

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Education is an important role in the development of a country. Because of that, the government improves the quality of education in Indonesia. The government has made serious efforts such as reforming the curriculum, improving teachers' skill, and providing the facilities and media that support the teaching learning process. The government expects that those efforts can make the teaching and learning process run well and increase the students' achievement. One of the efforts to increase the students' achievement is using interactive learning media. There are many advantages of interactive learning media in the English teaching-learning process. First, the students will be motivated to learn English because they will not get bored. Slameto (2003) stated that's there are three factors affecting the learning outcomes; teaching method, media, and students' motivation. Because the teachers only use textbook as the media, students have low motivation and interest in learning English, so they feel bored and their vocabulary is still poor. Their examination result is also poor. Second, they can comprehend and understand the materials easily because the English interactive learning media can provide video, animation, graphics and audio. They can improve their listening, speaking and pronunciation from that. Third, they can learn independently, whenever and wherever they want. The last is that the English teachers will have variation in

teaching, so they can avoid a monotonous teaching-learning process. However, there are two problems that are faced by most of the English teachers related to the use of interactive learning media. First, there is no advance technology available in schools. Some schools do not have any computers and projector in the class as facilities in the teaching-learning process. Therefore, the teachers cannot use the English interactive learning media. Second, they have difficulties to find the English interactive learning media that are appropriate to the students' need. Even if they find them, the price is too high. That is why most of them teach English by using textbooks and worksheet.

The English teachers in SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Medan do not faced any problem related to the provided technology. There is a computer laboratory in SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Medan. However, most of them still faced difficulties to find the English interactive learning media that are appropriate to the students' needs. Moreover, SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Medan does not have any English interactive learning media. Therefore, the researcher is interested in developing interactive multimedia for teaching reading to the first semester of Grade VIII students at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Medan as supporting media in the teaching and learning process.

According to Brinton (2001: 461), media help the teachers to motivate students by bringing a slice of real life into the classroom and by presenting language in its more communicative context. In addition, she summarizes the rationales for using media in the language classroom as follows: a) Media can be an important motivator for students in the language teaching-learning process. b)

By using audio visual media, the students can create a contextualized situation within which language items are presented and practiced. It is because the audiovisual media provide the students with content, meaning, and guidance. c)Media can provide some authentic materials, so the students can relate directly between the language classroom and outside world.

B .The Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problems of the study are formulated as: How is the Interactive Multimedia developed for teaching reading descriptive materials?

C. The Objectives of The Study

Based on the problems state above, the objectives of the study are:

To develop an English interactive learning media for teaching reading for students to Grade VIII students of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Medan.

D. The Scope of the study

This study will focus on developing interactive multimedia for teaching reading to the first semester of Grade VIII students at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Medan. The English interactive learning media will be facilitated and motivate the students in learning English, particularly reading. One of the text types taught for SMP is a descriptive text. This text describes a particular person, place or thing.

Tompkins (1994) and Stanley (1988) define descriptive text as painting pictures with words. By reading a descriptive text, readers feel that they see the description just like they see pictures. In addition, the English will have variations in the teaching and learning process.

E. The Significance of the Study

1. English Teachers

This study is expected to be useful for providing the medium using technology for regular English classes.

2. Students

From this study, the students are expected to get more knowledge and develop their English proficiency. The interactive learning multimedia is expected to get the students more motivated in learning English

3. Other researchers

This study is expected to encourage other English Education Department students for conducting similar research on different skills so it will help both teachers and students in English language teaching process.