

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Problem

There are four language skills in teaching and learning English that should be mastered, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Among those skills, reading is the one the important skill because it is one of the purpose in teaching and learning English based on curriculum 2013. Mikulecky (2011:5) stated that reading is a complex conscious and unconscious mental process in which the reader uses a variety of strategies to reconstruct the meaning that the author is assumed to have intended, based on data from the text and from the reader's prior knowledge. The reader can get much information and enhance their knowledge. There are so many reading resources and for students one of reading resources is textbook.

Textbook is considered as the primary resources in school. It played an important role in educational programs, it still used dominantly in teaching learning process. In line with that, Wirawan (2011) stated that textbook is a book that usually use to learn about subjects in school or university. Teacher can get reading material from textbooks that is usually used at school. In textbook, it provides some reading texts that the teacher can use for students.

There are various textbooks has been sold at the market. Every single book has different advantages that can attract the purchase. It can be the price, the cover or anything else. However, they do not know whether the content of the textbook

is compatible with the curriculum or not. Therefore, every textbook should have been evaluated to be suitable to the established curriculum and it is expected to be compatible with the curriculum and students' grade. However, teachers should re-check the book whether it has the appropriate material or not.

Based on the preliminary observation of the students' English Textbook for Grade XII used by students in Madrasah Aliyah Muhammadiyah 1 Medan, the researcher have found that there are plenty of unfamiliar vocabularies which makes it difficult for students in understanding texts in this book. The failing of students to grasp the meaning of some vocabularies listed in a text will lead to students' failure to understand and comprehend the true content of a text. If that happens, it could be a great hinderer for students in their reading comprehension ability due to the appearance of the low frequency words that they do not understand.

The textbook with appropriate materials should be able to improve students' reading comprehension. Therefore, providing suitable reading texts for students is very important. Suitable means the texts' level matches the students' level of reading. This aims to facilitate students in understanding the contents of the reading texts. According to Gilliland as cited in Asem (2012) stated that matching the reader and the text has come to be called 'readability'. It can be said that readability is the level at which a text can be understood by the reader at a certain level. It means giving reading texts with appropriate readability level to students will make it easier for them to understand the contents of the text. Therefore, it is

important to notice the readability of reading texts given to students since it affects the way students understand the reading texts.

The researcher knows that textbook is the important thing in teaching and learning process. It is the main source for students to learn the material in the classroom and as guide for a teacher to teach. So, the researcher will proof whether or not the analyzed reading material in the textbook is compatible with the curriculum. This research will focus on, “Readability Level of Reading Texts in English Textbook Entitled *Let’s Learn English* For Senior High School Students Grade XII”

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

Based on the background above, the problem of the study is formulated into “How is the readability level of reading texts in English Textbook entitled *Let’s Learn English* for senior high school students grade XII?”

#### **C. Objectives of The Study**

As the problem of research has been stated above, his study is conducted to find out the readability level of report texts in English Textbook entitled *Let’s Learn English* for senior high school students grade XII.

#### **D. Scopes of The Study**

The scope of the study focuses on analyzing the readability level of reading texts. The researcher will measure readability level of reading text in English

textbook entitled *Let's Learn English* for Senior High School grade XII by focus on the reading texts.

Based on the identification of problem, the researcher would focus on the subject matter in analyzing the readability level of the selected reading texts English Textbook entitled *Let's Learn English* for senior high school students grade XII. The readability analysis is carried out by applying Flesch Reading Ease Readability Formula readability in the chosen textbook.

#### **E. Significances of The Study**

The findings of the study are expected to be beneficial both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically, this research will provide the information for the readers about readability level of reading
2. texts in English textbook entitled *Let's Learn English* for senior high school students grade XII.
3. Practically, the findings are useful for:

- a. For Students

This study guides them to read the texts easily and understandable because they found the texts are suitable for their level.

- b. For Teachers

The result of the study can give a new perspective for the English teachers in using, selecting, adapting, or designing reading text materials that are suitable

for students' level and teachers could predict whether the text was difficult, plain, or easy. Teachers also can modify the text based on the student's text level.

c. For Other Researchers

The research findings will inspire other researchers to conduct studies in similar fields as it is hoped to give useful information and guideline to conduct a further study.

