

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of 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, feelings, purposes, thoughts, and opinions in both written and oral way. English is the language that is used in international scale, that covers almost of aspects in people's life, such as in education and professional working. In education, we could see that many levels of education in Indonesia require English as one of the subjects examined in national examination. In working field, many people learn English to compete in international scale or to fulfill competence demanded by companies or some certain jobs. Learning English is important, especially for those who are going to face the real working field right after graduating from schools, in this case vocational high school students.

Industrial Electronics engineering as one of the majors of vocational high schools in Indonesia prepares the students to face this kind of global competition. They are expected to think about machine in industry, specifically knowing how to solve machine's problems, how to make a machine or robot, understanding components of machine that used in industry, and so on. Once the students graduate, they can continue to the higher education or apply for job. English plays the role to make the students get qualified when they apply for job in Indonesia or overseas

companies that require the workers to be good in English. To reach the objective, there are some factors which have to be considered, such as teachers, media, and materials.

Teaching materials are essential things which influence a teaching process in a classroom. O'Neill (2003) emphasizes that teaching materials help teaching and learning process; the teaching materials must be suitable for students' needs, even they are not designed specifically for them, the teaching materials should make it possible for student to preview and prepare their lessons, and the teaching materials should allow for adaptation and improvisation. In many cases, teaching materials are the center of instruction and one of the most important influences on what goes on.

Based on the researcher's analysis of syllabus, the existing teaching materials, and students experience during learning English in SMK Swasta Nasional Sidikalang , it was found that the teaching materials were not specified for any certain vocations. The book that they used is *Bahasa Inggris Revisi 2017* that published by Ministry of Culture and Education. The reading materials in the text book has not correlation with the industrial electronics and not useful for their major. The content of the text did not tell about industrial electronics engineering but the text just cover about general topics, such as this text, An Email from Hannah.

Hello, Alia! Let me introduce myself. My name is Hannah.

I know your name from my friend, Caroline. She told me that you sent her an email telling her that you would like to have more **pen pals** from the US. I'd really like to be your E-pal. You **sound really cool!**

I guess I'd better tell you something about myself first. I'm 16 years old and I attend Thomas Edison High School here in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. I have two brothers and two **half sisters** and I'm the middle child. My father died a few years ago so my mother **runs** the house and the family business. My father was a barista.

I have lots of hobbies. I like music – mostly classical music and folk music – but I don't play an instrument. I like sports, especially tennis and basketball. At school I'm in the basketball team and I spend most of my extra-curricular time playing basket ball. **I'm into** animals very much. My sister and I have three dogs. They need lots of attention as you can imagine. My favorite subjects at school are art and geography. I think I'd like to become a park ranger when I graduate, perhaps work for the National Parks Service.

I don't like reading but I love drawing and painting. How about you? Please drop me a line, Alia! Can't wait to hear from you!

The text above aimed to tell someone biodata but there is no sentences or even word that has correlation with industrial electronics engineering. From the interview that the researcher got, there is no follow-up from school about text book material that appropriate with the major which students learning.

Based on the observation, the researcher got information that the English teaching process is fairly good, but still has some lacks. Most of the students still think that English is difficult, and the skills that might help them among the four skills based on the questionnaire is reading skills. They thought that reading is the best input in improving their English ability, but the fact they still unsatisfied with the existing materials that they have and learnt. Because of that, the researcher will try to develop the existing materials to be more suitable with what the students' wants in line with their major and the competencies on the curriculum.

B. Identification of the Problems

According to the observation at Industrial Electronics Engineering department at SMK Swasta Nasional Sidikalang and the quistionnaire that has been filled by them, there are several problems that caused English teaching and learning process being ineffective, such as irrelevant materials, teacher's teaching technique, less of references, lack of learning motivation, and lack of knowledge

about English. Explicitly, students in the schools still lack of Reading skills because they do not have much intention to read English texts although in fact reading is one of the keys to get much exposure that can improve their English ability.

One of the important things that can make English teaching and learning become effective is materials. Appropriate materials refer to the materials that meet the need of students, particularly vocational high school students who have different goals with other regular high school students. Materials will give a direct impact to the teaching and learning process since the students can relate what they learn in English to the real world they are facing. Through the materials students are also expected to pay more attention to English subject and realize the advantages of reading for their lives.

In reality, the needs of materials for vocational high school are still neglected. Materials for vocational school are not appropriate enough in terms of the content, the vocabulary, the topics, and so on. For example, the books they use in the school do not contain technical terms related to Industrial Electronics Engineering and the topics are way to general for them. The materials used are the same as what are used by regular high school in that educational foundation even though their needs are far different. The existing materials in the markets also do not fulfill their needs since they only learn general English from the books used by the teachers. It causes the students' intention to read the texts on the books low, since they do not find any relevancy on what they learn and what they actually need. The available materials are actually not bad, but they just do not

meet students' actual needs and it is even hard to find specific English materials to use for Industrial Electronics Engineering students.

C. The Scope of Study

Since it is impossible to overcome all of the problems above because of the limitation of time, the researcher tries to limit the problem into more specific aspect. The focus of this research is to develop suitable reading material for Industrial Electronics Enggineering students grade tenth semester one in SMK Swasta Nasional

D. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of study above, the formulation of the problem of is: "What should English reading materials for grade X students of Industrial Electronics Engineering Programbe developed?"

E. The Objectives of Study

The objective of the study is to develop appropriate English reading materials for grade X students of Industrial Electronics Engineering in SMKS Nasional Sidikalang.

The Significances of the Study

The research is expected to give a meaningful contribution to some parties:

- a. For the English teachers, this reserach hopefully can give ideas for the ideal reading materials used in the Industrial Electronics Enggineering program. The teachers also can use this study as one of the sources of teaching and learning process in classroom,
- b. For the students, it helps them to be more motivated in learning English and get more exposure particularly in reading skills that can help them in understanding English dealing with their major,
- c. For other researchers, this research can be a reference for them who are willing to make materials with the same topic,
- d. For the researcher, she can transfer her knowledge about designingreading materials for vocational school students.