

# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

## A. The Background of the Study

In the present fast developing world, knowledge and information spreads rapidly. People very easy to get knowledge and information from many sources. Reading is one of the ways to get information about many things in this world and it is very important to consider that reading should be encouraged to everyone. Reading is the basis for learning different subjects in schools. Lems (2009:170) states that reading is an involving interaction between the text and the background knowledge of the reader. It can be inferred that a text in reading has correlation to the students' background knowledge therefore the text should be selected based on the students' understanding.

Further, in English curriculum, Educational Unit-Oriented Curriculum (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan : KTSP) 2006, of Senior High School level states that there are four skills should be achieved in learning process namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading is one of four skills that must be mastered.

In mastering the reading skill, both the teacher and the students need some mediums of instruction to facilitate them. One of the mediums of instruction which is used in every level of students in the schools is a textbook. A textbook has an important role in facilitating students studying the language, especially in senior high school.

The English textbook which the eleventh grade students use is **Advanced Learning English 2 for Grade XI Senior High School (Nature and Social Science Programmes)** published by Facil, a brand product of Grafindo Media Pratama. The textbook is based on Educational Unit-Oriented Curriculum (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan : KTSP) 2006. The genres of texts in that book are report, narrative, exposition, and spoof. The genres are based on the syllabus of the eleventh grade student. In doing observation, the writer also asked the teacher about the text in that books whether they are readable for students or not. The teacher said that some of the students still get difficulty to understand the reading texts in the textbook, especially the vocabularies while other students get easy of them.

From that book page 19, a text which the titled is Komodo Dragon in the third paragraph, some students still get difficulty and others are easy to understand about it, as follow :

The natural habitat of Komodo dragons is extremely harsh by human standards. These arid volcanic islands have steep slopes and little available water most of the year. A short monsoon season often produces local flooding. The average annual temperature at sea level on Komodo island is 80 F degrees. Dragons are most abundant in the lower arid forest and savanna.

From the paragraph above, the students get difficulty in translating and understanding some words such as *harsh*, *monsoon*, *abundant*, and *arid*. Encouraged by this problem, the writer would like to know the readability level of the reading texts of that textbook by using *cloze test*.

The process of selecting a good textbook is actually difficult. There are some aspects should be considered by the teachers to do the teaching learning

process as well as possible to make the students easy to understand and even have motivation in every time in learning English. Harmer (1983:153) said that it is often difficult to convince students of English as a foreign language that texts in English can be understood even though there are vocabulary items and structures that students have never seen before.

A good English textbook is easy to read, easy to understand, and easy to comprehend for students. The easier the text is, the better students can understand and read. On the other hand, if the textbook is a difficult one, they will lose their motivation in learning English .

It really important for teacher to knowing the students' reading ability in comprehending and understanding textbooks. There are some choices and ways of selecting a good English textbook which is readable for students according to their education levels by using *readability analysis*. It is used in analyzing the readability level of texts in a textbook. To finding the result of this analysis a *readability test* is needed as the tool. From its tool, an English texts provided in English textbook is known whether it is difficult, plain or easy for students.

Neil (1992:212) stated : a text can be readable when the reader can match the concepts of the text and has scheme for processing it. Readability of text is very useful for students in understanding the text. Students can easily catch on the meaning of the text when the text is readable and they can convey on its meaning.

After knowing that selecting a textbook is important, the writer tries to make a research about it. To answer and understand about the readability of a textbook, she visited SMA Dharma Pancasila to asking permission to do

observation. After she got permission, the writer asked the teacher some questions about the English textbook which is used by the students especially at the eleventh grade of the school. The writer chose the eleventh grade students because she considered if the eleventh grade students is better than the tenth and twelfth in this research. She thought that the tenth grade still needs more adaptation with their new school, while the twelfth grade must prepare and focus on their final examination. So, the writer just focus on the eleventh grade students of SMA Dharma Pancasila.

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

Based on the background of study, the problem is formulated as follow : Is the textbook Advanced Learning English 2 readable for the students of the eleventh grade of SMA Dharma Pancasila Medan ?

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

In line with what has been stated in the problem of the study, this study tries to describe and analyze the readability level of texts in Advanced Learning English 2 for Grade XI Senior High School (Nature and Social Science Programmes) published by Facil, a brand product of Grafindo Media Pratama 2013.

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

The scope of this study is describe the readability level of five reading texts that are taken from the English Textbook Advanced Learning English 2 for Grade XI Senior High School (Nature and Social Science Programmes).

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

Findings of this study are expected to provide information which may have theoretical as well as practical values or significance.

Theoretically, the findings of the study later will add some new theories and information in selecting the appropriate English textbook. Meanwhile practically, the findings become source of reference for the English teachers especially in Senior High School in their attempts to selecting the appropriate English textbook.

The findings are also expected to pose challenges to authors and publishers on the need to re-assess their publications and make readable texts available to students. Finally, the findings of this study can be used by other researchers who want to analyze textbook dealing with readability.