

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. The Background of the Study

English has four skills to learned, those are listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Those skills are important to be mastered without ignoring each other. For most English as foreign language learners, reading has the important role because by reading, they will be able to understand the reading materials they want to learn. Basically, reading is the ways to gain some important message and get meaning from written text. As a skill, reading is clearly one of important language skill that where students have to read English material for their subject. The student often thought to be easier to obtain information from written text by reading.

For Indonesian students, the source that they use to learn in classroom is Textbook. Textbook take an important role in teaching learning activity because it provides the subject that they need. Textbook usually consists of reading text content with some genre of English text, writing assignment, listening task and conversation with some expression. For reading skill, usually reading materials is in form of comprehending the text, pronouncing the words, getting new vocabulary and understanding the language features of genre of texts.

Ur (1996: 138) in his book argues that reading means 'reading and understanding.' A foreign language learner who says, 'I can read the words but I don't know what they mean' is not, therefore, reading, in this sense. It proves that many students in our country as foreign language readers also face difficulty in reading an English text because they cannot master the vocabulary like the native speaker does. Many English texts which they use as sources are content with vocabulary that they cannot understand the meaning. The main points of difficult texts are the lexical density and grammatical intricacy of the text itself. Ure (1971) stated that Lexical density is a number of lexical items as the proportion of running words. Furthermore, Halliday explains that Lexical items are the major content words which carry information. They fall into four grammatical categories; Nouns, Adjectives, some class of Adverbs, and Main verbs. Typically, written language becomes complex by being lexically dense; it packs a large lexical item into each clause; whereas spoken language becomes complex by being grammatically intricate; it built up elaborate the clause complexes.

For foreign language learners, the text which content of high lexical items will make students get trouble to understand the text. In addition, lexical item includes verb, noun, adjective and adverb has open system in which one word can have more than one meaning. In other words, the more lexical items the text has, the more difficult the text is. On the other hand, the students are demanded to comprehend the reading text

because by comprehending it, the students will be able to reach the knowledge. Because of that, the teacher need to provide appropriate textbook content with reading text based on the students ability. Reading text in form of grammatical configuration is not too difficult to understand. Grammatical items are those that function as closed system in the language. Different from lexical configuration, grammatical configuration show that text is consist of determiner, pronoun, most preposition, conjunction and numerals. It means that the balance between lexical items and grammatical items in a text is really important to consider in order to make the students mastered the reading materials in an English textbook.

The other thing that influences the difficulty of reading materials is grammatical intricacy. If in a text there are more clause complexes than simple clauses, it can be said that the text is more complex in the sense that it presents more information in a tight way. Consequently, the learners are potential to face problems to comprehend the text. Because of that, lexical density and grammatical intricacy separated each other.

Based on the preliminary observation of the English teacher of SMA Persiapan Stabat on April 22<sup>th</sup> 2016, the researcher found some information by interview the English teacher. The researcher asked about whether the reading materials in the textbook are suitable for the students or not. The teacher said that most of students face the difficulty to understand the text because they are lack of vocabulary. The students usually cannot define some vocabulary or wrong to define the vocabulary

in the reading materials, it affects students' reading assignment result became bad. In addition, the teacher also said that they are not checked the reading materials in the textbook yet, whether the reading materials are suitable for the students or not, they just teach them following the textbook. For an example, the researcher takes one of reading text from English textbook they learn randomly. The researcher chooses one text from procedure text genre.

### **Installing Graphics Acceleration Card**

**Here is the easy and practical way to install your graphics acceleration card in your computer.**

**First, power off the computer and monitor, then disconnect the display cable from the back of your computer. Next, remove the computer cover. If necessary, consult your computer's manual for help in removing the cover. Remember to discharge your body static electricity by touching the metal surface on the computer chassis. When your computer is open, remove any existing graphics card from your computer. If the old graphics card sticks, rock it gently from end to end. Remember to save the screw. Or if your computer has any on-board graphics capability, you may need to disable the metal cover from the empty expansion slot that you select. Then align your new card with the expansion slot, and press it firmly until the card is fully seated.**

**Replace the screw to fasten the card in place, and replace the computer cover. After that, plug the display cable into your card; then turn on the computer and display device. For card with a Digital Flat Panel (DFP) connector, connect your monitor or flat panel display or both to the appropriate connector. Make sure all cables are securely connected.**

**Finally, reboot your system.**

The result of measurement the lexical density is shown in table below:

**Table 1.1**  
**Lexical Density Score**

| No | Title                                  | Genre          | Lexical Items | Grammatical Items | Result |
|----|--|----------------|---------------|-------------------|--------|
| 1  | Installing Graphics Acceleration Cards | Procedure Text | 132           | 78                | 62.86% |

Regarding this measurement based on Ure's method, if the numbers surpasses forty percent, it accounts for higher lexical density. It means that this text is difficult to understand by the first grade students of Senior high school.

While the result of Measurement the Grammatical Intricacy of one paragraph in the same text is shown in table below;

**Table 1.2**  
**Grammatical Intricacy Measurement**

| No | Sentence   | Clauses | Kind of Clauses |
|----|--|---------|-----------------|
| 1  | <i>///Replace the screw// to fasten the card in place//, and replace the computer cover.///</i>  | 3       | CC              |
| 2  | <i>///After that, plug the display cable into your card;// then turn on the computer// and display device///</i>   | 3       | CC              |
| 3  | <i>///For card with a Digital Flat Panel (DFP) connector, // connect your monitor //or flat panel display// or both to the appropriate connector.///</i> | 4       | CC              |
| 4  | <i>///Make sure// all cables are securely connected. ///</i>   | 2       | CC              |

The text above actually has 12 Clauses. The reason why researcher chooses the paragraph above is because that paragraph actually doesn't have any simple clause. All of sentences in that paragraph consist of 12 complex clauses. It shows that the paragraph is grammatical intricate.

Based on the preliminary observation, the researcher can say that when the students get difficulty to understand the content of the text book especially the reading text, the students will be hard to get the knowledge of the textbook. The proportion between the lexical items and the grammatical items in the text certainly will determine the difficulty of the text. Through the lexical density of the text, teacher can know whether the text is easy or difficult for the students.

The measurement of lexical density and grammatical intricacy in English reading text is very important because it will be the consideration of the teacher or school to choose the available book for the students in order to make the students learn the book easily.

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

Problems that will discuss in this study can be stated as follows:

1. How are the lexical density and grammatical intricacy formed in the reading texts of English alive textbook?
2. How do the Lexical density and Grammatical Intricacy influence the difficulty level of reading materials in English alive textbook?

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

Objective of the study are stated as follows:

1. To find out how lexical density and grammatical intricacy is formed in English alive textbook
2. To measure how lexical density and grammatical intricacy influence the difficulty level of reading material in English Alive textbook

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

In conducting this study, the writer hopes that this research has benefit theoretically and practically to the readers.

Theoretically this research hopefully will be useful to enrich the lexical density and grammatical intricacy theories. The finding in this research can add new information to other researcher about lexical density and grammatical intricacy found in a textbook.

Practically, this research hopefully will be useful for the teacher as guidance to choose suitable textbook for the students and apply the result of this study as feedback on their teaching activities; improve their knowledge and experience in choosing appropriate book, so that the students are better in reading skills. This research hopefully also will be useful for the students to be more selective in choosing textbook and know the way to reach good reading comprehension by choosing suitable textbook for them. For the researcher, this research hopefully can improve the writer's knowledge about genres and lexical density in reading materials. Last, all of those benefits of analyzing the lexical density and

grammatical intricacy hopefully will be useful for all educators because it will be affect students' ability in learning English.

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

In this research, the writer focuses on the subject matter in analyzing the lexical density and grammatical intricacy of the reading text in English alive 1 text book published by Yudhistira which is used at the tenth grade students of SMA Swasta Persiapan Stabat. Meanwhile, there are fourteen reading texts in the textbook consist of some genre of texts those are narrative, procedure and recount. But the researcher is analyzes 8 reading texts in the first semester only.