

BAB I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

In Indonesia English is the first foreign language, It is used in the English classroom but not in every communication .This condition makes English difficult for the students because they seldom practice their English, only in the classroom. As we know that English is an International language which is used by all the people in the world as means of communications. Because of that, English becomes very important for every people. Because of its importance, English is taught from all grades of education level like from the kindergarten until university. Unfortunately most students at any level of education get difficulty in reading the text. Many research results (Syatriana, 1998, Hamra, 1993 and 1996, Mardiana, 1993) indicated that the ability of Indonesian students to read English text was still very low.

There are four language skills in learning English namely reading, writing, speaking and listening. Reading is one of the four skills that must be mastered for all the students. Reading is the ability to draw meaning from the printed page and interpret the information approximately. The process of drawing information and interpreting information requires the work of the brain. The purpose of reading activity is to get information from the text we read.

Reading materials play an important role to the English Teaching learning process. It is one of the very crucial element that has to exist to conduct teaching learning activities. Chang & Goswami (2011) concluded that there are

some factors that can promote and also hinder the learning process in the class , They are (1) teachers factors, (2) students factors, (3) administrative support, (4) teaching resources or the materials. The teachers should try to give the relevant and also interesting materials to promote the students' learning motivation. Unfortunately there are so many irrelevant materials that must be learnt by the students (Wedhaswary, 2002). These materials can make the students become low motivation to learn. This condition also happens to the grade eight students of Alwashliyah Islamic Junior High School Tebing Tinggi. The reading materials that they learn are irrelevant and don't have any islamic messages in it. That's why English reading materials must be designed to get improvement of reading skill for all the students especially the Islamic Junior High School (MTs)

There are four Islamic Junior High Schools in Tebing Tinggi, one of them is Alwashliyah Islamic Junior High School .It is located on Jalan Tiga Belas Desember no 3 Tebing Tinggi as it is the oldest Islamic School.As the result of the interview with the principal, he said that he realized that English is very important for all of his students. That's why he suggests all of his students to take English courses in the afternoon after school.As the program of that school, the school has English course that can develop their English ability.Unfortunately, not all the students can follow the English course .From the view of the English teacher, he reveled that it is very difficult to teach the students because there are so many factors happen.The most important factors is that the students lack of motivation. This happens because there are many some irrelevant materials from the text book. When they learn the reading text, they are not any islamic stories from the text.Especially in the narative text. That's why this study will be focused

in analyzing the reading materials especially for the narrative text. The narrative text taught by the teacher is taken from the text book which entitles “ English On Sky 2 for Junior High School. The texts seem irrelevant to the Islamic School because the existing reading materials do not relate to the Islamic messages. The irrelevant Reading Materials are *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Deadly Poppy Field* and *Cowardly Lion* . The texts seem irrelevant to the Islamic School because the texts are too general and don't have any Islamic messages in them. Another problem is that the students are lack of vocabularies. In solving the problem, the English teacher uses a kind of strategy to increase the students' vocabulary. Every week, he gives the students some new vocabularies that have to be memorized by the students. He gives the time one week for the students to memorize the new words. After that he will give the students the test about the vocabulary, that he calls it vocabulary test. By doing this, he tries to increase the students vocabulary abilities. Unfortunately, when he was asked about the the percentage of the students who have good English, he said only fifteen percent of his students who have good English that can follow his lesson. This condition can affect their achievement in English. Mr Mahmud also explained that when he made the formative test, the average score is still far from the Minimum Mastery Criteria (KKM). The average score that the students got is 63 and the KKM is 72 so Mr Mahmud as the English teacher must work hard to reach the Minimum Mastery Criteria (KKM).

According to the realities above, we can say that learners' motivation is the problem in teaching learning program. The materials that are taught by the teacher are not relevant with their kind of school because it is Islamic school and

the materials are too general and are not related to the islamic materials. It can make the students become low motivation to study. In order to solve the problem, the relevant reading materials are greatly needed to make the students interest in learning. The interesting materials can also make the students develop their vocabulary because when the students read the text, they will find many new vocabularies in the text. Reading texts provide opportunately to study language like vocabulary, grammar and it can also help the students to show the way to construct sentences, paragraph and the text (Hammer, 1998).

With references to the finding, the writer would like to conduct a research on designing new reading materials for the Islamic junior high school . In the other words, this research would like to analyze the existing syllabus and also the reading materials. The design of the new reading materials will use Authentic Materials approach (AMA) . According to Mishan (2005), authentic Materials Approach is materials – centered and upholds the importance of materials design not only as a proffessional skill applied by course book writers, but also as on used by individual teacher in individuals teaching context.

Authentic Materials approach (AMA) is defined as a teaching approach which focuses on the materials. The teacher gives an authentic text to the students in teaching learning process.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

Based on the explanation in backround above, it is identified that the problems of the study are formulated as the following :

1. What are the existing English reading materials for students of Islamic Junior High School ?
2. How is the new design of English reading material ?
3. What is the suitable reading materials for the Islamic Junior high school ?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

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

1. Evaluating the existing reading comprehension materials for students of Islamic High School
 - 2.a Investigating English reading comprehension materials which are suitable with the Islamic High school students
 - 2.b Designing new English reading comprehension materials
3. Validating the new English reading comprehension materials

1.4 The Scope of the Study

This study will be focused on designing suitable English Reading Material which are relevant with the Islamic Junior High school students particularly Grade VIII of Alwashliyah Islamic Junior High School.

In addition, the reading text covered in this research is the narrative text

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to be useful theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to produce new reading

comprehension materials for The Islamic Junior High School students, especially Grade VIII of Alwashliyah Islamic Junior High School. The new reading materials can be used because it has some islamic moral messages that is suitable for the Islamic school.

Additionally, it is expected to provide a good reference in designing appropriate English reading comprehension materials for Grade VIII of Alwashliyah Islamic Junior High School.

The practically, it is expected to inspire the English teachers especially for the Islamic School teachers to select the suitable English reading material for their students that can increase the students' motivation to learn with the interesting materials. Islamic materials are needed to develop the students' motivation and the students' needs as the Islamic school students. Moreover, further research is needed to make the best improvement.

