

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

In learning language, there are four skills which should be mastered. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In this globalization era where technology develops time to time, reading is very important to be mastered. Students can use the technology to help them finding many informations by reading many articles, journals, etc, which can improve their reading skill ability, also add their vocabulary collection, and add their knowledge in their today and future life.

The other medium which is as learning source except journals, articles, etc that can be read from search engine is a textbook. Textbook is a crucial teaching and learning material that is used in many schools for facilitating sequences of learning activities. Moreover, textbook is developed based on the curriculum. Just like *Get Along with English* textbook for vocational school which is used at YAPIM published by Erlangga in 2010, it is designed based on the curriculum especially Educational Unit-Oriented Curriculum (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan: KTSP) 2006. Actually, the four basic skills which should be achieved in learning the language or in specific is in English learning process which are stated in the curriculum. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Those skills are not only stated in curriculum but also in textbook. Here, the writer limits only in reading skill explanation.

Textbook becomes one of learning medium which is used in many schools and also in every grade, whether it is used in elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, even vocational school. Because textbook is used in learning process at school, there are many publishers which make some offering of varying English textbook for various level or grade. According to Omiko (2011), textbooks are valuable and useful tools to the teachers in which their quality can be determined mainly by its content coverage and its readability level. Consequently, teachers must select the textbook which is appropriate to be applied in the school, whether the textbook is suitable to the curriculum or not, and also whether the content is appropriate to the students or not. Here, the writer means that the texts which are included in the textbook are readable or not for the grade of the students.

According to Nuttal (1996) there are three main criteria that influence the choice of texts. They are suitability of the content, exploitability, and readability. A good text should interest the students, so they can be motivated to read a lot. If the students feel bored when they are reading the texts, even they feel frustrated by reading the text; it means that the texts are difficult for them. The learning purpose or the goal of the study cannot be achieved while they are feeling bored and they are not interested to read the text.

Essem Educational Limited (2007) has indicated a number of factors that influence the readability of a text. The factors include physical factors (such as typeface, font size, spacing, and layout), reader factors (such as prior knowledge,

reading ability, and motivation), vocabulary difficulty, text structure, text coherence and cohesion, and syntax.

The writer had got teaching training program at YAPIM Simpang Kawat on August to November in 2015. Then, she found some difficult words and also rare words in the texts on *Get Along with English* textbook for vocational school of eleventh grade students published by Erlangga in 2010. This paragraph below is as the example taken on page 8:

In the Bunaken Sea Park, visitors can see various *marine* creatures living on the bottom of the Bunaken Sea. The *translucent* water of the Bunaken Sea enables people to view the numerous sea biotas clearly. There are 13 coral reefs in this park, dominated by the *edge* and *block ridges* of rock. The most attractive view is the *steep* vertical coral reef which is 25-50 meters high.

From the paragraph above, the words *marine*, *translucent*, *reef*, *edge*, *ridge*, *steep* are rare heard by the students. The students cannot comprehend the texts well. They do not know what the meaning of those words. When the writer looks at the list of 3,000 easy words by Dale-Chall, those words are not included there. It means that they are included in the group of difficult words. There are also the polysyllable words, like *translucent*, *various*, *etc* which should be counted based on the SMOG formula. SMOG believes that to know the readability score or grade, he should see the polysyllable words. Because of this difficulty, the writer is interested to know the readability by using the New Dale-Chall and SMOG formula.

The process of selecting the textbook is actually difficult. There are many factors which can influence the textbook selection. As Dubay (2004) stated one of them is vocabulary. It is important to know the students' reading ability in

comprehending and understanding the textbook. Teachers should know the readability of the textbook. Teachers can use the readability formulas to know the grade level of the texts in the textbook. Because of the important of readability for having a good reading in learning process, the writer makes a research of it.

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

Based on the background of the study, the problem is formulated as the following: “Is the *Get Along with English* textbook readable for the eleventh grade YAPIM of vocational school students?”

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

The objective of the study is to find out the textbook that is readable for the eleventh grade students vocational school of YAPIM.

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

The scope of the study is to find out the readability of six texts which consist of *description text*, *recount text*, *explanation text*, and *procedure text* on *Get Along with English* textbook for vocational school of the eleventh grade students used at YAPIM published by Erlangga in 2010 by using the SMOG and the New Dale-Chall formula.

### **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 new informations in selecting the appropriate English textbook.

Practically, this study will also become one of references in accounting the readability by using SMOG and the New Dale-Chall formula since both of those formulas are used rarely. And also it will be the source of reference for the English teachers especially vocational school teachers to select the appropriate English textbook for their students. The findings are also expected to give more information to the authors and publishers about their textbook. So, they can remake the readable one.