has too complex grammar, and it is not related to their environment and their needs.

Reading is needed in vocational also, especially for Software Engineering department because, Software Engineering is a critically important technology for the future of mankind. We must continue to educate Software Engineering and develop the discipline so that we can create more complex software (Sommerville 2011:iv). Software Engineering helps us more knowing software tools specifically. In Software Engineering likes techniques are used to specify software tools it self. We can't run computer without software this simplifies Software Engineering. Software Engineer is one of strategic position which will be conduct as to achieve better service to the top programmer. In carrying out his/her job, the software engineer must have perfect English language skill especially reading in programming software.

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 SMKN 1 Percut Sei Tuan it was found that the teaching materials were not specified for any certain vocation. In fact, students who take vocation of

Software Engineering were taught by using teaching materials which were unrelated to the Software Engineering specifically. One of phenomena happened is that the students were taught by using teaching materials about English in General; it was unrelated to the vacation of Software Engineering that student have.

It can be seen by the book that government distributes to the schools for students handbook. Specifically in SMKN 1 Percut Sei Tuan researcher observed in April 2017, 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 Software Engineering specifically in reading material, there are no even materials which are representative to Software Engineering. In other words the materials that deliver and use in this school are not proper to student needs. The Software Engineering department in SMKN 1 Percut Sei Tuan students learned reading materials about describing people, place, etc. There was gap between the materials with their major and prior knowledge.

The students in Software Engineering Department are expected to be good workers and engineers in the future. So, the students are taught with the materials related to Software Engineering meaning that materials should be based on their needs.

A vocational school is concerned with preparing students’ ability in their major for working in the future, which means that the student of Vocational

School learn English for a Specific Purposes (ESP) that is related to their target job in the future.

They learn English but their English is not aimed to accommodate their needs to be a good programmer in the future such as maintenance activities in Software Engineering, analysis technique – Determining the software requirement and etc. Teacher just teach the reading material which is applied in the textbook; teacher does not exist their own materials. That's way they felt into fulfill subject matter only. Based on this there is an assumption that they do have yet English for Specific Purposes.

For vocation schools in Indonesia ESP need to be applied as well. From the above explanation stating that many students are bored in reading a text which contains unrelated topics to their environment, it can be implied that ESP can reduce this bad condition (Hutchinson and Waters, 1986:38). Through ESP, students were found some teaching materials which were related to the vocation that they have. Thus, it has been interesting for the students to read the text, and finally the text was enrich the students knowledge about their vocation. In other words, by having ESP, student learned English based on what they need.

ESP is generally based on needs of the students, which are aimed at specifying what exactly the students' need in studying English. ESP practitioners are required to be sensible in detecting their learner needs in the present situation and the target situation. (Rustam:2009:32) reports his investigation that most Indonesian English teachers do not develop their own materials systematically based on the teachers' preferences. As the result, students were not motivated to

learn. Their motivation is basically caused by the institutional curriculum that they should follow.

From this fact, teachers have to develop reading materials based on students' needs on vocational purposes as an application of English for Specific purposes. By Designing materials based on their focus, so the students got easier to understand the text.

The development of reading materials was started by gathering information from students and teacher, analyzing students' need of Software Engineering student, designing materials, validating the material to experts (teacher, headmaster and validator), revising the material based on experts' suggestions and the material have developed. Therefore, concerned with the development of reading material English for Software Engineering students, especially teaching Grade X at SMK 1 Percut Sei Tuan.

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

The problems of the study are formulated as following:

1. What reading materials are appropriate to the students of Software Engineering Department in SMK Negeri 1 Percut Sei Tuan which is matched to their need?
2. How is the design of English reading materials which is suitable to the needs of which are suitable for students of Software Engineering Department in SMK Negeri 1 Percut Sei Tuan?

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

As mentioned in the problems of the study, the objectives of this research are:

1. To develop English reading materials which appropriate to the students of Software Engineering study program in SMK 1 Percut Sei Tuan.
2. To design English reading materials which are suitable for students of Software Engineering study program in SMK 1 Percut Sei Tuan.

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

The scope of this study is developing English reading materials based on English Software Engineering on SMKN 1 Percut Sei Tuan, Software Engineering Department. It was applied for the first grade. This study was concerned on reading comprehension skill.

### **E. Significances of the Study**

The research is expected to give a meaningful contributions to some parts:

- a. The English teachers; this research hopefully can give ideas for the ideal reading materials used in Software Engineering study program. The teachers also can use this study as one of the sources of teaching and learning process in the classroom.
- b. The students; hopefully this study can improve their motivation in learning English and can comprehend reading materials that are based on their needs.

- c. The other researchers; this study is intended to be one of their resources to make other developing English reading materials, and give additional information for the next related study.
- d. The readers; hopefully this study may provide information as well as references about developing English reading materials for vocational school.
- e. The writer; hopefully this study is valuable research for the first time about developing English reading materials.