CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is the most important thing in our life which we mostly use to communicate to other humans. Meyer (2009, p. 1) states, "language as one of many different systems of communication, a system that is unique to human beings and different from, for instance, the systems of communication that animals employ. Language exists in three modes: speech, writing, and signs (which are used by people who are deaf). Although all languages (with the exception of sign languages) exist in spoken form, only some have written forms."

There are thousands of languages and every country has its own official language. Some examples are China has Mandarin, United States has English and Indonesia has Indonesian for their official language. Difficulties will be appeared when these people try to communicate with each other, for instance: they will not be able to understand what others are saying when they try to communicate. To solve this problem, they need to speak the same language. Thus, this is where English comes in handy because it is the most commonly spoken language in the world.

In Indonesia, English language has important roles in some life aspects, for instance: popular movies, music and the contents in the internet are mostly in English; even most of the well paid job are also required English fluency. For that

reasons, English has been made as one of the important subject in Indonesian high schools.

There are several high schools in Indonesia and one of them is vocational high school. In vocational schools, students learn English based on their need which is why they applied ESP method in the teaching processes. According to Hutchinson and Waters (1991, p. 19), "ESP is an approach to language teaching in which is all decisions of contents and method are based on the learner's reason for learning." Basically, what makes vocational school different from others; it is designed to have more specific practical knowledge on their field of work, which the students will use after they graduated.

Even though English has become a subject in school and a necessity to get a better job, the majority of students still find it difficult to learn English. A long text which has complex grammar and no relation to their program are some of the reasons why students still find it difficult to learn English.

Based on the researcher's observation on SMK Pelayaran Samudera Indonesia, which has maritime as their major and still use KTSP as their curriculum, it was found that the learning materials were not specified for any specific program. It can be seen in the textbook government distributed to the students. They used "English for SMK" published by Yudhistira which based on KTSP. There were no reading materials in this book which related to maritime program.

One of the data as follows:

Install the software

1. Before you begin close all software applications that are open on your computer (including anti-virus software).
2. Place the Kodak Easyshare software CD into the CD-ROM drive.
3. Load the software:
   Windows OS-based computer – if the install windows doesn't appear, choose Run from the start menu and type d:\setup.exe where d is the drive letter that contains the CD.
   Mac OS 8.6 or 9.x – on the install window, click Continue.
   Mac OS X – double-click the CD icon on the desktop, then click the Install icon.
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to install the software.
   Windows OS-based computers – select Complete to automatically install the most commonly used applications. Select Custom to choose the applications you wish to install.
   Mac OS 8.6 or 9.x – select Easy to automatically install the most commonly used applications.
   Mac OS X – Follow the on-screen instructions.
5. If prompted, restart the computer. If you turned off anti-virus software, turn it back on. See the anti-virus software manual for details.

The other reason why students are not interested in reading the materials, simply because they think it will not affect their future career. The students of maritime program are expected to be sailors who can understand both their native and English language because they will be needed to sail overseas in the future. That is why the students of maritime department need to learn with the materials related to their program.

Thus from the background above, it is suggested that the reading materials should be develop based on students' needs, vocational purpose as an application of ESP. By being provided reading materials based on the program they focus on, it would be easier for the students to understand the text.

B. Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the problem of study was formulated as follows: "What English reading materials are appropriate for the needs of eleventh grade students of SMK Pelayaran Samudera Indonesia?"

C. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study was to develop English reading materials which based on KTSP and also appropriate for the needs of eleventh grade students of maritime vocational high school.

D. Scope of the Study

The scope of this study was focused on developing English reading materials which based on KTSP for the second semester of eleventh grade of maritime vocational high school in SMK Pelayaran Samudera Indonesia and focused in reviewing the existing reading material which then developed by considering the students' needs, and program. This study was also limited to only procedures and analytical texts development only.

E. Significances of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to give theoretical and practical contributions, as follows:

1. Theoretically, the findings of this research provide information and theories on developing English reading material.
2. Practically, it can be references to teacher in maritime vocational high school to develop teaching materials. In addition, this finding can be reference to the next researches who want to conduct the same research.