

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of The Study

Education is an effort to improve the quality of human resources. Based on UU Nomor 20 Tahun 2003, Education is a conscious and planned effort to create an atmosphere of learning and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills needed by themselves, society, nation and country. Based on that statement, it can be concluded that the existence of education can provide provision to students in cognitive (knowledge), affective (attitude), and psychomotor (skills) aspects.

The government continues to improve the quality of education, one of way is by changing the curriculum. The last curriculum change was the Education Unit Level Curriculum (KTSP) to the 2013 Curriculum (K 13). The 2013 curriculum was developed based on the diverse cultures of the Indonesian nation, directed to build present life and to build a foundation for a better life for the nation in the future. The 2013 curriculum aim to prepare Indonesian people to have the ability to live as individual and citizen who are faithful, productive, creative, innovative, and affective so that they are able to contribute to the life of society, nation, and state.

Scientific approach consists five learning steps, namely observing, questioning, experimenting, associating, and communicating (Compiler Team, 2014). All of these steps will encourage and inspire students to think critically, analytically, accurately, encourage and inspire students to think hypothetically, be able to understand apply, develop rational and objective thinking patterns in response to learning material (Compiler Team, 2013).

English is one of subjects in curriculum. English is a tool to communicate verbally and write. Communicating is understanding and conveying information, thought, feeling, developing science, technology and culture. Communication skills are the ability to discourse, namely the ability to understand and produce oral or written texts which are realized in four skills language, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. These four skills are used to respond or create discourse in people's lives. Therefore English is directed to develop these skill sso that students are able to communicate and discourse in English at certain literacy level.

One of English skills is reading. Reading is a cognitive process that aim to find various information contained in writing so that the message to be conveyed by the author can be received by the reader. The first thing student do is observe the reading text that is read. From the observed text, there will be further curiosity about the text being read, so that questions will arise about the information from the text. After obtaining the

information or data, then each information is linked so that answers are obtained and concluded. Based on this statement, learning English especially reading must refer to the principles of learning in the 2013 curriculum. One of them is scientific approach. The learning process with scientific approach is directed to "find out and do something", so that students can find their own understanding and competence by using scientific approach.

To apply the learning process with scientific approach the teacher should create a teaching material that requires students to be active. Teaching material is defined as anything that can be used to transmit messages or lesson content, stimulate students' thoughts, feelings, attention and abilities, so that it can encourage the teaching and learning process (Ibrahim and Syaodih, 2010).

One of the simple learning media that can be made by the teacher is student worksheet. According to Abdul (2012), student worksheets are sheets containing tasks that must be done by students. Student worksheets contain instructions for the steps students must take to complete the assignment. Student worksheets also help the teacher guide students to discover concepts through their own activities. With the existence of student worksheets, it is hoped the students can carry out learning activities and pour their creative ideas both individually and in group, be able to think critically and establish good cooperation with group members.

The use of student worksheet is expected to provide benefit in the learning process, this is as stated by Arsyad (2005) namely, 1) clarify the presentation of messages and information so that the learning process runs smoothly and improves learning outcomes, 2) increase student motivation by directing student attention so that it allows students to learn individually according to their abilities and interests, 3) the use of media can overcome the limitations of senses, space and time, 4) students will get the same experience about an event and allow direct interaction with the surrounding environment. Not only that, through worksheets, students are expected to be motivated in reading.

In this case, the student worksheet that should be made by English language teacher can be based on a scientific approach. However, in reality there are not many teachers who use student worksheet in learning English, especially reading skill, as long as the 2013 curriculum is implemented in schools. Even if there are schools that use student worksheet as a learning resource, the contents are not in accordance with the scientific approach standard.

One of school that used student worksheet is SMP Cerdas Murni Tembung. Based on observation at SMP Cerdas Murni Tembung, it was found that the school has used the 2013 curriculum and has used student worksheet as a learning resource other than textbook. The student worksheets used are obtained from student worksheet provider. The student worksheet have been prepared based on the 2013 curriculum with

scientific approach. The use of student worksheet in this school aims to summarize the subject matter and make students practice to better understand the subject matter.

From the result of interview with English teacher SMP Cerdas Murni Tembung, it was found that the existing student worksheets still needed development, especially in reading skill. The student worksheets that are used do not yet support the maximum learning skill to read because the content of the student worksheets is only the core material. The content of the student worksheets used is monotonous. There is no variation in the forms of activities that must be done by students even though there are several types of student worksheets that can be applied. Especially for reading skill, a type of activity is needed on student worksheets that stimulates students' reading skill. For maximum use, it is hoped that the development of student worksheet contents will be developed.

Based on preliminary observation which has been done at SMP Cerdas Murni Tembung, it was found that the existing student worksheet that used in learning process are not in accordance with the steps of the scientific approach. In the existing student worksheets there are only examples of text, list of questions and exercises to reconstruct a text, while the scientific approach consists of five steps, namely observing, questioning, exploring, associating, and communicating. In addition, the assignments in the existing student worksheets are not in accordance with

the basic competencies that should be able to make students understand the social function, text structure, and linguistic elements of the text. So it is necessary to develop student worksheets, especially for reading skills based on scientific approach.

Student worksheets based on scientific approach is student worksheet which content designed so that students actively construct concept through the stages of observing, formulating problems, collect data by various techniques, analyze data, draw conclusion and communicate the concept found. Scientific approach is intended to provide understanding to students with know, understand various materials using scientific approach, that information can come from anywhere, anytime, and does not depend on unidirectional information from the teacher, therefore the expected learning conditions created to encourage students to find out from various sources through observation. The application of scientific approach to learning involves process skills such as, observing, classifying, measuring, predicting, explaining, and concluding. In carrying out the process, help teacher is needed. However, the teacher's assistance must decrease with the increasing maturity of students or the higher the class of students.

This study was conducted by using developmental research (R and D) which is adapted from Borg and Gall (2003). This study was conducted by following six phases of R and D. They are gathering data, analyzing

data, developing reading student worksheet, validating by the experts, revising, and final reading student worksheet.

The new student worksheet developed based on several aspects such as analysis of student needs through questionnaires, syllabus analysis, and interviews with teachers. After the data is obtained, then it is analyzed and student worksheets are compiled based on the steps of the scientific approach.

The using students' worksheet in learning English, especially reading skill based on scientific approach, guide students to learn inductively. Inductively learning effective help students develop higher order thinking and critical thinking skills. In inductive learning, the teacher directly provides presentations of information that will provide illustrations about the topics that will be studied by students. The steps in the scientific approach such as observing, asking question, experimenting, associating, and communicating make the teacher's role in delivering learning reduced so that it exercise students to learn independently. By learning independently students are given the freedom to build their own concepts and expected to be better understanding learning material.

This research argues that by using good reading worksheet, the English learner will be able to understand reading material and activity participate in reading learning process. Worksheet is a media that aims to get learners to react to a teacher. It can be an excellent creative media

to improve learner interest, ability as well as supporting factor for many parties who want to be able to use English in communicating. The researcher defined the learners need analyses pertinent to the learning material and the applying of the media. By developing of worksheets students are expected to bring a positive impact on the learning process, especially teaching reading grade eight students of SMP Cerdas Murni Tembung.

B. The Problem of the Study

Taking the background of the study, there is a main problem to be identified, namely: *How is the development of student worksheet based on Scientific Approach in teaching reading for Grade Eight students of SMP Cerdas Murni Tembung?*

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study it to develop student worksheet based on Scientific Approach in teaching reading for Grade Eight students on their needs.

D. The Scope of the Study

This study focuses on students worksheet design for junior high school students. The design is focused on reading skill for grade Eight students.

E. The significance of the study

The Findings of this study are expected to provide beneficial information practical and theoretical for English teacher. It can be described as follow:

1. Practical Significance

- a. The students get appropriate English reading worksheet to support their needs.
- b. The teacher can give the authentic and suitable English reading worksheet for students especially in reading skill.

2. Theoretical Significance

- a. The result of the research can be used as input in English learning process, especially in reading skill.
- b. The result of the research can be used the reference for those who conduct a research in developing students reading worksheet.

