

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

English has long been claimed as an international language for which it is commonly used as a means of communication among people across the globe. This is arguably possible since it can accommodate the development of technology with respect to vocabulary (lexical items) which may not be able to coin new words when it comes to naming things in line with the advancement of technology. With this, English is also claimed to be the language of success in future job opportunities. Without considerable mastery of English, it is hard to imagine how people can go international in their careers.

In response to the above phenomena, there is a tendency for educational institutions to equip the students with a good command of English. Some high schools have launched their bilingual education. Some universities also claim to target themselves at world class level. This is not bad at all if the universities, which are supposed to level themselves against international standards of education, offer English instructions which can really make the students master the four language skills especially in accordance with the needs of the university graduates.

According to Law Faculty of Civil Law Department in University HKBP Nomensen Medan curriculum, there are activity plans that guide the students in getting some language skills which enable the students to use them as the early preparation in lives and its functions in the society. In other words, the language skills of the students have in class will be used in seeking the job in the future. Specific language skills come from the selected texts which present special vocabulary and show the richness of the language in that field.

Principally, a real ESP course is meant that the curriculum should be build on the basis of a comprehensive needs analysis of the target students and the stakeholders, later including those who would possibly employ the graduates of the university. So, the way on how ESP should be designed to meet the specific needs including wants and necessities of the students in a specific field is very interesting and challenging. In this research, the researcher only focuses on the designing of reading materials for second semester students of civil law department law faculty of University HKBP Nomensen.

Harmer (1983:19) stated that students learn English for different reasons and different circumstances, and they might be taught differently depending on such reasons, because different reasons and circumstances might influence students' achievement in English. In this case, it is important to consider what actually the students' need. The growth of ESP includes the growth of science and technology, the fact that English become an international language has shown a very significant position in this globalization era. All aspects of live are changing rapidly. The focus of teaching English must meet the students need, so that they can use it in real situation.

Goodman (in Carrel, ed. 1988: 12) in his article entitled the reading process, reiterates reading like the following, reading is receptive language process. It is a psycholinguistic process in that it starts with a linguistics surface representation encoded by a writer and ends with meaning which the reader constructs. There is thus an essential interaction between language and thought in reading. The writer encodes thought as language and the reader decodes language to thought. Proficient readers are both efficient and effective. They are effective in constructing a meaning that they can assimilate or accommodate and which bears some level of agreement with the original meaning of the author. And readers are efficient in using the least amount of effort to achieve effectiveness. To accomplish this efficiency readers maintain constant focus on constructing the meaning throughout the process, always

seeking the most direct path to meaning, always using strategies for reducing uncertainty, always being selective about the use of the cues available and drawing deeply on prior conceptual and linguistic competence. Efficient readers minimize dependence on visual detail. Any reader's proficiency varies depending on the semantic background brought by the reader to any given reading task.

Reading as one of the skills in English should not be considered as a passive activity. The message in the text will not go into readers' mind by itself. The meaning is not merely lying in the text waiting to be passively absorbed. On the contrary, the reader or decoder should actively involved and will very often have to work to get the meaning out. Teaching English to non English majoring students will have its own challenge for the teacher. This will be the field of ESP to take part. Teacher or lecturer is supposed to design the teaching materials based on the students needs. This research will take this matter of designing teaching material as the subject. Writer will design a material to be taught to students of law faculty in HKBP Nomensen. In order to make the research can be more focus; the writer narrowed the English teaching materials just for reading.

Most of the Indonesian English teacher or lecturer apply structural syllabus in their schools or colleges. Higher education of Law Faculty HKBP Nomensen University as one of the university in Medan applies this syllabus and use materials in teaching – learning process. The materials that they learn are to general as it can find in general English. The materials cannot meet the students' needs, students of law faculty needs more specific material regarding to their major, so this latter can help them in learning their major which is using mostly English text books. Furthermore, the formal syllabus may be failed to provide the learners with understanding of communicative use of the conversation, because the material in which made by the lecturer doesn't match to the students needs. Consequently, many students failed to understand and achieve the target of the course itself, namely to be able to

communicative in English. This means that there must be something not match to the process. There are many components of the process of instructional process. But, the researcher decided to make the study is focused to the development of the materials that meet the students' needs. The researcher argues that there must be problem to the materials. According to Allwright (1990) materials should teach students to learn, that they should be resource books for ideas and activities for instruction/learning, and that they should give teachers rationales for what they do. Allwright emphasizes that the materials control learning and teaching.

Moreover, Littlejohn & Windeatt (1981) argues that the materials have a hidden curriculum that includes attitudes toward knowledge, attitudes toward teaching and learning, attitudes toward the role and relationship of teacher and students and values and attitudes related to gender, society, etc.

The Law Faculty of University HKBP Nomensen has the objective of preparing graduates to really master the knowledge of legal matters. Instead of learning Law, English is given as a general subject to students. In fact by mastering English, students are expected to be able to absorb knowledge of law from English Law text books. Yet, since the materials for teaching English are not designed for the students' needs and the teaching – learning process become unsuccessful. Most of the graduates who become a lawyer cannot give a legal advice to the foreign clients for their cases, because they cannot communicate in English fluently.

ESP are not different in kind from any other forms of language teaching, in that it should be based in the first instance on principles of effective and efficient learning (Hutchinson & Waters, 1986). ESP is just a matter of science, work and grammar for scientist, etc., but it is linked with competence and performance.

ESP is not different from any other language teaching; that is based on the principles of effective and efficient learning. ESP courses are providing the learners with competency of

English for Specific Fields of knowledge at the advance level. It is also concerned with the design of the curriculum, using approaches, methods and techniques in ESP and develops materials for the syllabus; type of authentic scientific writing, grammatical features, vocabularies building and principles in the instructional process of ESP.

The need of the students is the basic purpose of the ESP, which are aimed at specifying what the students' needs in learning English. When the failure had happened in learning-teaching processes, the practitioners would have thought and found other ways, check and corrects the mistakes, when they found the mistakes are from the materials. The practitioners should develop their teaching materials based on the learners' preferences and the standard students' output for global competition.

The fact is, of course, being a problem for the teachers that the students learn something that they do not need. ESP materials for Law Faculty students should develop based on the learners need and for their future jobs. The students are exposed to linguistic forms, which they do not need and which are of little relevance to communicative purposes. Consequently, students learned English is not aimed to accommodate their needs. They only learn English as to fulfill their subject not to get the achievement or the final purposes of teaching do not have yet ESP.

In this study, the writer will concern with the English for students of law faculty, especially with the syllabus and material design. The design of ESP materials in this study is focused on reading materials, vocabularies and terms that is used in legal English. The reason is that, the students of law faculty generally need English to communicate, in order to get better understanding in English, besides the books that they used to study their major are mostly in legal English texts. The materials will be developed from the existing materials. And of course it would also be based on the students' needs. ESP is design to meet the

specific disciplines such as how ESP is applied for Law Faculty of University HKBP Nomensen.

In achieving the goals in the class, the materials should be developed based on specific learning approach in order to have a clear foundation and direction (Sumardi; 2000). Problem-based learning (PBL) is a learning method based on solving problems. It is an approach to structuring the curriculum that involves confronting students with problems from practice that provide a stimulus for learning. Given that the teaching does not automatically lead to learning, PBL is viewed in the context of an approach to learning rather than as a teaching technique.

Generally, in PBL classrooms, the teacher acts as a coach for or facilitator of activities that students carry out themselves. The teacher provides students with appropriate problem to work on, assist them in identifying and accessing the materials and equipment necessary to solve the problems, gives necessary feedback and support during the problem solving process, and evaluates student's participation and products, with the goal of helping them develop their problem solving as well as their language and literacy skills. According to Sanjaya (2006: 220) PBL is a good technique in understanding, increasing, critical thinking, developing and interesting.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

In relation to the background of the study, the problems of this study are formulated as follows:

- 1) How are the existing reading materials for students of Civil Law Department of Law Faculty in University of HKBP Nomensen?
- 2) What Kinds of English reading material are needed to meet with the students of Civil Law Department of Law Faculty in University of HKBP Nomensen?

- 3) How is the reading material for Civil Law Department of Law Faculty in University of HKBP Nomensen developed through PBL?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

In line with the problems of the study, the objectives of this study are to:

- 1) know the existing English reading materials for Civil Law Department of Law Faculty in University of HKBP Nomensen.
- 2) find out English reading material that meets with the students of Civil Law Department of Law Faculty in University of HKBP Nomensen needs.
- 3) develop reading material for Civil Law Department of Law Faculty in University of HKBP Nomensen through PBL.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

Due to limitation of resources and for the sake of accuracy and reliability of research result, this research will focused on the development ESP teaching material, especially reading materials. The materials based on the existing material used by English lecturer. Then, to support to understanding materials, this ESP teaching materials also discussed related grammatical pattern, speaking and vocabulary usages in line with the topic/theme of the materials themselves. Finally, it will be developed through PBL. The development will focus on the teaching of ESP for Law Faculty at University HKBP Nomensen.

Law faculty of Nommencen University has three majors: Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Civil Law. This study is focused on the design and develop of English reading materials which are relevant for Civil Law Department of Law Faculty students of University HKBP Nommencen.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The findings of this research are expected to be useful both theoretical and practical. Theoretically, findings of the research are hopefully useful especially for English lectures of Law faculty and generally for all teachers and lectures in designing material in their teaching. The materials are also expected to provide information about the syllabus design based on the students' needs. This study is also expected to be a motivation for the teachers and lecturers to improve their techniques in teaching English for the students to improve their ability in English. Practically, the materials development is expected to be applied in instructional process for Law Faculty of University HKBP Nomensen and also for all teachers in their teaching process.

