CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of The Study

Education can be defined as a way to improve students' knowledge, by having good students are expected to be able earn their life through a good occupation or being professional worker in the future. In Indonesia education system, there are many subjects that student need to understand such as: Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Economic, Sociology, History, English, and other else. Those subjects have been taught since the students were in Junior High School until Senior High School. By studying those subjects the students are expected to can increase their knowledge and information.

Another fact that shows up, there is also level of education that focus one skill named Vocational High School or in Indonesia called SekolahMenengahKejuruan (SMK). This level of this education prepared the students to having a career or job based on the specific applied skills. That is the purpose of vocational high school and why they are specified. To achieve this purpose a vocational high school gives a learning experience and adequate exercise to build a professional capability in science and technology through specific programs. For example a student's of vocational high school in Culinary Study Program will get many subject related to food and beverage and students of vocational high school in Software Engineering Study Program will get many subject related to software itself.

In the globalization era now days the need of development in engineering, technicians are not only expected to have technical competences in accordance to their specialization but also are expected to have a good communication skill in international language just like English.As CIA stated that English is a commonly language that uses in the world (2011) with total 56 countries that officially use it and 328.000.000 people around the world. To master English is a must for technician, especially engineering because their clients may come from other countries whose languages are English. Beside that many instruction of engineering use English.

Now days many people consider that English is an important subject to be learned because it is common used in every field such as science, international relationship, etc, and of course software engineering. By seeing some advantage people try to master this international language. BSNP (BadanStandarasionalPendidikan) (2010:10) states that English course aims to equip students in improving their abilities to understand English text from academic purposes and specific purposes.

There are four competences in English and reading plays an important role to the English Language Teaching (ELT) to develop the creative side of people. This statement is supported by Harsono (2007;5). Harsono stated that reading materialis one of the very crucial elements that have to exist to conduct teaching / learning activities. English reading materialis required in order to improve reading skill of students.

However, there are still many students who do not realize the role that reading material play as an important skill that can support them to a better life direction. UNESCO (2012) reports that index of reading ability of Indonesian student just reached in 0.001. It means that out of one thousand Indonesian students, there is only one who has reading ability. The chance to improve reading ability among Indonesian student is not an easy thing to create. This phenomenon is different if it is compared to other student in South East Asia country especially. Indonesian students reading ability in this term are under the children in Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore.

In line with this statement, Indonesian students must be able to have one of the important skills at least to decrease the phenomenon that is reading skill. Reading skill is one of the important aspects of communication skills need to be mastered by those who want to be succeeding in life.

The English material for SMK is not suitable for their department. No single procedure text in the book is related for RekayasaPerangkatLunak (RPL) or Software Engineering Department. For example this image was captured from " Effective Communication" 's book that was used by the student in SMK Negeri Binaan Provinsi Sumatera Utara, Medan. (figure 1)

HOW TO USE THE FACSIMILE MACHINE

Firstly, check the fax machine plug. After you check the fax machine power supply, check to make sure that its telephone cord is plugged into a phone jack.

Then, insert the document that you want to fax into the "outgoing" fax tray. Although the machine differs, there will usually be an icon or picture directing the user where to place the outgoing document. Most fax machines require the user to insert the documents face down, but check your specific machine.

Picture 8.2.
Source:www.germes-online.com

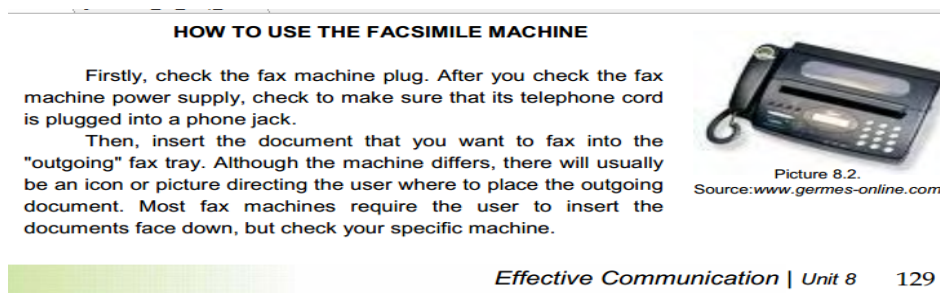*Effective Communication | Unit 8*   129

Figure 1.1. Pre-Eliminary Data (Book Sample)

The data shows that reading material is suitable for secretary program but unsuitable to the software engineering program. The students are unfamiliar to the thing like facsimile. The result is they are not interested and feeling nauseating to learn the reading material. They always use their computer for studying and also they play with many software to make the new applications. When they meet the unsuitable material with the old media, They think it will not affect to their major and their career. The students gave their complain that the textbook is hard to understood and many unfamiliar thing like facsimile is not related to any kind of subject from software engineering.

For that reason, to facilitate the needs of students to improve their reading skill especially for procedure text material, the reading material in the text book should be appropriate with the students' capacity in order to maximize their capability in comprehending the texts. To develop of teaching material for vocational students must be appropriate or based on what they need and it will be easier to reach the goal of that teaching and learning process because of the fulfillment of their necessity about English to support their vocational purposes. Beside material for reading, newmaterial needs to develop to them.

B. The Problem Of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the research problem can be formulated as follows:

1. How to develop the English reading material for students of software engineering in SMK BinaanProvinsi Sumatera Utara Medan?

C. The Objective of Study

This research intends to the software engineering students needs in English. Therefore the objective of the research is:

1. To develop English reading material through Educational Research and Development.

D. The Scope Of the Study

The study focused on developing English reading material which are relevant for students in SMK NegeriBinaanProvinsi Sumatera Utara Medan especially for eleventh grade students of computer network engineering. This study focused on reading material, especially in procedure text.

E. The Significance of The Study

Findings of the study are expected to be significant and relevant theoretically and practically

(1) Theoretically

This study is expected to develop the state of art of reading material through R&D. The material expected to provide a good reference and useful in developing the knowledge and science.

(2) Practically

This study will contributed to

a) The result are expected to be used as inputs for the teachers, administrators, developers, and educational institution in implementing and select appropriate English reading material for their students

b) The students of software engineering to improve their ability in English reading material for their student.

c) The researcher in term of promoting and exploring relevant material to be thought and references in relevant study.