

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of Study

English has become one of the tools to connect people in communicating with each other as it is the international language that covers almost all of aspects in people's life and that is why English is included as a lesson in the curriculum in Indonesia. English taught in school from elementary to college level and even it becomes one of the subjects examined in national examination. In the national education curriculum in Indonesia, students learn English as a foreign language. The foreign language learners learn English formally in the teaching situation context. They only learn English in the classroom situation with approximately six hours per week.

Additionally, the students learn English mostly from textbooks and teachers' explanation. The information given is sometimes inauthentic and unsatisfactory to improve their English acquisition. They need additional sources to gain more information. One of the additional sources is using technology in the learning and teaching process. The example of using technology is by integrating the internet in the classroom. The internet refers to a global network which can connect all people around the world from one computer to another. Learning via internet accordance with the regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture No. 68 Year 2013 on the basic framework and curriculum structure of junior high school, the government develops the 2013 curriculum by introducing the changes of isolated learning patterns into networking learning patterns (learners can gain

knowledge from anyone and from anywhere that can be contacted and obtained via the internet).

The advancement of integrating the internet in the teaching and learning process is called as web-based learning (Pachecho, 2005). Everybody, including students and teachers has been familiar in using internet. Data shows internet users in Indonesia including in the education environment, are increasing rapidly. The new 2018 Global Digital suite of reports from online survey institution *We Are Social* and *Hoot Suite* reveals that there are now more than 4 billion people around the world using the internet. Well over half of the world's population is now online, with the latest data showing that nearly a quarter of a billion new users came online for the first time in 2017.

Internet can be accessed everywhere and everytime. It can be used for supporting media in teaching and learning processes. The technology is able to enhance students' motivation in learning English, encourage autonomous learners, and deliver the information in the attractive way. Internet provides both teachers and students with authentic learning materials in the different formats (e.g. video, audio, picture, etc), and a place for idea sharing and meaning negotiation (Abdallah, 2010).

Responding to the fact that the internet can support teaching and learning processes and there are so many internet users in Indonesia, some schools start using the internet to gain its advantages. One of those schools is SMP Negeri 8 Medan. SMP Negeri 8 Medan has improved their Information Technology (IT) facilities specifically in internet properly. They have established a *hot spot* area

and built a computer laboratory which is equipped with the Internet, so that both teachers and students can have free access to the internet to support the teaching and learning activities.

However, the use of the Internet in English teaching and learning processes in SMP N 8 Medan is not optimal enough. Both teachers and students there do not use internet as the school's expectation. The teachers seem hesitate and awkward in using computer laboratory and internet to support their teaching learning activities because there are many websites which contain learning materials in the internet but the materials doesn't meet with the learners' needs. Moreover, the contents of the web-based materials are also not relevant and appropriate with the standard competence and the basic competence in the national education curriculum in Indonesia. Then, most students there use the internet provided by school only for entertainment purposes, such as playing online games and accessing social network (*Facebook, Instagramor Twitter*). Besides, they use the computer laboratory only when they run IT class.

Considering the facts above, this research is intended to develop a website which contains the materials and tasks which are appropriate for the students' needs, and the standard and the basic competence. This web site can be a supplementary or an additional source for teachers and students.

## **B. Identification of Problem**

Based on the background of the study, some problems could be identified in SMP Negeri 8 Medan regarding to this research. The first problems related to the teaching and learning in the classroom. The teaching and learning activities are

limited based on the textbooks and some materials are not appropriate for the students. The second problem is related to the use of *hotspot* area. SMP Negeri 8 Medan developed *hotspot* area to integrate it to teaching and learning process. Unfortunately, it has not effectively supported teaching and learning activities. Most students there use the internet provided by school only for entertainment purposes, such as playing online games and accessing social network (*Facebook, Instagram* or *Twitter*).

Another problem comes from the teacher. Even though the school has built a computer laboratory which is equipped with the Internet, the teachers seem hesitate and awkward in using computer laboratory and internet to support their teaching learning activities. The Internet is rarely used in the classrooms although the students claim that they are more interested in learning if teachers using internet in the teaching learning activities. The main reason is that there is no website which meets teachers' expectation i.e. suitable for high school students in Indonesia (accord with competence standard and basic competence) and provides appropriate web-based learning materials despite the fact that there are many websites which provides English learning materials.

To solve that matter, web-based reading learning materials which can serve teachers and students' needs in English teaching and learning in SMA Negeri 8 Medan is needed.

### **C. The Problems of Study**

Based on the discussions in the background of the study and the identification of the problems, the problems in this research are formulated as follows:

1. What are the learning needs of the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Medan to learn reading through web-based?
2. How can web-based reading learning materials be developed for the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Medan?

### **D. The Objectives of Study**

Based on the problem of study and the formulation of the problem, the objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the learning needs of grade eight students of SMP Negeri 8 Medan to learn reading through web-based.
2. To develop appropriate web-based reading learning materials for the grade eight students of SMP Negeri 8 Medan.

### **E. The Scope of Study**

Due to the limitation on the part of the writer, this study focuses only on developing web-based reading learning materials. The reading materials which are developed are limited on the standard competency and the learning needs for grade eight of Junior High School students. The material will be developed is focus on descriptive text.

#### **F. The Significances of Study**

This research is expected useful to give some valuable contributions theoretically and practically, as follow :

1. Theoretically, the findings of the study will extend and enrich the horizon in theories which related to the areas to investigate the web-based reading learning material. This research can be one of current references of interactive multimedia of English learning materials which promote learner centered learning process.
2. Practically, the findings of the study will give some contribution to the teaching English as a foreign language as well as getting more information. The product of this study that is the website of reading learning material is expected to be practically applied in English teaching and learning process in order to improve English proficiency of the students.

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