

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Many people say that English is an important lesson to be learned because it is common used in every field such as economics, science, international relationship, and etc. In Indonesia, English has been used as a foreign language. In working field, many people learn English to communicate actively and to fulfil 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, in this case is, vocational high school students. English has become one of the tools to 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 working.

Reading has many benefits to the learners. Thanh (2010), as cited in Rahma (2017) mentions several benefits of reading for learner, such as: for pronunciation improvement, for vocabulary enrichment (readers can gain a vast vocabulary and essential knowledge), for spelling capability (the students will have chance to interact and see the language), for relaxation (release stress through fun reading), for reader's spiritual development, for enhancement writing skill, and for continuous knowledge updating.

Reading materials play an important role to the English language teaching (ELT). Therefore, reading skill is needed to achieve the ability to understand English Text. Anderson in Chen (2005:1), as cited in Fahmi (2013) emphasizes the mastery of reading skill could help learners have success not only in English

learning but also in other content class where reading was required. Materials of reading become substantial in learning English in the class. As reading materials play an important role in English learning, it should be developed based on students' need and the content should represent the real life problem will be faced by the students later.

English for specific purposes (ESP) is English language teaching that is designed to meet the specific needs of a learner. It shows that the students really need to learn ESP to focus and master a skill based on their needs (Strevens in Hui Lin, et al, 2013). Students will find teaching materials which are related to the vocation that they have through ESP. Therefore, the students will be interested to read the text, and the text will enrich the students' knowledge about their vocation. The presence of vocational school nowadays makes many students interested to study there, especially for them who want to get the job easier. For example in Indonesia, the graduates of vocational school are expected to have a qualification as candidate of employees that have a certain skill based on their competence. Meanwhile to fulfill that willing, the vocational school students should comprehend their course and master the skill that they have based on their study program competence.

Most of vocational school in Indonesia still have a problem related to the availability of English learning materials which are appropriate for the students.

Materials which are provided by the government and launched by some publishers are still general. The materials are not specified into certain study programs, whereas English which is needed by the students in their future occupation will be different. This also happens in SMK Yayasan Pendidikan Farmasi Sumatera Utara

(YPFSU), Medan. In fact, the reading text material used by students about reading descriptive text is only describe people, place, congratulate someone and historical place which this material is not relevant with the students' vocation. The materials they used especially the textbook of which contents are the same as the textbook and syllabus in general high school. There is no difference between what the students of vocational learn from the students of high school. In other words, the English materials they use are not proper to students' needs. One of the phenomena is the students learn about descriptive text. Here are the facts which have found in students' text books.

An email for Hannah

Hello, Alia. Let me introduce myself. My name is Hannah.

I know your name from my friend, Caroline. She told me that you sent her an email telling her that you would like to have more pen pals from the US. I'd really like to be your E-pal. You sound really cool!

I guess I'd better tell you something about myself first. I'm 16 years old and I attend Thomas Edison High School here in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. I have to brother and two half sister and I'm te middle child. My father died a few years ago so my mother runs the house and the family business. My father was a barista.

I have lots of hobbies. I like music- mostly classical music and dolk music – but I don't play an instrument. I like sports, especially tennis and basket ball. At school, I'm in the basket ball team and I spend most of my extra-curricular time playing basket ball. I'm into animals very much. My sister and I have three dogs. They need lots of attention as you can imagine. my favorite subject at school are art and geography. I think I'd like to become a park ranger when I graduate , perhaps work for the National Parks Service.

I don't like reading but i love drawing and painting. How about you? please drop me a line, Alia! Can't wait to hear from you!

Hannah.

Besides describing people, another text that learned by students is describing place.

Tanjung Puting National Park

Tanjung Puting National Park is an internationally famous ecotourism destinations, which is located 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 animals 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.

Unfortunately, those texts are not related with students' needs in Pharmacy Study Program, the matter is about the text materials. In this case, a teacher has a responsibility to facilitate students' learning in the classroom. As someone who knows well what students need, a teacher has a right to take decision about teaching material which will be delivered to students, teaching methods, and evaluation for students. If teachers find that existing materials do not proper or fulfill students' needs, they should develop that teaching materials in order to find what students need. It is suggested that teacher have to develop reading materials based on students' needs on vocational purposes as an application of English for Specific Purposes. By designing materials based on their focus, so the students will get easier to understand the text.

The development of reading materials is started by gathering information from students and teacher, analyzing students' need of pharmacy study program student, designing materials, validating the materials to experts (teacher, headmaster and validator), revising the materials based on experts' suggestions and the materials have developed.

This study will focus on developing English reading materials (the exercise) based on task based learning for the tenth grade students in SMK YPFSU Medan. The use of task based learning can make the students easier and

more interested in learning English. These new English reading materials will be totally different from the existing ones, because the topics are much more familiar to the students so they will be more active in the learning process as what they are going to learn is something that they can easily relate to. Hopefully, the students will be motivated to develop their reading skills by having reading practices using task-based learning.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

Based on the research background, the research problem is formulated as follows: "How to develop English reading materials which are suitable to the needs of students for the tenth grade pharmacy study program of SMK YPFSU Medan?"

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

As mentioned in the problem of the study, the objectives of this research are as follows: to develop the English reading material based on task-based learning that are appropriately developed for students in the Pharmacy Study Program at SMK YPFSU Medan.

1.4 The Scope of the Research

This study will focus on developing English reading materials based on task-based learning. It will be applied in the tenth grade students especially in the first semester of SMK YPFSU Medan. The skill that will be concerned with is reading especially in descriptive text.

1.5 The Significances of the Study

The findings of the study will be expected to be useful for :

1. Theoretically

This study is expected to add a new horizon towards the reading materials development.

2. Practically

a. to the English teacher: the development of this material is aimed at helping the teacher to have more relevant and appropriate materials used to teach the students of the tenth grade of Pharmacy Study program. Hopefully, the developed materials can be benefited as additional reading materials enriched with the technical terms of pharmacy.

b. to the Students: it is expected that the developed reading materials will help the students to get sufficient exposures dealing with terms in pharmacy. So, they will have profound ability to perform English whether to take pharmacy department in the universities or work as a professional pharmacist.

c. for future researcher : it can be a reference for the future researcher who interest in conducting the further similar research of reading material.

