

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. The Background of the Study

Language is an important part of human existence and social process that has many functions to perform the life of human beings. Language is an instrument to convey information. It is used to express ideas, feeling, purposes, thoughts, and opinions in written or oral way. Through language, we can share and transfer knowledge, transmit message from one to another, and from generation to the next generation. In short, almost all of human activities are conducted through the use of language.

The statements above are supported by numerous researches that shows the ability of Indonesian students in reading English texts was very low. Furthermore, an observation conducted by the writing during her teaching practicum in a senior high school showed that the students' capability in comprehending English texts was poor. Likewise the previous researches, based

on the preliminary data that is taken from SMA NEGERI 2 SIBORONGBORONG on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 by interviewing the teacher. The teacher says that, "the english textbooks is quite good but students still face hardship when they find difficult words. The students used to ask for teacher's

help or find the meaning from internet or dictionary. The difficulty is also caused by the specific terminology that appears in the text which is unfamiliar". The text is from the English textbook which the grade XI students of SMA NEGERI 2

SIBORONGBORONG use is **Look Ahead 2 for Senior High School Students** publish by Yudhistira. The textbook is based School Based Curriculum (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan : KTSP) 2006.

Reading can be challenging, particularly when the material is unfamiliar, technical, or complex. That is why for some readers, comprehension is always challenging. They may understand each word separately, but linking them together into meaningful ideas often doesn't happen, as it should.

Reading is an interaction between the writer and the reader. In understanding text, the reader ten to comprehend the text based on their bagckround knowledge. As stated by Nunan (2003:67) reading is a fluent process of readers combining information from a text and their own background knowledge to build meaning. In addition, Lems (2009:170) states that reading is an evolving interaction between in the text and the background knowledge of the reader.

Besides combining the background knowledge with what they get from text, a good reader also has to have strategy in reading. It will help the reader understanding the text easier. Nunan defines (2007:68) strategic reading is as the ability of the reader to use a wide variety of reading strategies to accomplish a purpose for reading. Based on Content Area Literacy Guide (2007) stated that learning strategies refer to the specific strategies student learn how to use independently to understand a new concept or master a skill. One way to think about learning strategies is to consider what an effective practitioner of a discipline does to solve a challenging problem.

Moreover, English is included as content area reading. Content area reading is a text which discusses specific content such as mathematics, science, and social that is why each content area has its own language or vocabulary. Content area reading materials present students both with new and often difficult words, as well as with familiar words that may be used in new ways. If a student does not know the meanings of a sufficient proportion of the words in these reading materials, he or she may become frustrated and skip important words, which can make comprehension impossible (Texas Education Agency, 2002:7)

The example:

### A Lane Going up The Hill

It was a heavy rainstorm in Kampung Sepang. Jabri and Halil had just finished their dinner together at Jabri's house. They were sitting in the living room for coffee and conversation, hoping the rain would stop soon.

It was half past eleven at night and the downpour was showing no signs of stopping.

"Looks like you'll have to spend the night here, Pak," said Jabri. "No way," Halil said. "I've to be at work early tomorrow."

A few moments later, Halil got into the car, started the engine, and said good night to Jabri.

Something told him that he shouldn't have turned off the lane going up the hill, but it was the shortest way home. He knew that lane. It ran across from an old Chinese cemetery. There were no lights, no cars, no people, just Halil and his old car.

All of a sudden a white shape appeared in the middle of the lane. Halil shone a beam of light in that direction. The white shape turned to Halil. He saw the crimson eyes staring at him. The long-haired woman in the white dress. She grinned at him. Halil felt his blood freeze. His heartbeat stopped. His hood pulled down but he was too late to turn the car back.

She came into his car. He tried to turn the car back but he was too late. She came into his car. He tried to turn the car back but he was too late. She came into his car. He tried to turn the car back but he was too late.

She came into his car. He tried to turn the car back but he was too late. She came into his car. He tried to turn the car back but he was too late. She came into his car. He tried to turn the car back but he was too late.

(Adapted from: [www.storytotell.com](http://www.storytotell.com))

(Source: English Book SMA Negeri 2 Siborongborong)

The topic discussed is familiar but the words that construct the text unfamiliar for example: *rainstorm, downpour, engine, lane, sudden, shone, crimson, staring, grinned, freeze, heartbeat, wide, consciousness, reversed, legs, tremble*. Vocabulary is one of the language aspects which should be learnt. Learning it is important because in order to be able to speak, write, and listen learners have to know vocabulary first. A person said to „know „a word if they can recognize its meaning when they see it (Cameron, 2001: 75). It means that in learning vocabulary learners have to know the meaning of it and also understand and can use it in sentence context.

In contrast with the standard competence number 5 for reading skill for grade XI Senior High School which says “Memahami makna teks fungsional pendek dan esei berbentuk *report, narrative* dan *analytical exposition* dalam konteks kehidupan sehari-hari dan untuk mengakses ilmu pengetahuan”. It means that the text should be related to the students’ science or familiar.

Considering the facts above, it is needed to develop a good reading text on content area by adding some illustrations or glossaries and footnotes to support the text and in order to help students in understanding English text better.

### **B. Problem of the Study**

Based on the background of the study described above, the problem of the study being identified is as follows:

What are the suitable English reading materials that should be developed for grade XI students in Senior High School based on content area?

### C. The Objective of the Study

In line with what has been stated in the problem of the study, this study tries to develop English reading material for grade XI students in Senior High School based on content area.

### D. The Scope of the Study

Due to the limitation time to cover all micro skills to be suitable materials in every chapters, this research will focus on the development of reading materials that are needed to comprehend through some texts such as reports texts, narrative texts, and exposition texts in the first semester of Grade XI in Senior High School.

### E. The Significance of the Study

The finding of this research can be useful theoretically and practically in the providing information about developing reading materials for XI students in Senior High School.

Theoretically, this study is expected to add a new horizon towards the reading materials development. Meanwhile, the practical significances of the study are as follows:

1. The English teachers and school can keep on developing the reading materials which can be used as the references in the learning process.
2. The students will be able to understand the text easier and become familiar with the new words.
3. Other writer who are interest to conduct further research regarding to the development materials for XI students in Senior High School.