

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Vocational high schools are designed to prepare the students to work right after they graduate. The fresh graduate students of vocational high school are expected to master the skills of their expertise. Besides, English becomes very important since most of the job vacancies put English proficiency, both written and spoken, as one of the requirements. Moreover, the development of global communication and information era brings a strict competition among the job seekers. The students will get advantages if they master English of their expertise. In terms of education, English is always considered as one of the subjects to be taught in almost all levels of education. Considering the facts above, English has become an important skill to master by students of Vocational High School. In this case, students of beauty study program.

SMK N 10 Medan is one of the vocational high schools. It provides students with many kinds of study programs to master a specific skill of their interest. The study programs provided are culinary art (Tata Boga), dress making (Tata Busana), beauty (Tata Kecantikan), multimedia (Multimedia). In this case, the researcher only concerns on beauty (Tata Kecantikan) study program. As stated above, English is one of the important subject to help students to face the global competition. Regarding these, the English for Specific Purposes is required to support their English proficiency based on their expertise.

Therefore, the teachers should consider English learning materials which are suitable for the students' needs.

Materials are parts of the English teaching and learning that make the vocational school students become more familiar with English along with the relevant field they study. Reading materials as one of the parts in English learning materials are considered essential since they can help students to get more exposure in English as well as learn something new about their discipline. Through reading, the students can learn English as a language and they can also expand information about the rapid development of technology presented in English. By having a good proficiency in reading skills, they probably can know something new they have never known before and build the curiosity of certain terms or vocabulary related their subject study. They will not see English simply as a subject they must go through during the school, yet they will consider English as something they have to learn in order to support their better career and future. The students are at least expected to know about beauty terms in English that they will find later on once they face the real working field, such as understanding about cosmetics , knowing instructions in use cosmetics, being familiar with the names of cosmetics, and so on.

In fact, the English reading materials of beauty study program at SMK N 10 Medan are not related to the students' needs. Based on the writer's observation and analysis of syllabus and teaching materials used by students of SMK N 10 Medan, it was found that the reading materials on the book they used "Buku Bahasa Inggris" published by Pusat Kurikulum dan Perbukuan, Balitbang,

Kemendikbud, in 2015 did not completely fulfill the need of beauty study program. The students actually need the text about beauty, such as tools of beauty, news about cosmetics, procedure of how to make facial mask, procedure of how to use eyeliner, etc. This is because, students in beauty study program are insisted to know English and communicate with English in order that they are easy to get a job in the workplace later. In addition, when they have their vocational competency practice test later, it is better for them to use English. So, as the case above, it is really needed to develop the reading materials based on the students' need and the materials that represent the real life problem possibly they will face in their workplace later.

In accordance with the rules of National Education System article 3 and 15 about the goal of National Education said that vocational school is a high school preparing students competencies especially to work in certain field. Since vocational school students are prepared to be ready in the workplace later, so it is really needed to develop the relevant reading materials and also contain the real life problem so that the students can learn from the problem and have the knowledge how to solve the problem in the workplace later.

The way to help the students to comprehend the reading text material is by developing the reading text materials. Therefore Problem-Based Learning approach is suitable to be used in developing the reading materials for beauty study program of SMK N 10 Medan. Because Problem - Based Learning approach is a concept used to enhance multidisciplinary skills using planned problem scenarios. It is an active way of learning that teaches student problem solving skills, while at the same

time allowing them to acquire basic knowledge. In PBL, the problem comes first, and an essential element of PBL is that content is introduced in the content of complex problems that imitate real life (Boud and Feletti as cited in Tan 2003). This study attempts to develop appropriate reading text materials based problem – based learning which support the English reading materials at SMK N 10 Medan based on the students' need as an application of ESP.

B. The Problems of the Study

Based on the background stated above, the problem of the study can be formulated in the form of questions as follows:

1. What English reading materials are needed by students of beauty study program in SMK N 10 Medan?
2. How are English reading materials be developed for the students of beauty study program based on Problem-Based Learning in SMK N 10 Medan?

C. The Objectives of Study

The objectives of study are:

1. To investigate English reading materials needed by students of beauty study program in SMK N 10 Medan.
2. To develop English reading materials for students of beauty study program based on Problem -Based Learning in SMK N 10 Medan.

D. The Scope of Study

This research will focus on developing reading materials based on Problem-Based Learning that are relevant for the twelfth grade students of Beauty study program at SMK N 10 Medan. The scope of this study is just for report text, news item, and procedure text in the first and second semester of Grade XII in SMK N 10 Medan.

E. The Significances of Study

The findings of this research can be useful to teachers theoretically and practically in providing information about developing teaching materials.

a. Theoretically

This research can provide information and theories about developing English reading materials to teachers.

b. Practically

1. Teacher, it can be reference to the teacher especially for student of beauty study program in attempt to develop teaching materials.

Teachers can see the importance of having teacher-developed materials for student in learning process.

2. The student, the students can get more motivation to learn English which their major. It will increase students' achievement in English.

3. Other researcher, this research can be reference to the next researcher who want to conduct a research about developing English reading materials based on problem-based learning.