

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

English has been a foreign language in Indonesia, it can connect people in communicating with each other as it is the international language that covers almost all of aspects in people's life, such as in education and professional worker. In education, we could see that some level of education in Indonesia requires English as one of the subjects taught in school, from elementary to college level and even it becomes one of the subjects examined in national examination. In working field, many people use English to communicate actively and to fulfill competence demanded by companies or some certain jobs. Learning English is important, especially for those who are going to face the real working field right after graduating from schools, especially for vocational high school students.

English consists of four skills which have to be mastered by the students; they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. In this case, the learners are required to comprehend (listening and reading) the language and produce (speaking and writing) the language. In teaching the language, between comprehending the languages as well as producing the language are exactly having a relationship. Before producing the language, students need to have some vocabularies; those vocabularies are gotten by the process of comprehending the language. For example, by having an activity of reading or listening, students will get an input data of what they have to express in term of writing or speaking.

Among the four language skills, reading is one of skills that should be learned well by the students because by having reading skill they will be easy to get information, knowledge, and science. Reading is a primary goal of learning education, in which the goal of reading is to get the competence in understanding and comprehending the text (Snowling and Hulme, 2011). This language skill is also something crucial and indispensable for the student because through reading, student will be able to get information from text which increase their knowledge.

In reality, most of students are too lazy to comprehend a text through having a reading activity and they cannot fully recognize the sentence as well as the meaning and sometimes feel that a long reading text or passage makes them so bored to read and the lack of the vocabulary makes them stuck to continue the reading; furthermore, the material is not interesting for them because it is not related to their program.

Based on the writer's observation at SMK Yayasan Wanita Kereta Api (YWKA) Medan, the researcher found that their reading materials are totally irrelevant with their study program especially in descriptive text; the texts are not suitable for the students in office administration study program. For example, the books they use in the school do not contain technical terms related to office administration program in SMK Yayasan Wanita Kereta Api (YWKA) Medan and the topics are general for them. The material is generally the same as senior high school even though what they need is different. Harsono (2007) states that English teachers usually teach their students by using available textbooks. However, the English learning materials which are really suitable with the needs

of the students are not always available. A preliminary observation was done to know the level of students' comprehension in reading text. The observation was done through interview toward English teacher at SMK Yayasan Wanita Kereta Api (YWKA) Medan. From this interview, the teacher said that the students of office administration program needed the specific reading materials to fulfill their needs.

In fact, The English reading materials for students of office administration program in the 10th grade at SMK Yayasan Wanita Kereta Api (YWKA) Medan which are not appropriate with the student's needs and their major. The English materials which students learn are too general. The researcher found some text in the students' English book that published by "Get Along With English" for vocational school grade X (written by Entin Sutinah, dkk) which is published by Erlangga, PT Glora Aksara Pratamain 2010 in which one of reading materials, genre descriptive text, are not related to students of office administration program.

The data is shown as follows:

Rina is my classmate. She is smart and beautiful. Everyone who doesn't understand and know how to do the homework frequently asks her for help. She is very nice person and I proud to be her friend. However, we have different interests. Rina prefers math to other subjects. I prefer science. Rina is very helpful. She always helps me do my math homework when I find it too difficult do it on my own. I do the same thing for her. I always help her do her science homework when never she asks me. We are the best partner in the world.

Unlike Rina and I, our classmate, Edo, is a little different. He is cute but not clever. He is very lazy in class and seems to be helpless. He is a good boy, but he never does his homework. Many students call him a stupid boy, however, I'm sure he is not stupid. He is just lazy. Most of all the students in my class don't want to be in the same group with him or be his partner when there is homework to do together. Since Rina and I sometimes feel sorry for him, we usually invite him to do the homework together. Finally, I have to admit one thing: he is the worst partner ever.

The data above shows that the reading material not appropriate with the office administration program. The result is that they are not interest to learn the reading material, simply because they thought it will not effect to their program and their future job. The teacher admitted that student need specific reading materials which are related to office administration program. The adaptation of reading texts to be related to the students' needs and program is actually the application of English for Specific Purposes (ESP). Richards (2001 : 28) states that the concern to make language courses more relevant to students needs leads this period to emergence of ESP. Through ESP the teachers can analyze their students' need and they also can design the appropriate reading materials for their student, so the students will get the relevant materials base on their study program, the texts will be interesting for the students and finally the students can improve their knowledge by having suitable reading materials.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in developing English reading materials for the 10th grade students of office administration program at SMK Yayasan Wanita Kereta Api (YWKA) Medan.

B. The Problem of the Study

By seeing the background above, the problem of the study is formulated as follows : “What English reading materials are suitable for students’ needs in the 10th grade students of office administration program in SMK Yayasan Wanita Kereta Api (YWKA) Medan?”

C. The Objective of the Study

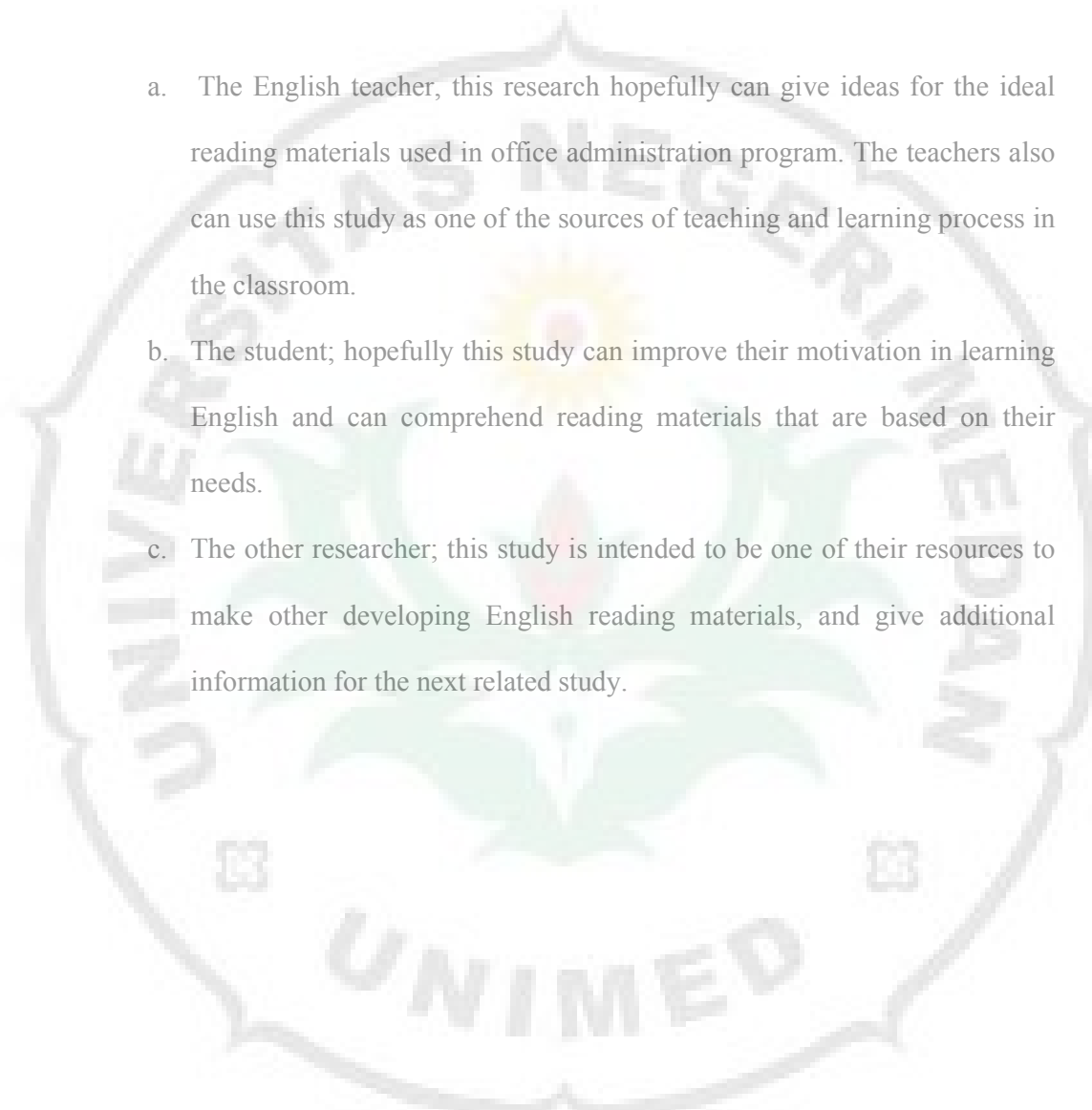
As mentioned in the problems of the study, the objective of this research is: “To develop English reading materials for students of office administration program in SMK Yayasan Wanita Kereta Api (YWKA) Medan based on students’ need”.

D. The Scope of the Study

In accordance with the problems above, researcher focused on developing reading materials in descriptive text for 10th grade students of office administration program in SMK Yayasan Wanita Kereta Api (YWKA) Medan.

E. The Significances of the Study

The research is expected to give a meaningful contribution as follows:

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- The background of the page features a large, faint watermark of the logo for Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNIMED). The logo is circular with a scalloped edge, containing a stylized green plant with a yellow sun-like flower at the top. The text "UNIVERSITAS NEGERI SEMARANG" is written around the top inner edge, and "UNIMED" is written at the bottom. Two small square icons are positioned on the left and right sides of the bottom edge.
- a. The English teacher, this research hopefully can give ideas for the ideal reading materials used in office administration program. The teachers also can use this study as one of the sources of teaching and learning process in the classroom.
 - b. The student; hopefully this study can improve their motivation in learning English and can comprehend reading materials that are based on their needs.
 - c. The other researcher; 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.

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