

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Reading is primary goal of learning education, in which the goal of reading is to get the competence in understanding and comprehending the text (Snowling and Hulme, 2011). As one of the four skills, reading holds important role in our life. Through reading, people will be able to get information from text which increase their knowledge such as : social, politics, environment, and life style in local or international. For people who are still in the academic field as a student reading is one of the important skills that they should achieve. Student are not only able to read but they also need to comprehend the reading text. Being able to completely comprehend what they read is essential to their ability to learn, perform well on the tests and succeed at school.

In fact, most of students are too lazy to comprehend a text through having a reading activity. They cannot fully recognize the sentence as well as the meaning and sometimes feel that a long reading text or passage makes them so bored to read and the lack of the vocabulary makes them stuck to continue the reading; furthermore, the material is not interesting for them because it is not related to their environment. As a result, they don't know the information which is given in the text and they cannot express the content.

In addition, one of the important things that can make English teaching and learning become effective is materials. Appropriate materials refer to

materials that meet the student's needs, particularly vocational high school students who have different goals with other regular high school students. Regular high school students focuses on knowledge expansion and skill improvement of students, and preparing students for further education while vocational high school focuses on the development of skills that apply to a certain specific occupation, and preparing students for employment as well as developing professional attitude.

The regulation of National Education Minister (2013) states that English teaching at the vocational high school should be aimed at equipping the students with English communication skills in order to help them communicate in the context areas of their expertise. It means that English teaching at vocational high school should consider the English required in the target situation of each study. However, in teaching and learning process vocational school students do not get much exposure in learning English since the provided material does not really fulfil students' needs, especially the reading materials.

The writer done preliminary observation to know the level of students' comprehension in reading text, particularly for the subject of English which are used by students of electrical engineering program at SMK PAB 1 Helvetia Medan. The observation was done through interview toward English teacher at SMK PAB 1 Helvetia Medan and also observed the textbook that is used to support their material in SMK PAB 1 Helvetia Medan. From this interview, the teacher said that the students of electrical engineering program needed the specific reading materials to fullfill their needs.

In reality, the English reading materials for students of electrical engineering program in the eleventh grade at SMK PAB 1 Helvetia Medan are not appropriate with the student's needs and their program. The English materials which students learn are too general. The writer found some texts which are not appropriate with their program and it is proven by the data which are taken from the student English book that published by Pusat Kurikulum dan Perbukuan Balitbang, Kemendikbud in 2014 in which one of reading materials, genre procedure text, are not related to students of electrical engineering program.

The data are as follows :

How to Plant Jasmine

“Material & Equipment”

- *A packet of jasmine seeds.*
- *A small pot*
- *Loamy soil*
- *Fertilizers*
- *Water*

“Steps/Methods”

- *Mix the soil with fertilizer well to create a medium for planting the seeds.*
- *Scatter seeds on the surface of the soil.*
- *Cover the seeds with a 3mm layer of soil.*
- *Press the soil firmly, then spray with water to moisten the bed.*
- *Place the pot in warm, sunny position (at least 25 C) for 10-14 days.*
- *Seeds will germinate approximately in 10-14 days.*

The data above shows that the reading material is not appropriate with the electrical engineering program. The students are bored if they read something which they have known before. It makes them not enthusiastic and interested in

learning the reading materials, simply because they think it will not effect to their program and their future job. The teacher admitted that student need specific reading materials which are related to electrical engineering program.

Based on the preliminary data above, we can conclude that the students are not interesting to the existing of materials in their textbook. It means the existing of the materials which are not appropriate with their need, meaning that ESP (English for Specific Purposes) is needed to decrease this condition. Richards (2001 : 28) states that ESP is made by the need to prepare materials for students who already mastered the general English, but now English is needed for using in employment. ESP needs to be applied to make the students are interested in reading the text which appropriate with their program.. In other hand, by being provided reading materials based on a vocation that they focus on, the students will get easier to understand the text and get more interested in reading it. If the process of English teaching in a Vocational School does not apply ESP as an approach to meet students' needs, there will be a condition that the English taught to the students will be useless because of the gap between the English materials and what the students need about English as an international language related to a vocational purpose that they have.

From the background above, it was suggested that the teacher as a facilitator in teaching and learning process in the classroom should be able to develop reading materials that support the needs of students as an application of ESP. Then students not only achieve the learning objectives in the subjects of

English, but also improve the knowledge about their program and their job in the future in English through teacher-developed reading material.

B. The Problems of Study

Based on the research background above, the research problems are constructed as follows:

1. “What are the appropriate English reading materials for students’ needs in the eleventh grade students of electrical engineering program at SMK PAB 1 Helvetia Medan?”.
2. “How to design the appropriate English reading materials for students’ needs in the eleventh grade students of electrical engineering program at SMK PAB 1 Helvetia Medan?”.

C. The Objectives of Study

1. To develop the appropriate English reading materials for students’ needs in the eleventh grade students of electrical engineering program at SMK PAB 1 Helvetia Medan.
2. To design the appropriate English reading materials for students’ needs in the eleventh grade students of electrical engineering program at SMK PAB 1 Helvetia Medan.

D. The Scope of Study

The materials were developed based on students' needs. The materials were conducted in the eleventh grade students of electrical engineering program at SMK PAB 1 Helvetia Medan. This study concerned on reading text, especially procedure text.

E. The Significances of Study

The finding of this research is expected useful to give some contributions in theoretically and practically for students, English teacher in electrical engineering program at SMK PAB 1 Helvetia Medan and the other researchers.

It can be described as follows :

Theoretically, the result of this study can be a reference for those who are interested in developing English reading material.

Practically, the writer expects this study will be useful for :

1. The students; this study hopefully can support their needs and motivate them in learning reading comprehension which is also appropriate with their program.
2. The teachers; this study is aimed to help the English teacher to teach the students to enlarged the students' English competency and reading skill by using the appropriate materials which are suitable with the students' major.
3. The other reserachers; this study is intended to give additional information to further study in developing reading materials as one of their resources.