

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. The Background of the Study

English is a foreign language in Indonesia and it has been being one of the main subjects for each of education level in every school. English also is one of the subjects which is included in National Examination, that is why the students should learn English in school.

There are four skills in English that should be mastered by the students. They are; reading, listening, speaking and writing. Reading and listening is the way for the students to get information and knowledge, while writing and speaking is the product of reading and listening.

The better students are in reading and listening, the better they are in writing and speaking. Furthermore, Eskey (2000:25) describes reading as a process of obtaining information from a written text. In conclusion, by reading the readers or the students make sense what a writer means and can also catch the information in a text. Therefore, a text can be a good model to learn English because it provides structures and information to support their learning.

Reading has a positive effect on students' vocabulary knowledge, on their spelling and on their writing (Harmer, 2007:99). Then, he notes that good reading text can introduce interesting topics, stimulate discussion, excite imaginative responses and provide the springboard of

well-rounded, fascinating lessons. In other words, by having reading skill they will be easy to get information, knowledge and science.

In learning English, it is not easy for the students to understand and cover all the English skills. There are some problems that we can find in the learning process of English subject, not only for the teachers, but also the students, such as the teachers ability in teaching, the lack of students motivation in studying, the learning media, learning materials, and many others.

Reading is one of the difficult skills for the students. For example, in the Vocational High School Taman Siswa Medan, it is not easy for them to understand and comprehend the text in their text book. When I was doing my teaching practice program in that school, I saw that they were very lazy to read the text. When I asked them why they are lazy to read, they answered to me that the text is not interesting for them, they are easy to feel bored, the reading materials have no relation with their focus, so the reading material didn't fulfill their needs, and also they have the lack of vocabulary.

The researcher found that the English textbook which is used in that school is a textbook based on Curriculum 2013 entitled "Bahasa Inggris", produced by "Kementrian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia 2016". The materials in that book are not appropriate with their needs. Here is the example of existing materials that the researcher found in the text book that the school used.



## READING

### Task 1:

Now, read text 1 carefully. What do you think about the place described below?

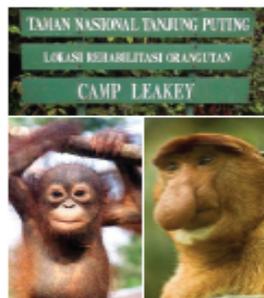
#### Text 1

#### TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK

Tanjung Puting National Park is an internationally famous ecotourism destination, which is located in the southwest of Central Kalimantan peninsula. Visitors from foreign countries come to this park because of its amazing nature. This is called a park, but unlike any park that you have seen in your city, this is a jungle! It is a real jungle, which is home to the most interesting animal in the world: orangutans.

Though the park is home to many animals, seeing orangutans is usually the visitors' main reason to visit the park. Orangutans, which literally mean the man of the forest, are the largest arboreal animal on the planet. Most of their lives are spent in trees where orangutans travel from branch to branch by climbing or swinging with their long arms.

To see orangutans, we should go to Camp Leakey, which is located in the heart of Tanjung Puting National Park. Camp Leakey is a rehabilitation place for ex-captive orang utans and also a preservation site. It is also a famous center for research about orangutans which has been conducted by the famous primatologist Dr. Birute Galdikas since 1971. Here visitors can see daily feedings to orangutans at jungle platforms as part of the rehabilitation process to their natural habitat. This event gives them opportunity to see orangutans up close.



Source: <http://cesngutanexplore.com>  
Picture 4.2

To reach the place, we should take a boat down Sekonyer river. The boat is popularly called perahu klotok which is a boathouse that can accommodate four people. The trip by the boat to Camp Leakey takes three days and two nights. You sleep, cook, and eat in that klotok, night and day during your journey into the jungle.

The traveling in the boat offers an unforgettable experience. In daylight, on your way to Camp Leakey, you can see trees filled with proboscis monkeys, monkeys that have enormous snout which can only be found in Kalimantan. The

**Figure 1.1 The Example of Existing Materials in the Text Book**

The text above absolutely is not relevant with the students' need because the material is still too general. The descriptive text above is about "Tanjung Puting National Park". The text talks about a tour place where the text has no relation at all with the Computer Engineering and Networking Study Program. The appropriate materials for students of Computer Engineering and Networking properly talk about everything

related to their major, such as about computer, networking, technology and others related materials.

Computer Engineering and Networking as one of the majors of vocational high schools in Indonesia prepares the students to face this kind of global competition. Once the students graduate, they can continue to the higher education or apply for job. English plays the role to make the students get qualified when they apply for job in Indonesian or overseas companies that require the workers to be good in English. There are actually many ways to make them have good competence in English in order to support their career, one of them is by providing good materials.

In fact, the needs of materials for vocational high school are still neglected. Materials for vocational school are not appropriate enough in terms of the content, the vocabulary, the topics, and so on. For example, the books they use in the school do not contain technical terms related to computer engineering and networking and the topics are too general for them. The materials used are the same as what are used by regular high school, while their needs are far different.

In addition, the book that they used is based on Curriculum 2013 but the contents of Bahasa Inggris textbook are not organized under the five steps of teaching and learning process based on scientific approach; observing, questioning, exploring, associating, and communicating, while the approach that is Curriculum 2013 used is Scientific Approach.

Scientific approach will be used in the development of the material. Kemdikbud (2014) stated that scientific approach refers to the investigation techniques on some phenomena to get a new knowledge or doing correction and integrating the previous knowledge. In applying scientific approach, students will learn English by observing, questioning, exploring, associating, and communicating. The processes of observing, questioning, exploring, associating and communicating are expected to promote students to have critical, analytical, investigational, procedural and communicative competences. It's in line with the previous study done by Wahyudin and Sukyadi (2015) who found that scientific approach itself gives some positive contributions to the students' participation, and critical thinking as it is depicted in the questioning stage and communicating stage and also seem to positively affect students' confidence in using the target language.

Based on the stated problems, the researcher tries to carry out a study which is expected to produce Reading materials based on Scientific Approach that can facilitate students majoring Computer Engineering and Networking in learning English. Throughout the reading materials, students are supposed to learn English in an enjoyable way and take reading activities into account that can change their English ability in a good way.

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

Based on the identification of the background above, the writer formulated the problem of the study as the following:

“How is the appropriate English Reading Materials developed based on Scientific Approach for grade X students of SMKS Taman Siswa Medan?”

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

Based on the problem, the objective of the study is to develop the appropriate English Reading Materials based on Scientific Approach for grade X students of SMKS Taman Siswa Medan.

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

There are some genres of the text which is learned in the grade X students of Vocational High School. The focus of this research is to develop appropriate Reading materials for genre Descriptive Text that can make students motivated to learn English. The materials will be for Computer Engineering and Networking students grade X and will be designed based on Curriculum 2013 by using Scientific Approach.

### **E. The Significance of the Study**

The study is expected to have a significant contribution theoretically and practically for:

First, theoretically this study is expected to give a useful contribution in the effort to develop the science, especially in the development of reading material. It also can be used as a source of reference for future researches.

Second, practically, the results of this research may also contribute to 1) students who learn English at SMKS Taman Siswa Medan and 2) teacher/lecturer, as a source of information and references in order to enrich their knowledge about topics discussed.

