

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In the area of globalization English is an important language. English is an international language, most people from all over the country use English for their communication. In Indonesia, it has been established as curriculum in the school to study English.

To study English, we need to learn four skills, they are writing, speaking, listening and reading skill. Being able to read English is very important, because there are many books and literature written in English and also the English textbook in the school. Reading is also clearly important in order that people get easier to obtain information from written text. In the teaching English process, reading an English textbook is one of the primary components in teaching English.

The textbook is almost a universal element of teaching. As the writer experience in teaching English, textbook is the most used as teaching sources. The contents of textbooks have a significant association with the learning of the students. The student should understand their own textbook to understand the lesson taught in their class room, because we realize textbook is one of main source of learning. As suggested the Journal of Educators Online-Jeo (2015), “well-designed and well-written textbooks not only help instructors design course

content to provide a meaningful educational experience, but help students improve their learning outcomes”.

There are many kinds of English textbooks which are offered by publishers to various levels of students in the schools. Selecting a textbook with good content quality for teaching can be one of the critical success factors for teaching learning process.

Teacher should know to choose the best of the English book in his/her class. The good textbook and appropriate for student is readable, understandable, and comprehensible. All the content inside the textbook should be appropriate for the students. One of the content which has a big influence in the textbook is the reading texts. So the teacher should know to choose the good textbook with the appropriate reading texts inside it.

There will be a different level of each reading text in a text book for each grade of student. When the reading text in the textbook is easily to understand but not too easy, and appropriate with the student, it will help the students understand the lesson, also enjoy to read the text, and can force the success of teaching learning process. Student will be comfortable and moreover enjoy reading the lesson. But when the reading text is too easy, the student will not get a new lesson, also can make them bored.

Otherwise when the reading text in the textbook is difficult to understand, it can make the lesson will be hard for the student, do not read their reading materials, even it can make student wouldn't able to follow the lesson. So the student should get the most appropriateness reading text in their textbook.

Appropriateness level of the reading text itself can be measured by using *readability analysis*. It means that to find the most appropriate reading text for a student can be known by analyze its readability. The readability of the text book should be appropriate with the grade level of the student.

From the statements above, it can be concluded that the readability in a reading text will influence for the success of teaching learning process. Readability would help teacher to find which is the most appropriateness textbook that might be used for their students. So it is important for us to know the readability of reading texts in a textbook before we use it for teaching.

There are some ways in measuring the readability of the reading texts those are, by using the text leveling, comprehension testing by cloze procedure, and the last by using statistical readability formulas.

These are some previous researches of readability analysis.

Rahmawati and Lestari (2012), found the readability of English school textbook for tenth grade student is too easy for them. The reading materials of this textbook is easy but less challenging for the tenth graders.

Langeborg (2010), who made a readability analysis of four English textbooks series for 7-9 grades student of Swedish School by using Flesch Reading Ease and Flesch-Kincaid in Microsoft Word 2007. He found that 2 from the books have more difficult texts and perhaps not suitable textbook series for all classes.

Maryansyah (2016), analyzed a readability of English reading texts in a textbook for ninth grade student in Bengkulu by using Fry readability formula and

have the result that the reading texts is inappropriate for the student. The textbook has majority of texts which unfit their reading (grade) level.

So that we know, some reading texts in textbooks that have used by student is inappropriate for the student's grade level. Therefore, it is important for us to know the readability of a reading text in a textbook before we use it in teaching.

Since there are some types of measuring readability, this research will be using the readability formula. Writer would make the research based on the writer experience in teaching English. It is the readability analysis of reading texts in an eighth grade student's textbook at the SMP Negeri 1 Kabanjahe. The reason that the writer makes this research because the writer has been there once as the English teacher and used the textbook as the source of the teaching, so the research is made to know how is the readability of the reading texts in the textbook by using the readability formula. The formula that will be used is the SMOG Grading Formula. The writer found that this is the most simply and accurate formula to measuring the readability.

B. The Problem of the Study

The main purpose of this research is to answer the following question:

How is the readability of English textbook for the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kabanjahe 2016/2017?

C. The Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problem, the objective is to investigate the readability of the English reading texts in the textbook used by the grade VIII students of SMP Negeri 1 Kabanjahe 2016/2017.

D. The Scope of Study

This research concentrates on the reading texts in the textbook that used by the students at the eighth grade of the SMP Negeri 1 Kabanjahe 2016/2017, where the book is "*English in Focus* by Artono Wardiman, Masduki B. Jahur, and Sukirman Djusma (2008))

E. The significance of the study

Findings of the study are expected to be useful as claimed in the following.

1. For English Teachers

The findings would help teacher to be more selected in using the text book that they use in the teaching learning process, so that the teaching learning process runs well because the materials in the textbook can be fully comprehended by student,

2. For The Book Publisher

The research findings are expected to give more information to the book publisher in evaluating their book, especially in the reading texts.

3. For Other Researchers

The research findings are also expected be useful for other researchers who want to do another readability analyzes.