

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Education can be defined as a way to improve students' knowledge, by having a good knowledge students are expected to be able to earn their life a good occupation or being a professional worker in the future. In our education system, there are many subjects that should be understood well by the students, for example: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Sociology, Economic, History, English, and etc. Those subjects have been taught from Junior High School level until Senior High School level. The equipping of many subjects is expected to increase students' knowledge and information.

Nowadays many people deem that English is an important lesson to be learned because it is commonly used in every field such as economics, science, international relationship, and etc. By seeing some the advantages people try to this international language. Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan (2010:10) states English course aims to equip students in improving their abilities to understand English text from academic purposes and specific purposes.

English subject in senior high school covers four skills that have to be mastered by students in accordance with the goal of learning English in senior high school. Those skills are listening and reading as the receptive skills and speaking and writing as productive skills. In this case, the learners are required to comprehend (listening and reading) the language and produce (speaking and

writing) the language. The relationship is, before producing the language, students need to have some vocabularies, and those vocabularies are gotten by the process of comprehending the language.

Among the four language skills, reading is one of the skills that should be learned well by the students because by having reading skill they will be easy to get information, knowledge, and science. Grabe & Stoller (2002:9) elaborate that reading is a way to draw information from printed page and interpret the information appropriately. It means that the students will find out the information from the text as efficient as possible.

Reading is a key to a good life because it plays an important role to the English Language Teaching (ELT) to develop the creative side of people. This statement is supported by Harsono (2007:5). He states that reading materials are one of the very crucial elements that have to exist to conduct teaching/learning activities. English reading materials are required in order to improve reading skill of students. The importance of having a good skill in reading is also in line with the purpose of English learning in senior high school where based on education ministry policy (permendikbud) no 59 year 2014 about the 2013 curriculum, the purpose of English learning in senior high school is to develop students' communicative competence in spoken and written language of interpersonal, transactional, and functional texts.

In this study, the researcher planned to develop the students' worksheet especially for reading skill. Students' worksheet is a sheet of work containing the tasks that must be done by the students. The activities are usually conduct with the

direction and the steps to complete a task. This statement is supported by Prastowo (20: 204), students' worksheet is a teaching material printed in the form of sheets of paper containing materials, summaries, instructions of the implementation of learning tasks that must be performed by learners which refers to the basic competencies that must be achieved. Students' worksheet selected as learning tools which would be developed because it can support teacher in performing learning process, assist students in learning and understand the learning material (Depdiknas, 2008: 13). Researcher also argue that students' worksheet can be used directly by the students and students will get the chance to learn independently in accordance with the tasks of the worksheet. For implementing the learning approach well, students' worksheet need using scientific approach.

The object of this research is SMA Swasta Panca Budi Medan which is used the 2013 curriculum, it is a curriculum that can educate future competency, communication skills, ability to think clearly and critically, ability to consider the moral aspects of a problem (Kemdikbud, 2013). In this curriculum, the students are encouraged to have a responsibility to the environment, interpersonal skills, and ability to think critically (Kurniasih & Sani, 2014). It is characterized by the development of attitudes, knowledge, thinking skills, and psychomotor skills in a variety of subjects. It should be relevant with the needs of life, developing abilities and interest, and responsive to the development of science and technology. Lazim (2013) states that the 2013 curriculum should be applied in the atmosphere of focusing on student-centered learning, forming the students' self

concept, increasing students' thinking skills, providing opportunities for students to assimilate and accommodate the concept, laws, and principles, and providing opportunities for students to practice the skills of communication. Kemdikbud (2013) states that the 2013 curriculum can be implemented successfully by using scientific approach. The learning process can be stated scientific if it fulfills the following criteria, objective, factual, systematic method, accurate, logic, actual, and verified.

Scientific approach is defined as the process of finding out information in science, which involves testing the ideas by performing experiments and making decisions based on the result of analysis (Longman, 2014). It means that scientific approach is a body of techniques for investigating phenomena, acquiring new knowledge, and correcting and integrating previous knowledge. Tang et al. (2009) says that scientific approach has the characteristics of "doing science". This approach allows teachers to improve the process of learning by breaking the process down into steps or stages which contains detailed instructions for conducting students learning. These two ideas became the basic of using scientific approach to be the basic for implementing the 2013 curriculum.

In accordance with the standard competence of the 2013 curriculum, learning objectives should include the development of the realm of attitudes, knowledge, and skills. Attitudes are acquired through activity: accept, execute, respect, appreciate, and practice. Knowledge was gained through the activity of remember, understand, apply, analyze, evaluate, and create. Skills were acquired through activities of observing, asking, experimenting, reasoning, serving, and

creating (Kemdikbud, 2013). So, the teaching learning process in scientific approach referred to the process of observing, asking, reasoning, experimenting, and establishing network for all subjects.

In order to find out the problem existing in the reading worksheet used in senior high school, the researcher tried to get the worksheet which used by the tenth grade students of SMA Swasta Panca Budi Medan on April 2018. The English teacher there used a book named Pathway to English published by Erlangga in teaching and learning process. The Pathway to English book is based on the curriculum 2013. The contents of Pathway to English textbook that used by students consists of some pictures, texts and exercises which used by the students to facilitate the learning activity.

The first problem, the school does not use students' worksheet and the second problem occurs within the exercises or tasks of the book are not relevant with the scientific approach steps which consist of 5 steps (observing, questioning, experimenting, associating, and communicating) while the school has implemented the 2013 curriculum.

Here is the exercises found in the book provided by the school:

THE
Character Building
UNIVERSITY

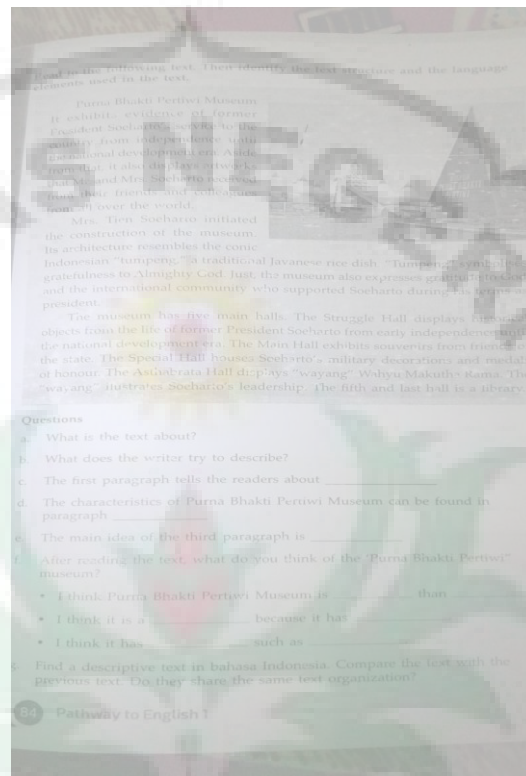


Figure 1.1 Reading Worksheet From English Textbook

From the data above, it's found that the exercises only focus on observing and questioning. In the exercises we can see the direction of the text is "read to the following text" and then "questions". While Kemdikbud (2014) states that scientific approach refers to the investigation techniques on some phenomena to get a new knowledge or doing correction and integrating the previous knowledge. In applying scientific approach, students will learn English by observing, questioning, exploring, associating, and communicating.

To sum up, the researcher intended to conduct the study to develop reading worksheet for the first semester of the tenth grade students of SMA Swasta Panca Budi Medan which the content of the worksheet will be related to the classified or

categorized under the term in scientific approach stages to help them develop their reading skill.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the reasearcher makes the problem of the study as below:

“How is students’ reading worksheet developed based on scientific approach for the tenth grade students of SMA Swasta Panca Budi Medan?”

C. The Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to answer the problem of the study. The objective of this research is to develop the students’ reading worksheet based on scientific approach for the tenth grade students in SMA Swasta Panca Budi Medan.

D. The Scope of the Study

There are many kinds of material that can be used in teaching English such as course book, workbook, worksheet, handout, etc. This study mainly focuses on developing the students’ reading worksheet of descriptive text using scientific approach for the grade ten students in SMA Swasta Panca Budi Medan. In order to help the students in achieving their learning objectives, the content of the worksheet is based on the basic competency demands in the curriculum and creating the worksheet based on the students need in learning reading. The

investigation of the students' need will be helpful in the process of developing the appropriate reading worksheet for the students.

E. The Significance of the Study

The study is expected to have a significant contribution theoretically and practically for:

First, theoretically this study is expected to give a useful contribution in the effort to develop the science, especially in the development of students' reading worksheet. It also can be used as a source of reference for future researches.

Second, practically, the results of this research may also contribute to 1) students who learn English at SMA Swasta Panca Budi Medan and 2) teacher/lecturer – as a source of information and references in order to enrich their knowledge about topics discussed.

THE
Character Building
UNIVERSITY