

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

In Indonesia there are two kinds of secondary school which are fundamentally differentiated based on those needs and interest. They are general secondary school (SMA) and vocational school (SMK). General secondary school focuses on knowledge expansion and skill improvement of students, and preparing students for further education while vocational school focuses on the development of skill that apply to certain specific occupation, and preparing students for employments as well as developing professional attitude. Considering this act, the materials that are given to general secondary students and vocational secondary students should be differentiated based on their needs and interests, especially the writing materials.

Most language learners at all levels are found that writing is the most challenging, demanding and the most difficult language skill to master (Salem & Dyar, 2014). Among the four skills of learning English (listening, speaking, reading and writing), writing is considered to be the most difficult skill to learn because students have to put their own ideas, develop their ideas, how to arrange the sentence and make their writing cohesion and coherence. Writing is considered as a complex activity because writers have to control content, format, sentence structure, vocabulary, punctuation, spelling and letter formation.

However, writing is not a simply transferring thought to a written form. Moreover, the existing writing materials are not provide the students to enrich their writing skill.

In teaching writing descriptive text, the use of English Text Book from KEMENDIKBUD revised edition 2014 in learning process based on curriculum 2013 is not adequate to stimulate students' writing skill, especially for Computer Network Engineering Study Program at SMK N 1 Percut Sei Tuan. The writing materials in descriptive text are also in a general topic for Computer Network Engineering Study Program. Sometimes, the writing task in that book refers to the reading skill. It means that there is less relation between students' writing materials to the appropriate writing skill. Beside that, the writing task in Batu Combo text, giving instrution to the students for read the following description about a tourist destination carefully. The writer forgot to edit her draft. Can you find the errors in the text and help her edit the text? This task more appropriate with reading task than writing task. From the condition, the researcher notice that the teacher needs another writing material for descriptive text which is designed appropriately for the students' need. This idea is supported by the preliminary data that was found by the researcher on October 28th 2017 at SMK N 1 Percut Sei Tuan. The teacher does not use any other writing materials to teach writing skill in the classroom. She usually uses only a textbook from the government. But, the researcher found that it is also not enough to cover the need of students' writing skill. The teacher said that she never thinks to create a special writing

materials for writing descriptive text, because she feels that everything in the textbook including the task is appropriate for the students. It means that the teacher never makes her own writing materials to enrich her learning process. Further, the teacher focuses on the book from the government which is exactly not suitable for the Computer Network Engineering students. But the teacher also said that she never thinks to get a new writing materials if which are appropriate with students' need in motivating them to learn English.

The writing competences according to 2013 Curriculum are editing the written descriptive text, simple, about people, tourist attractions, and famous historical buildings, by paying attention to social functions, text structures, and linguistic elements that are correct and context-appropriate (4.9) and compile oral and written descriptive text, simple, about people, tourist attractions, and famous historical buildings, taking into account social functions, text structures, and linguistic elements that are correct and in context (4.10).

The explanation above indicates that the 3 descriptive texts in existing text book for example are describe about Batu Combo which is too general for Computer Network Engineering study program. This existing writing material are needed to develop with the proper one. The development of writing materials will use scientific approach. Kemendikbud (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, the students will learn English by observing, questioning, experimenting, associating, and communicating.

The writing materials that will be developed are putting the proper pictures with the computer network engineering study program and giving the instruction to write the descriptive text based on the pictures.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problem is formulated as “What writing materials are suitable to be developed for the students in grade X of Network Engineering at SMK N 1 Percut Sei Tuan?”

C. The Objectives of the Study

The objective of study is ”To develop the writing text materials for the students of grade X of Network Engineering at SMK N 1 Percut Sei Tuan”.

D. The Scopes of the Study

The scope of the study is developing writing English materials based on the students’ needs and major of SMK N 1 P. Sei Tuan. It will be applied for grade X students of Network Engineering. And the skill concerned on the writing materials, especially in descriptive text. The text things particularly parts of a computer.

E. The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study will be expected to provide information which may have theoretical and practical contributions, as follows:

1. Theoretically, the findings of this study will expand and enrich the reference which related the field on how to develop students' material in writing skill of descriptive text for SMK N 1 Percut Sei Tuan
2. Practically, the findings of this study will be useful for English teacher, as a source to develop the writing materials which is appropriate for the students.

