

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Study

There are four language skills in learning namely reading, writing, speaking and four listening. Reading is one of the four skills that must be mastered for all students. Reading is the ability to draw meaning from the printed page and interpret the information approximately. The process of drawing information and interpreting information requires the work of the brain. The purpose of reading activity is to get information from the text we read.

Reading skills area very important skill for supporting the learning process students. Therefore, teachers need pay attention to these skills since early so that students do not experience difficulties in learning. In the classroom, there are usually students with reading skills diverse. This is certainly require considerable handling seriously so that adherence to the process learning can run well. Because each student has a different reading abilities, teachers should think different reading strategies. Through habituation reading expected students can improve their reading skills. Habituation reading requires commitment from the entire school community.

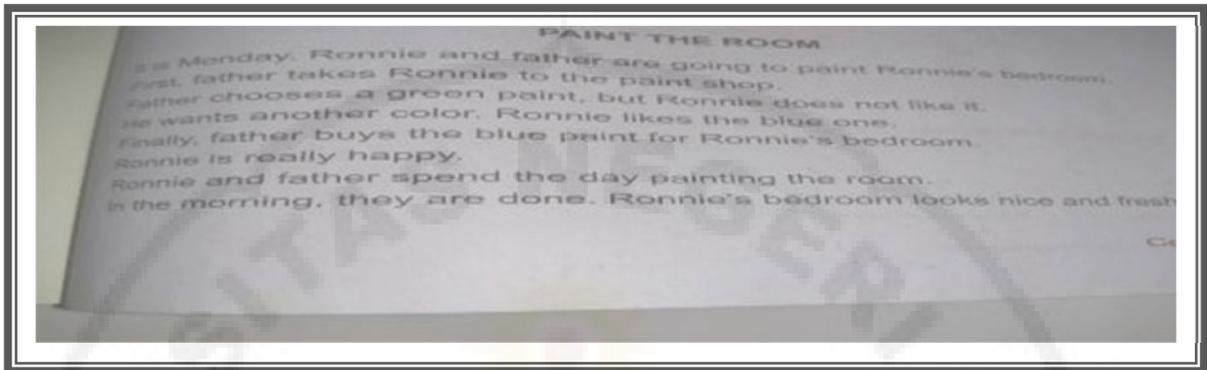
Reading materials play an important role to the English Learning Teaching (ELT). This statement is supported by Harsono (2007). He stated that learning materials is one of the very crucial elements that has to exist to conduct teaching/learning activities. English reading materials are required in order to improve reading skill of students.

Chang & Goswami (2011) concluded that there are some factors that can promote and also hinder the learning process in the class, They are (1) teachers factors, (2) students factors (3) administrative support, (4) teaching resources or the materials. The teachers should try to give the relevant and also interesting materials to promote the students' learning motivation. Unfortunately there are so many irrelevant materials that must be learnt by the students (Wedhaswary, 2002). These materials can make the students become low motivation to learn. Reading materials prioritizes reading activities tailored to the needs of students consider various strategies learning, choice of materials according to the needs, and teachers responsive. The aim is to improve the capability and interest them to read. This relates to skills influencing students' reading achievement of their academic ability. If the reading skills of students better it will be good also their academic ability. This condition also happens to grade fourth students of Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary School Medan. That's why English reading materials must be designed to get improvement of reading skills for all the students especially for students of Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary School Medan.

Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary School is located on Jalan Balai Desa No.24 H Medan Sunggal. As the result of the interview with the principal, he said that he realized that English is very important for all of his students because there are two prioritizes in this school. One of them is English. As the program of that school, the school has English course for the teachers on Friday that can develop their English ability. Unfortunately, not all the teachers can follow the English course. From the interview of the English teacher, she revealed that is very difficult to teach the students

because there are so many factors happen. The most important factors is still limited teaching materials in the school. Reading lesson has held since 2016 in this school. So the English reading material has not been provided by the school. Another problem is the students are lack of vocabulary. In solving the problem, the English teacher uses a kind of strategy to increase the students' vocabulary. Every english lesson the teacher gives the students some new vocabularies with put the new vocabularies in a sentence and the students guess the meaning of the word and the teachers gives the students a text in English and then the students underlined the new vocabularies from the text. The students work in groups to find out the meaning of the word. After that the teacher will give the students the test about the vocabulary, that she calls it vocabulary test. By doing this, she tries to increase the students vocabulary abilities. Unfortunately, when the teacher was asked about the percentage of the students who have good English, the teacher said only thirty four percent of her students who have good English that can follow the lesson. This condition can affect their achivement in English.

Based on the problems above the reseacher would like to conduct a research on designing leveled reading materials for Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary School Medan. The researcher designs the leveled reading materials are caused : (1) the existing of the English reading materials in Jabal Rahmah Mulia Medan is not suitable with the existing of Syllabus in Jabal Rahmah Mulia Medan. This is one of the examples reading text at Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary School Medan and the syllabus can see at the appendix.



Picture 1. The Existing Reading Materials in Jabal Rahmah Mulia Medan

(2) The course book that the teacher used is published by Yudhistira entitled "English Speed Up 4". The English course book contains general English since it is used for all study programs. The content of the course book is all about grammar and vocabulary exercises. The pattern of the tasks is grammar explanation then followed by the tasks. There are no particular input texts and technical terms of Islamic School. We can know that from the text above. Meanwhile, it is important for them to recognize vocabulary and expressions which are useful for their future job. However, the course books contain general English inputs which do not meet the students' needs. Therefore, students cannot learn the competences which will be required in the target situation later. (3) The English reading material must be interesting for the students and make the students read the text so in the reading materials must use pictures to describe the text. The pictures can help the students to understand the text. But there is no pictures in the existing of English reading materials in Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary School.

The interesting materials can also make the students develop their vocabulary because when the students read the text, they will find new vocabularies in the text.

Reading text provide opportunately to study language like vocabulary, grammar and it can also help the students to show the way to construct sentences, paragraph and the text. (4) The English reading materials are limited in this school sothe teachers also sometimes adapted supplementary materials from the internet. However the input textsstill do not meet the students' needs. There are some weaknesses if the teachers always search the materials from the internet. The first is the text is not suitable with the syllabus. The second is the texts have difficult vocabularies for the students because the other problem is the students are lack of the vocabularies. This condition can affect students' achievement in English.

The students are poor ability in reading. It is shown by the Table 1.1 which obtained by the students after learning English especially reading.

Table 1.1 The Result of Students Reading Score

NO.	Students' Initial	Final Score
1	AY	55
2	AMA	52
3	ANMS	65
4	AZ	49
5	ANS	47
6	CBW	60
7	DHN	60
8	HB	49
9	HMS	66
10	HFA	86
11	JRH	25
12	MSW	60
13	MFF	65
14	MFS	57
15	NFH	39
16	PRA	18

NO.	Students' Initial	Final Score
17	RZA	65
18	RAS	55
19	SNI	60
20	SNA	65
21	SPB	56
22	ZFH	60
23	MFA	52
Averages		55,04

Based on the data, the average of the score is still far from perfection of 70. This is not suitable with the expectation which has been formulated in KKM where the standard score is 70. This condition is affected by some factors so Mrs. Sumi as the English teacher must work hard to get more scores because the prioritizes program in this school is English.

According to the realities above the writer would like to conduct a research on designing leveled reading materials for Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary School with theme "I and Myself". In other words, this research will like to analyze the existing syllabus and also the English reading materials. There are previous studies that concern with designing english reading materials. The first thesis is entitled "Designing English Reading Materials for Alwashliyah Islamic Junior High School Tebing Tinggi" by Syawaluddin Ketaren (2015). In his thesis, he used research based development or educational research and development (R & D). The design of the new reading materials will use Authentic Materials Approach (AMA) in order to find the appropriate materials for the Islamic School students. Syawaluddin do the research at Junior High School and the writer will do the research at Elementary

School. There is also Junior High School at YP. Jabal Rahmah Mulia School so the writer has plan to use Syawaluddin's reading Materials for the students' at Junior High School later. The second previous studies from international journal entitled "Designing a Reading Material Recommendation System for EFL Learners" by Chin-Hwa Kuo and Chen-Chung Chi (2014). In their journal, they used research based development or educational development (R&D). They found reading material recommendation systems should be designed based on learners' reading or vocabulary usage abilities.

Therefore, this study is devoted to studying and designing reading materials of English for students of Islamic School. In the other words, this research intended to analyze the existing syllabus and reading materials. If the existing reading materials are not suitable with syllabus and relevant to the Islamic school students' needs, designing English reading materials are really required.

Hopefully, the students of Jabal Rahmah Mulia Medan can be motivated to read. Based on statements above, this study emphasizes on designing leveled English reading materials for Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary School Medan.

1.2. The Problems of the Study

Based on the explanation in background above, it is identified that the problems of the study are formulated as the following :

1. What are the existing English reading materials for students at Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary school?
2. How is leveled of English reading materials design?

3. What is the suitable leveled English reading materials for Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary school?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

Based on the previous problem above, the objectives of this study are :

1. Evaluating the existing English reading materials for students of Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary school
2. a) Investigating English reading materials which are suitable with the Islamic school students
b) Designing new leveled English reading materials
3. a) Validating the new leveled English reading materials
b) Evaluating the new leveled English reading materials

1.4. The Scope of the Study

This study will be focused on designing Leveled English Reading Material which are relevant with the Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary School students particularly Grade four of Jabal Rahmah Mulia Medan.

1.5. The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to be useful theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to produce leveled reading materials especially Grade fourth of Jabal Rahmah Mulia Medan.

Additionally, it is expected to provide a good reference in designing appropriate leveled English reading materials for grade IV of Jabal Rahmah Mulia Elementary school Medan. Practically, it is expected to inspire the English

teachers especially for school that has main program in English to select the suitable English Reading Materials for their students that can increase the students' motivation to learn with the interesting materials.



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