

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Education can be defined as a way to improve students' knowledge, by having a good knowledge students are expected to be able to earn their life through a good occupation or being a professional worker in the future. In our education system, there are many subjects that should be understood well by the students, for example: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Sociology, Economic, History, English, and etc. Those subjects have been taught from Junior High School level until Senior High School level. The equipping of many subjects is expected to increase students' knowledge and information.

Another fact shows that, there is also a level of education it is Vocational High School level which is having specific study programs and specific subjects. The purpose why vocational high school has been specified it is because the school will prepare the students for having a career or job based on the specific applied skills. To achieve this purpose a vocational high school gives a learning experience and adequate exercise to build a professional capability in science and technology through specific programs. For example a student of vocational high school in Culinary Study Program will get many

subjects related to food and beverage and a student of vocational high school in Accounting Study Program will get many subjects related to finance, even though in vocational high school and other levels of education will have different subjects, but there is one subject that always be taught in every level of education, that is English subject.

Nowadays many people deem 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. By seeing some the advantages people try to master this international language. As BSNP (Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan) (2010:10) states that English course aims to equip students in improving their abilities to understand English text from academic purposes and specific purposes.

The goals of English subject in the vocational high school is to communicate by using intermediate level of English. Recently, there are 2 kinds of curriculum that are used in Indonesia, they are: K13 (Kurikulum 2013) & KTSP (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan), but the object of this research is SMK Panca Budi 2 Medan which is actually used KTSP, actually this curriculum has a main concern on students' competencies. That is why, to reach the goal, students in vocational high school must pass the three standard competencies that have provided in the curriculum; such as : to communicate by using novice level of English, to communicate by using elementary level of English and to communicate by using intermediate level of English. In the other words, English subject in vocational high school aims to develop students' abilities in

communication by using the target language, both in oral and written, but the aim is easy to be said rather than to be done, because in the real implementation students who are taught in English subject in the classroom, have failed to use the target language properly in their real situation. This evidence has proved the failure in teaching learning process. Actually there are some various factors that have influenced them; such as: students' interest in learning English has been low, the teacher mostly dominated the teaching learning process by tutoring, the teaching media has not supported the teaching learning process and the major factor is the students' course book is too monotonous and even sometimes the students' course book is not appropriate.

In Indonesia, English has been used as a foreign language. English consists of four skills which have to be mastered by the students, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. In this case, the learners are required to comprehend (listening and reading) the language and produce (speaking and writing) the language. In teaching the language, between comprehending the language as well as producing the language are exactly have a relationship. Before producing the language, students need to have some vocabularies, those vocabularies are gotten by the process of comprehending the language.

Among the four language skills, reading is one of the skill that should be learned well by the students because by having reading skill they will be easy to get information, knowledge, and science. Grabe & Stoller (2002:9) elaborate that reading is a way to draw information from printed page and interpret the information appropriately. Meaning that the students will find out the

information from the text as efficient as possible. Yet, the fact shows that in learning English specifically in reading texts, students are hard to understand a text or even they are lazy to comprehend it through reading activity. They think that reading activity is a tedious activity; furthermore they think the topic is not interesting or it is not related with their needs and sometimes the text has a high level in terms of language or grammar.

Based on the writer's preliminary observation, the writer has found most of students were not good in comprehending the texts. At the beginning the writer asked the students about their interest in learning English especially in reading texts, and they told the writer the reading materials were hard to understand, because sometimes the language or the grammar are complicated then the writer checked their books and it has found that their reading materials are totally irrelevant with their study program, they often get confused because they did not understand the reading subject, the texts are not suitable for the students in vocational high school. For example there were some texts under the title How The Microwave Oven Works and How Safe is Your Home?.

Actually the students are coming from Office Administration study program, their study program emphasize them to be a good officer or secretary in the future. The writer has analyzed the office administration text book, there are many instructions in order to be a good officer or secretary, such as: how to handle the telephone, how to arrange the meeting, how to write a good letter or email and etc. The writer also found the basic competence in the syllabus, there is 1 basic competence related to the instruction (procedure text). Students'

English text books provide some procedure texts yet the materials are not match with the students' major.

Unfortunately, the writer of the text book has provided general materials, before writing the materials, the writer has seen the curriculum as the standard for the writer to write the text book. They have emphasized the materials based on students' level, there is no specification on the text book because the writers are not the teachers for the students. It doesn't mean those text materials are not good yet, they are not appropriate for students in specific purposes.

Tom Hutchinson and Water (1987:8) says that learners were seen to have different needs and interests, which would have an important influence on their motivation to learn and therefore on the effectiveness of their learning. This lent support to the development of courses in which 'relevance' to the learners' needs and interest was paramount. English is needed by a particular group of learners could be identified by analysing the linguistic characteristics of their specialist area work or study we can conclude that English is also used for the specific purposes.

By seeing the preliminary data we can conclude that there are many students were not interesting with the existing materials just because all the topic of the texts are unrelated with their environment, meaning that the function of ESP itself can decrease that problem, through ESP the teachers can analyze their students' needs and they also can design the appropriate reading materials for their students, the students will get the relevant materials based on their study

program, the texts will be interesting for the students and finally the students can improve their knowledge by having the suitable reading materials.

From the explanation above, we can sum up: a teacher as a facilitator has a responsibility to facilitate the students in teaching learning process, a teacher is not only has to teach in the class or give the lesson for them, but the teacher should consider the English materials that are suitable for the students if he or she finds that the existing materials can't work well to fulfill the students' needs, so, the teacher will teach reading skill easily and it can grab the students' interest in the teaching learning process as well.

B. The Problems of the Study

By seeing from the background, the problems of study are :

1. "What are English reading materials which are appropriate for students of Office Administration based on BSNP (Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan) ?"
2. "How to design English reading materials, which are suitable for students of Office Administration based on BSNP (Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan) ?"

C. The Objectives of the Study

As mentioned in the problems of the study, the objectives of this research are:

1. To develop English reading materials for students in Office Administration Study Program based on BSNP (Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan).
2. To design English reading materials based on students' need in Office Administration Study Program based on BSNP (Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan).

D. The Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is the students in the third grade of SMK Panca Budi 2 Medan-Office Administration Study Program. This study focuses on reading text, especially in procedure text.

E. The Significance of the Study

The result of this study are expected not only to be the merely data aggregation but something more advantageous theoretically and practically. It can be described as follows:

Theoretically, the result of this study can be a reference for those who are interested in developing english reading materials.

Practically, the writer expects this study will be useful for:

1. The students; hopefully this study can improve their motivation in learning english and through this research the students can comprehend reading materials that are based on their needs.
2. The teachers; this study is aimed to help teachers find advantageous information based on the contents and findings of this study, which is related to developing english reading mateials.
3. The other researchers; this study is intended to be one of their resources to make other developing english reading materials, and give additional information for the next related study.