

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of The Study

One of the reading sources that are used in the learning process is textbook. Textbook is an essential element in education. It consist of instructional materials and provides much information and knowledge. It is used by the teacher in the learning-teaching process of most subjects in classroom as a main source. It plays a very important role in teaching-learning process because it tends to be the basic source which the teachers use in deciding what to teach and facilitate the teaching-learning process. Besides that it can be an additional knowledge for teacher who has limited teaching experience. It is also available in many subject in the school such as English textbook, science textbook, social textbook, etc.

According to Tomlinson (1999:2), textbook is a main learning material which is usually used by teacher and students. In English classroom, textbook is used to serve the learners' need about language skill. It also provides informations and knowledge that the students need which can not given by the teacher. The main point of the textbook is to improve the students' English competence. In another words, the textbook is a tool for the teacher for transferring the knowledge. The textbook may have different amount in providing the language skills. Graves (2000; 151) mentions that an English textbook is a basic resource to determine the quality of language input and the language practise during teaching learning process in an English course.

In English subject, textbook is used to serve the students' need about language skills. The students must have capability related to four following skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. The relationship of those skill is very closed because they cannot be essentially separated each other. Reading is one of the four skills considered quite necessary because by reading the students can automatically gain more and more knowledge, such as; vocabulary, the idea forming, the use of the tense forms, pronunciation, speaking fluency and many others to provided that it can be done seriously and frequently.

Reading skill is very important things that must be learned by the student. The student need to be exercised and trained in order to have a good reading skill. Budiantari et al (2013: 4) state that reading can be said as a skill that plays a very important role on teaching learning activity. By reading, people will be able to get many kinds of information and knowledge.

Beside using to serve the students' need an English textbook used to serve an appropriate materials for students' level. According to Nesia (2014), reading materials is one of the contents of the textbook besides listening instruction, some exercise, writing task and some conversation scripts. Reading materials is usually in the form of the text that is used to teach reading like pronouncing words, comprehending the content of the text, getting vocabulary and also understanding of grammar. Through the text, the students can get information, the knowledge and the vocabulary and also the grammar. It is provided in some types which are called as genre. The types of genre are arranged well based on the curriculum. As Sholichatun (2011) states the aim of English teaching according to School-Based

Curriculum (KTSP) is that the students of junior high school hopefully can achieve that functional level of literacy because they are preparing to continue their study to the Senior High School.

Nowadays, every student should be able to understand every reading text in the textbook which is covered in the curriculum of the unit level of education. In the curriculum, reading material should be relevant to the students' needs. The teachers have the freedom to choose the teaching media or strategy to improve the students' communicative competence which is relevant to the students' condition and needs. One of the students' needs is to understand or comprehend the text based on the situation given in English subject.

In the reading section, every students usually get difficulties in comprehending a long text or a dense text such as descriptive text. When the students got the descriptive text with long and many paragraphs, they would felt bored with the text. It akes them get difficulties in comprehending the text. Some students also claimed that they get difficulties in memorizing certain English words and it makes them lack of vocabularies. When the student read the text which contains sophisticated words, they would be lazy to read the text. Then there are students may not be aware of the elements and characteristics of the genre of the text. In fact the main point of difficult text are the lexical density and grammatical intricacy of the text itself.

For the students, the text which content of high lexical item will make students got trouble to understand the text. In addition, lexical item includes verb, noun, adjective and adverb has open system in which one word can has more than

one meaning. In other hand, 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 which 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 the text is consist of determine, 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 students are potential to face problems to comprehend the text. Because of that, lexical desnity and grammatical intricacy separated each other.

Based on researcher's observation of the English teacher of SMP.N.12 Medan, the researcher found some information by interview the English teacher. The reasearcher 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 become bad. In addition, the teacher also said that they are not checked the reading materials in 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 title is "Snowy Owls Large Prey Birds. After I analyzed, I found the result is 58, 76% of lexical item and grammatical item. It means that this text is difficult to understand by the first grade student of Junior High School. Regarding this measurement based on Ure's method, if the numbers surpasses forty percent, it accounts for higher lexical density. While the result of Measurement the Grammatical Inticacy of the last paragraph, the text actually has 7 clauses. The reason why researcher chooses the paragraph above it because the paragraph actually does not have any simple clause. All of the sentences in that paragraph consist of 7 complex clauses. It shown 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 textbook especially in 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 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

Based on the background of the study above, the problem of the study are formulated as the following:

1. What are the Lexical Density and Grammatical Intricacy used in reading materials of *English in Focus* textbook for first grade junior high school?
2. How are the Lexical Density and Grammatical Intricacy formed in the reading materials of *English in Focus* textbook for first grade of junior high school?

C. The Objective of The Study

Based on formulation of the research above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the Lexical Density and Grammatical Intricacy in reading materials based on the reading text of *English in Focus* textbook for first grade of junior high school..
2. To find out the Lexical Density and Grammatical Intricacy formed in reading materials based on the reading text of *English in Focus* textbook for first grade of junior high school.

D. The Scope of The Study

In this research, the researcher was focuses on the subject matter in analyzing the lexical density and grammatical intricacy of the reading materials in *English in Focus* textbook. The study is limited to analyze the content of the reading texts in the first semester which consist of 8 texts in *English in Focus* textbook.

E. The Significance of The Study

In conducting this study, the writer hopes that this research has benefit theoretically aand 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 the lexical density and grammatical intricacy found in a textbook.

Practically, this research hopefully will be useful for the teachers as guidance to choose suitable textbook for the students and apply the result of this study as feedback on their teaching learning process so that the students are better in reading skills. Last, all of the 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.