

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

In Indonesia, English becomes a foreign language for students. There are 4 skills in learning English, they are; reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Reading is an important skill for students in learning English as a foreign language. Reading skill will be helped the students to get the information in the textbook. According to Kim & Hall in Vellenga (2004), learning material like textbook plays the important role in English Language Teaching (ELT), particularly in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classroom.

Most schools are not using a proper textbook as their main sources for teaching their students. It makes the students get difficult to understand their textbook. It makes the students are not interest with the existing textbook. According to Paulston & Brader in Nanda (2016), reading materials which are appropriate to the needs of learners would be easier for them to achieve the learning purposes. It is also supported by Hutchinson and Waters (2010), “ESP is an approach to language teaching in which all decisions as to content and method are based on the learner’s reason for learning.” The reading materials should proper with the needs of student to make them more interest and understand with the material.

The teachers need to find the proper textbook with students’ need, especially for vocational students. The teachers will be easier to explain the material with an addition of learning purposes explanation. The students will be

easier to achieve the learning process. According to Herlina (2012) teachers need to find materials which are suit with the curriculum, which is based on the standard competence and the basic competence. The reading material was not suitable with the needs of vocational students. It was made the students have a low ability to understand it.

The English book designed by Kemendikbud is not appropriate for vocational school, especially for the Accounting student at SMK Negeri 1 Medan. It is proved by interviewing the teacher and students in previous research. They says that the descriptive material in the textbook have an inversely proportion' topics with their study program, such as; Tanjung Puting National Park, Taj mahal and Orang Utan. The example of inappropriate topic is Tanjung Puting National Park. The text describe about the famous ecotourism destination where is located in the southwest of central Kalimantan peninsula which is home of the scarce animal in the world: orang utans. The data shows that descriptive text is more appropriate with the Tourism department than Accounting study program. The explanation above shows the inappropriate reading materials are causing many problems, such as; the students are not interesting and make them have low motivation to learn it. The textbook is based on 2013 Curriculum (Kurikulum 2013).

The reading competences of descriptive text for vocational students based on 2013 Curriculum are (3.7) and (4.9). These competences are to analyze the social function, structure of text and language features and to respond the meaning of descriptive text using oral and written text of descriptive text about people, public place and historic building.

The explanation above indicates the necessity to develop appropriate reading materials for vocational school especially accounting study program. The proper topics, such as the balance sheet and the finance minister of Indonesia. In order to make the students interested to read their new materials which are appropriate with their needs.

B. The Identification Of Problems

Based on the background above, there are some problems related to the teaching – learning process of reading materials at SMK Negeri 1 Medan, they are;

1. First, the textbook is not appropriate with the needs of student which the students have to comprehend the descriptive text related to their program.
2. Second, the textbooks are not providing the proper vocabularies for Accounting study program students' and it makes them have low motivation to read the text.
3. The last, the textbooks that have an uninteresting topic makes the students become lazy to read and difficult to understand the lesson.

Because of the limitation of knowledge, time and money, this study will focus on developing reading materials in descriptive text for first grade students of Accounting study program at SMK Negeri 1 Medan.

C. The Scope of the Study

This research will be focused on developing the appropriate reading materials for the first grade students of Accounting study program at SMK Negeri 1 Medan. The scope of this study is on the descriptive text in the first semester of first grade students at SMK Negeri 1 Medan.

D. The Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of the study are:

1. What descriptive text materials are needed by the first grade students of the Accounting study program at SMK Negeri 1 Medan?
2. How should descriptive text materials be developed for the first grade students of Accounting study program at SMK Negeri 1 Medan?

E. The Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem of the study above, the objective of the study are:

1. To investigate the descriptive text materials which is needed of first grade students of the Accounting study program at SMK Negeri 1 Medan.
2. To develop the descriptive text materials which are appropriate for the first grade students of Accounting study program at SMK Negeri 1 Medan.

F. The Significance of the Study

This research will be useful for teachers theoretically and practically in providing information about developing reading materials.

1. Theoretically

This research will provide the information and theories for other researchers who need the relevant theories for their research.

2. Practically

a. For school participant

This research is expected to be their sources to develop the specific reading materials for vocational school which is relevant for their study program.

b. For teachers

This research is expected to be their sources to improve the reading materials which are relevant for their study program.

c. For students

This research is expected to be their sources to increase the student' motivation and improve their reading skill.