

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Textbook is used as a tool that facilitate both teacher and students in the classroom to achieve the goal of teaching and learning. Cunnings worth (1995 : 7) points out that course books are best seen as a resource in achieving aims and objectives that have already been set in terms of learners needs. Textbook is either published by government or publishers. It contains learning materials about particular subject that will be taught agree with the students grade. The good textbook will help the learners in learning process if it provides good quality of materials and discussions that are needed by the students.

Each subject in the Indonesia schools has textbook that is used in the learning process, including English subject. English textbook generally contains four language skills integrated; speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and also grammar, pronunciation and vocabularies.

Reading is one of four language skills that should be mastered by the students.. Being able to read English is very important, because there are many books, articles, journals, and manuals are published 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.

Reading is an activity to identify the words in print - a process called word recognition, especially for children. Besides, reading is also a multifaceted process

involving word recognition, comprehension, fluency, and motivation. Burhan (2012: 9) says, "Reading is a physic and mental activity to reveal the meaning of the written texts, while in that activity there is a process of knowing letters" and Cline et.al (2006: 22) states, "Reading is decoding and understanding written texts". 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 researcher 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. Michael W. Apple et al (1998:34) state that 75 percent of time in classroom is used with the text materials. Therefore, the materials that are mostly used in the classroom are textbooks. So, it becomes very important for teacher to choose s good textbooks as their materials sources.

A 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.

Reading text must be appropriate for the students, because if they have difficulties in understanding the textbook, the lesson will be hard for the student, and the students be frustrated in learning English.

Appropriateness level of the reading text 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 textbook should be appropriate with the grade level of the student.

Dubay (2007:3) explains readability is what makes some texts easier to read than others. The criterion must be a measure of success that a large number of readers would have with the text. Readability is dependent upon many characteristics of a text and many characteristics of readers. Readability of a text generally refers to how well a reader is able to comprehend the content of a text, through reading. Readability is used to provide users with high quality service in text recommendation or text visualization. The study on readability has begun in the education field to measure the level of a text.

So, it is really important for the teacher to carefully selecting textbooks that appropriate their students ability. In order to help students in understanding the text in the textbook, the English teachers have to look appropriate textbooks that can facilitate the students to practice reading. We should be aware of textbook's quality. There we have to assess the textbook based on some criteria such as the topics, tasks, instructions, vocabulary, grammar, periodic review, coverage, reading text Penny Ur,(2009:184).

Based on the researchers experience in teaching practice, the researcher found that there were many students who achieved the lower score in reading. It was caused by their low understanding of the reading texts. From some classes,

the researchers found that there were some students who understood the reading texts while others did not. Thus, students' low score caused by their low understanding of the reading text, there are also unfamiliar words, the length of the sentence is too long, and the use of grammar is quite difficult to understand.

From that problem, the researcher would like to know the readability level of the reading texts of the textbook by using Flesch Reading Ease Formula. The researcher find that this is the most simply and accurate formula to measuring the readability And this textbook chosen because it is used in the third grade of senior high school, so the textbook must be very important to develop students ability in English since they already learnt about English for 11 years at school begin at elementary school.

B. The Identification of The Problem

Based on The explanation above the writer can identify the problem as follow:

1. Students get difficulty in understanding the text.
2. The role of textbook has not been maximally helped the students in improving their reading skill
3. The author and publisher who compiled the English textbook rarely concern on the aspects of the readability of the textbook.

C. The Problem of the Study

In relation to the background of the study, the research problem is Formulated as following "How is the readability level of reading text in *Advanced Learning English 3* Textbook?"

D. The Objective of the Study

Based on the problem stated above, The objective of the study is to find out the readability level of reading text in *Advanced Learning English 3* Textbook.

E. The Scope of the study

The scope of the study is to find out the readability level of reading text in advance learning English 3 textbook. Flesch reading ease Formula will be used to analyze the readability level of the reading text in the textbook.

F. The Significance of the Study

First, the finding of this study will contribute to English teachers in ok are readable and suitable for their students. And also, for the students, reading the readable text will help them in improving their reading skill.

Second, by knowing the result of this research, the principal will be able to decide whether the textbook is good or not to improve the potential of every learners and the quality of education.

The result is also expected will give more information to the publishers in evaluating their textbook and encourage them to produce better textbooks. Last but not least, this research finding will be useful for other researchers who want to investigate the English textbook, especially dealing with the readability.