CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

As a means of communication, English has been one of the prestigious languages used for many years almost all over the world. It has been accepted as the international language of technology and commerce. Thus more and more people are motivated to learn English, and in its development, English is learnt for different purposes which is especially based on the field of one's work. For this reason, we have learners who learn Business English, Medical English, Technical English, etc. This is what we call as ESP (English for Specific Purposes).

ESP is based on needs analysis which is aimed at specifying what exactly the needs of the students are in studying English. In order to meet the learners' needs, a course designer is required to contribute his skill to design a specific syllabus and materials for the specific purpose of learning English. This is likely to give an optimal result to achieve the learning goal.

This thesis discusses English for a specific purpose especially the materials for informatics students due to the fact that, based on the writer's observation, English lectures teaching in informatics find difficulty in choosing materials because they do not quite understand the needs of their students in learning English. Consequently the teaching is focused on the linguistic forms.

Therefore she concerns with the materials especially reading materials. The reason is that many textbooks on informatics are written in English. Thus the students of informatics need English for the purpose of understanding reading materials. Furthermore in understanding the reading materials one has to know the steps. Related to this, based on the data she obtained, in order to get the students comprehension in reading, the lecturers mainly gave all the meaning of the words found in the texts to the students. Due to this, reading comprehension tends to be more like a word for word translation which might lead to misunderstanding. Thus she also concerns with the betterment of the reading comprehension. Other skills of language such as speaking and writing are not neglected to support their needs of English.

1.2 Research Problems

Related to this study, the problems are formulated as follows :

1. What reading materials do the students of informatics need?

2. What reading techniques do the students of informatics need?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The purposes of this study are : 1) to find out the appropriate reading materials the students of informatics need, 2) to find out the appropriate reading techniques the students of informatics need.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The present study is aimed at developing ESP materials as well as reading techniques for the first year-students of Informatics in order to put a stronger basic of English for be those students.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The research findings are expected to be useful as an input for ESP lecturers and to provide more information about the course design, syllabus design, students' needs and material design for ESP programs especially for informatics. In addition to this, the findings of this study are also expected to be a motivation for the lecturers to improve their techniques in teaching reading and for the students to improve their performance in reading.