CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

English is an important discipline that should be learnt in every educational institution. It is also a lingua franca because most of the countries in the world use English as their language even it is used as the second language. That is why, English should be learnt in order to access or get knowledge and information which is needed.

Learning English is always correlated with four major language skills, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Regarding to the divisions of those language skills, listening and reading belong to receptive skills. Meanwhile, speaking and writing belong to the productive skills. It is related to Brown (2000:232) who states that the human has fashioned two forms of productive performance, oral and written, and two forms of receptive performance, aural (or auditory) and reading. As one part of them, writing is recognized as the most difficult subject for students because they must firstly master the use of vocabulary, grammar, and punctuations. It is related to Oshima and Hogue (1999:3) who states that writing, particularly academic writing is not easy. It takes study and practice to develope this skill.

In English, kinds of text is needed to support learners in learning. And all kinds of texts in writing is called genres. Moreover, learn about genres are also important in learning writing. Generally, there are only thirteen genres which is

known by the learners in learning writing, whereas there are many text genres that should be learnt in writing. There are main types of genres which divided into three classess these are interpersonal conversation, transactional conversation, and also functional text.

As the benefit of learning writing, each person is able to convey feelings, idea, and information or messages to others. Meanwhile, when the messages are transferred into written form, the writer should be able to avoid ambiguities by applying appropriate language to its context.

In the syllabus of grade X, students are expected to be able to master writing skill for functional text which consist of *Memo and Simple Menu, Public Transportaion Schedule, Traffic Signs, Invitation letter, and Descriptive text* as it is written in Core Competence *1.3 Students are expected to be able to describe things, person, characteristic features, time, day, and year; 1.6 Comprehend Memo and Simple Menu, Timetable, Public Transport Schedule, Traffic Signs;* In mastering writing skill, students should be supported by appropriate learning material. It can be found in textbooks, videos, pictures, etc. Textbooks are dominantly used in learning process especially by the students. The way of how materials are presented in the textbook, that is also the way of how the students learn the materials. In other words, if the materials in the textbook are served well, the students will understand the objective of the learning better.

Based on the writer's observation, the learning materials provided in the textbook of grade X for students Computer and Network Engineering Department at SMK Negeri 2 Binjai do not support the students' learning writing activity due

to the inappropriate topics of text genre, in this case is some functional texts these are *Memo, Schedule, Invitation letter, and Descriptive text* which do not relate to their majors at all. It is related to the privous thesis from Siburian F. (2016) entitled Developing Learning Material of Descriptive Text for The Tenth Grade Students as Suplementary Material. His research is focused on Writing skill particularly Descriptive text. The problem of his research is the material does not fulfill the students' need and does not fulfill the curriculum expectations.

To support the writer's observation in this study, There are some examples of the functional text from their book which do not relate to their majors, they are:

a. Memo

Activity 31 *Write a simple personal memo. Use the illustration.*

1. You are waiting for a friend. Unfortunately, your mom asks you to take her to the supermarket. You leave a memo to your sister. Tell her that you are actually waiting for your friend but you have to go out. Ask her to welcome your friend and accompany him until you come back home. If there is something urgent, she can call or send SMS to you.

2. Develop your imagination to make another situation that you have to leave a memo to someone.

MEMO	
TO	:
FROM	:
DATE	:
SUBJECT	:

b. Schedule

what class and one way or round trip he takes,
how much is the fare,
ask and respond between them.

Activity 12 *Study the following schedule carefully to
answer the questions.*

Flight Schedule to and from Lombok

FLIGHT NO	DESTINATION	ETD	ETA	DAY OF SERVICE	AIRCRAFT	VIA
JT 651	JAKARTA	06:25		DAILY		DIRECT
GA 423	JAKARTA	06:20	07:30	DAILY		DIRECT
MZ 830	SURABAYA	12:20	12:20	DAILY	B732	DIRECT
GA 420	JAKARTA	15:10	17:20	DAILY		JOGJAKARTA
GA 421	JOGJAKARTA	15:10	15:35	DAILY		-

DEPARTURE FROM MATARAM (AMI) TO SURABAYA (SUB) JAKARTA (CGK) & JOGJAKARTA (JOG)

FLIGHT NO	FROM	ETA	ETD	DAY OF SERVICE	AIRCRAFT	VIA
MZ 831	SURABAYA	09:40	11:40	DAILY	B-734	DIRECT
JT 640	SURABAYA	10:40	12:30	DAILY		DIRECT
GA 420	JAKARTA	10:25	14:30	DAILY	B-734	JOGJAKARTA
GA 042	SURABAYA	11:50	13:40	DAILY		DIRECT
GA 420	JOGJAKARTA	12:10	14:30	DAILY		-

ARRIVAL FROM SURABAYA (SUB) JAKARTA (CGK) & JOGJAKARTA (JOG)

taken from: http://www.lombokkomodo.com/lombok-flight-schedule.htm)

DESCRIPTION:
ETA = ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL
ETD = ESTIMATED TIME OF DEPARTURE

Situation: Suppose you live in Jakarta and wants to
spend vacation in Lombok.

How many alternatives of flight can you take?
If you take flight GA 420, what time does the plane take
off?

c. Invitation letter

3. What was the invitation for?
4. Were you happy on the party? Why?
5. Can you mention some events that need invitations?

Activity 11 *Read these letters and answer the questions
below.*

a.
Jl. A. Yani 202
Semarang
June 16th, 2009

Hi, Friends.
Please come and join to my birthday party of the 17th anniversary, on:
Date   : June 24th, 2009
Time   : 03:00 p.m.
Place   : Kampung Laut Resto
            Jl. Marina Semarang

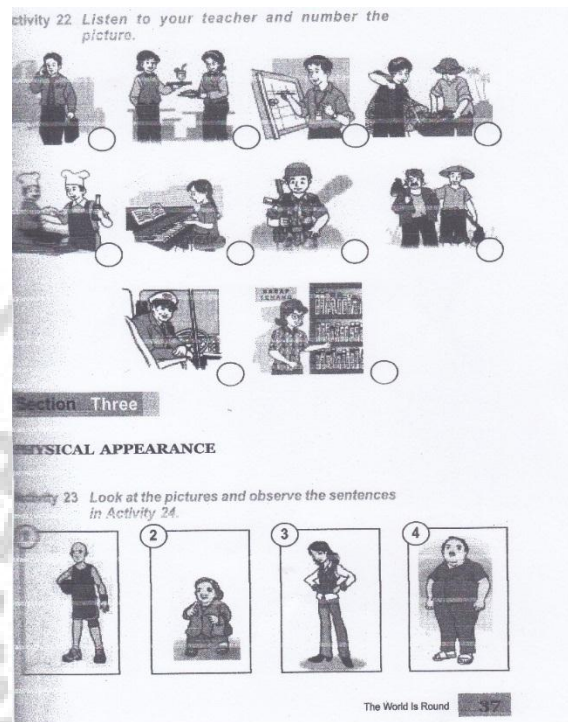See you and have fun with me

Best regards: Suci

Code dress : blue and black

Question:
1. What event will be held based on the invitation?
2. Who has the party?
3. Is the party held in the afternoon or in the evening?
4. How old is Suci at that time of celebration?
5. If you are invited, what colour of shirt will you wear?

d. Descriptive text

Based on Hutchinson and Water (1987:8) says that learners were seen to have different need and interest, which would have an important influence on their motivation to learn and therefore on the effectiveness of their learning. This lent support to the development of courses in which "relevant" to the learners' need and interest was paramount. English is needed for particular learners' and it can be identified by analysing the characteristic of linguistics in their specialist area study or work. We can conclude that English is also used for the specific purposes.

Thus, to support the students' need in writing skill, it is important to develop appropriate learning materials as it is raised in this study entitled "Developing English Writing Materials for Grade X Computer Network Engineering Department in Vocational High School."

B. The Problem of Study

Based on the background above the problem of study is formulated as follows:

1. How are the short functional and long funtional writing text materials developed to fulfill the needs of grade X students of computer network engineering department in vocational high school ?

C. The Objectives of Study

Based on the formation of research problem, the objectives of the study is :

1. To develop the short functional and long funtional writing text materials to fulfill the needs of grade X students of computer network engineering department in vocational high school.

D. The Scope of Study

In learning English, there are four skills that should be learnt by the students these are Listening, Speaking, Writing, and Reading. This study will be focused on writing skill. Nowadays, teaching English is based on genre. The writing materials to be developed in this study is Functional text for first and second semester. In first semester, the functional text consist of descriptive text and in second semester, the functional text consist of Memo, Simple menu, Public transportation schedule, traffic signs, and Invitation letter. The functional texts that will be developed in this study are Memo, Schedulle, Invitation letter, and Descriptive text.

E. The Significances of Study

The finding of this research can be useful theoretically and practically in providing information about developing writing materials to English for Specific Purposes learners.

Theoretically, this study is expected to add a new horizon towards the writing materials development. In addition, practically the study is beneficial for :

1) Teachers

   Teachers can find the impact of using authentic materials in teaching writing to students, and make this researh as their references in the learning process.

2) Students

   The students can increase their motivation in learning English and make them easy to master writing by learning authenthic materials which they need based on their majors.

3) Other researchers

   This research can be a resource for those who are interested in conducting further study about developing writing materials based on students majors.