

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Reading materials play an important role to the English language teaching (ELT). Therefore, reading skill is needed to achieve the ability to understand English text. Anderson (2000:1) emphasizes the mastery of reading skill could help learners have success not only in English learning but also in other content class where reading was required. Materials of reading become substantial in learning English in the class. As reading materials play an important role in English learning, they should be developed based on students' need and the content should represent the real life problem that will be faced by students later.

Students in vocational high school especially in Computer Engineering really need to be taught appropriate materials based on their needs about computer and engineering itself. Moreover, the students of Computer Engineering study program should mastery the English materials especially related to their major to be competent in the future. But, in reality they have not learned the appropriate material related to their major in the school.

An interview was conducted by the researcher on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to the English teacher and the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in SMK Swasta YWKA Medan to get the preliminary data. Some questions were given to the teacher, for instance about the curriculum and the English textbook that were used for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Based on the teacher's responses related to the interview session, it is known that the school implemented 2013 curriculum of revised edition. The textbook used for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students is given by the government entitled Bahasa Inggris 2016 of revised edition. It also found that the teacher mostly dominated the teaching learning process by tutoring and the materials just from the book. The existing textbook does not provide with the relevant some descriptive texts. The materials especially in reading text do not match with the students' major.

Besides interviewing the English teacher, the researcher also do the interview session with the students. This session was done in order to get the information from the students. The informations are about the learning resources that were used in English learning, the interest in English subject especially in reading text, then how well the English text book dominantly, especially in reading text were discussed.

Based on the student's responses about the learning resources that were used in English learning process mostly dominated in general from the book provided by the government. Then, the students will interest if the reading text more discussed specifically based on their major. So, from the responses, it is really needed to developed the relevant reading materials which also contain the real life problem so that the students can learn from the problem and have the knowledge to solve the problem in workplace later.

Based on the observation above, there are some problems in learning English process. One of the problem is the students were not interested in the existing materials because the materials are unrelated with their study

program. For example, the textbook which is published by the Ministry of Education and Culture doesn't provide the relevant reading learning material to their major. The reading materials like: "*Tanjung Puting National Park*", "*Taj Mahal*", "*Visiting Niagara Falls*" are not related to Computer Engineering study program. The topic that were discussed from the textbook especially in reading text more dominant discussed in general not specific. So, from the problems, one of the ways that can be achieved to solve the problem is the text book itself. This is due to the fact that textbook is one of the most important as teaching instruments that can be used by the teacher to enable the students to achieve learning goals. In addition, it functions as a daily guidance or instruction for the teacher (Posner, 2005). As a result, teaching and learning process can be purposeful and meaningful.

Based on the background, it is believed that it is important to find ways to overcome the problem. It is recommended that teachers have to develop reading materials based on students' needs. Dealing with the phenomenon above, the researcher focuses on developing reading materials of descriptive text for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students based on Problem-Based Learning at SMK Swasta YWKA Medan.

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is an approach that is suitable to be used to develop the reading materials for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students of SMK Swasta YWKA Medan. Problem-based learning is an active way of learning that teaches students 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 context of complex problems that imitate real life.

### **B. Identifications of The Problems**

Based on the background of the study, some problems can be identified:

1. The content of the reading materials of descriptive text were not covered and provide students' need. As a result, some of students are not interested and lazy to read.
2. The teacher mostly dominated the teaching learning process by tutoring and the materials were dominantly taken from the book.
3. Lack of media in teaching learning. Even though in 2013 curriculum of the ministry of Education and Culture suggest that the teacher in the classroom should use additional media in the learning process. As a result, the teacher of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students of Computer Engineering of SMK Swasta Yayasan Wanita Kereta Api Medan often asks the students to prepare media by themselves based on the topic to be discussed.

### **C. The Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study deals with the development of English reading materials through Problem-Based Learning (PBL) approach which is relevant for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students of Computer Engineering Study Program of SMK SWASTA Yayasan Wanita Kereta Api (YWKA) Medan.

This study focuses on reading text, especially the descriptive text.

#### **D. The Problems of the Study**

Based on the identifications of problem and scope, the problems of the study are formulated as the following.

1. What English reading materials of descriptive text are needed by the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students of Computer Engineering study program in SMK Swasta YWKA Medan?
2. How should English Reading Materials of descriptive text be developed based on Problem-Based Learning for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students of Computer Engineering in SMK Swasta YWKA Medan?
3. Why are the Reading Materials developed is the ways they are?

#### **E. The Objectives of the Study**

In relation to the problems, the objectives of this study are:

1. To ascertain English reading materials needed by the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students of Computer Engineering study program in SMK Swasta YWKA Medan,
2. to develop English reading materials of descriptive text through Problem-Based Learning (PBL) approach by the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students of Computer Engineering in SMK Swasta YWKA Medan.
3. To reason for the reading materials development.

## F. The Significance of the Study

The findings of this research can be useful to teachers theoretically and practically in providing information about developing teaching materials. It is described as follows:

Theoretically, this research can be a reference and knowledge regarding to develop English reading materials to teachers.

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

1. The English teacher, as a source to develop teaching materials which is suitable for the students and see the importance of having teacher-developed materials for students in learning process.
2. The students, as a source of information and references to widen their knowledge about the topic discussed in the research.
3. The Other researchers, as a reference on how to develop the English teaching and learning materials, especially reading materials.