

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is the most important aspect in the life of all beings. By using language we can communicate to each other, just like English as the language that people used the most in the world and so English became an international language.

In learning English students need an education as a media to increase their quality in term of knowledge. By having education, students are expected to be experts of the subject that they focus on.

Unfortunately, in a fact there are many students could not master English well. Actually, there are some various factors that make English fails to understood, such as: inappropriate teaching materials and teaching methods, students' low motivation, etc.

Thus, teaching material is an essential factor which influences a teaching process in a classroom. O'Neil (2003) emphasizes that teaching materials help a teaching and learning process; and teaching materials must be suitable for students' needs, even they are not design specifically for them, the teaching material should make it possible for students to preview and prepare their lessons, and the teaching materials should allow for adaptation and improvisation.

In language teaching learning process, there are four skills which are expected by the students in learning English, such as reading, listening, writing, and speaking. One of the four skills that students found difficult to master is reading. Reading is an important skill for students to acquire since it gives them the ability to understand words and sentences of English in general. Reading can be defined as perceiving a written text to understand its contents. Students nowadays are not interested in comprehend a text through having reading activity. The fact, the most difficult thing of learning English is reading a text or passage, meanwhile to get the essential information of the text is by reading. Some reasons that cause students' disinteresting reading activity are: the text or passage is too long and make them bored, the topic is not interesting to them, the passage has too-complex grammar and words and they more interested to internet to get some information.

Based on the observation that was done by the researcher in SMK BM Bina Bersaudara Medan, students who take major of office administration were taught by using teaching materials which were not relevant to the Office Administration especially descriptive text. The reading material in the textbook was about description about things, animal, people while the students need to know about office administration like description about ups and downs of stocks and more specific material to enrich their knowledge. The data are proven below.

Activity 25 Listen to your teacher and number the picture.



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7. _____ ? The mattress is made of sponge.
8. _____ ? He's from Thailand.
9. _____ ? He's Thai.
10. _____ ? He's a film star.

Activity 30 Read this passage carefully.

Pratama is a 26 year single man. He comes from Magelang, Central Java. He has just graduated from Law Department of a state university in Semarang. Now he works in a great insurance company in Jakarta. One of his hobbies is traveling. He has visited many regions in Indonesia, such as North Sumatra, West Sumatra, Ujung Kulon, Yogyakarta, Bali, Lombok, North Sulawesi, etc. He also likes watching football matches with a friend in a stadium in his free time.

His great dream is visiting Mecca in Saudi Arabia to do the pilgrimage. He hopes that next year his dream will come true.

Pratama loves pets. He has three cute cats at home. He loves them very much. He always keeps the cats well by giving them the best food.

Other things that Pratama likes to do are getting up early in the morning and going to bed early at night.

Activity 31 Answer the questions based on the passage above.

1. Has Pratama got married?
2. Where did he graduate from?
3. Did he study law in Semarang or in Magelang?

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Basically, it is important for vocational office administration students to study English in order to support their major, so the materials should be relevant

to the specific purpose that they need. This is necessary to eliminate the gap between English materials and what students' needs about English in office administration as an international language related to the vocational purposes.

As an international language, English is needed for many specific purposes; that is why there is a term of ESP (English for Specific Purpose). In education, ESP needs to be applied. Through ESP, students still find some teaching materials which are related to the vocations that they have. Thus, it will be interesting for the students to read the text, and finally the text will enrich the students' knowledge about their major. In other words, by having ESP; students will learn English based on they need. According to Hutchinson and Waters (1987:8) to improve the learners' motivation and make learning better and faster, teachers should prepare materials which are relevant to the students' need and interest. In addition, For ESP teachers, the selection extends the use of what is available.

Before developing the suitable teaching material for students, the analysis of students' needs of teaching materials is very important to do. The researcher will begin this study by acquiring information from students and teachers by doing interview and analyzing their course book as a preliminary data. This research is also intended to analyze the existing syllabus and reading materials. The development and designing of reading materials will be based on Research and Development (R&D).

B. The Problem of The Study

Based on the background of the study, the research problem can be formulated as follows : “What English reading material is needed by students of office administration at SMK BM Bina Bersaudara Medan?”

C. The Objectives of The Study

As stated in the problem of the study, this study tries to develop English reading materials for the tenth grade students of Office Administration program in SMK BM Bina Bersaudara Medan.

D. The Scope of The Study

This research will be focused on developing English reading materials which are relevant for the tenth-gradestudents of office administration in SMK BM Bina Bersaudara Medan. The scope of this study will be focused on descriptive text as a supplementary material. The researcher only makes five texts for the office administration program in SMK BM Bina Bersaudara Medan.

E. The Significances of The Study

The finding of this research can be useful theoretically and practically in providing information about the developing reading materials for vocational School.

Theoretically, the findings of this research provide information and theories of what the appropriate English reading materials for office administration are.

Practically, the findings of the study can be the recommended reading materials for the students of SMK BM Bina Bersaudara Medan, as it motivates their enthusiasm in learning English. Besides, it will ease the teacher to teach English to the students.



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