

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

English is used in all sectors of life as an international language. It has evolved into a language that many people should be able to speak fluently. Given its significance, it appears that people must be able to grasp it, as having high English skills would provide numerous benefits. People must improve their English skills in order to be more imaginative and creative in their information gathering in order to be effective workers in the future. As a result, English has become one of the most significant courses taught in Indonesian schools.

In Indonesia, there are three types of high schools: general school, vocational school, and religious school. These three types of schools must have diverse English learning materials, especially vocational schools, because their programs focus not only on language performances but also on extra materials relevant to English skills required in students' occupational programs. The curriculum should be able to provide students with the professional English communication skills they will need in the workplace and help them advance in their career.

Vocational High School is a high school program that aims to equip students to work in their chosen field after graduation. Fashion Design is one of the academic options available at Vocational High School that trains students to work in the fashion industry as professionals.

To succeed in a professional career, students must not only be skilled in their field, but also be well-informed about the latest technology and trends in fashion, and they must be able to communicate in English. They must be able to communicate in English in order to comprehend the information they require. English, on the other hand, is a required subject that must be mastered in school.

According to Curriculum 2013, English is now a compulsory subject at vocational high school and includes the four abilities of listening, reading, speaking, and writing. It means that students in vocational high schools must study it and master the basic skills outlined in the curriculum (Agustien, 2014, p.39). Reading is one of the skills that students should master since it will make it easier for them to obtain information, knowledge, and science. Reading is more than just reading the words in an article; students must exercise their ability to comprehend the material in order to obtain information that may be utilized to supplement their discipline knowledge.

In the teaching-learning process, students use the material as a source, particularly in the reading topic. During the teaching learning process, students require good content to assist them in comprehending the subject. The content should be relevant to their needs and requirements. The real materials; English should be specialized, assist their vocation, and be related to their mission's objective.

The sources that the instructor uses to convey material are known as teaching materials. Teaching materials can impact students' motivation in studying certain subjects by assisting in the teaching and learning process. One strategy to assist students in developing effective reading abilities is to provide material that

is appropriate and achievable. In other words, the content not only aids students in their learning, but it also serves as a valuable resource for English teachers. In some circumstances, teachers and students rely significantly on textbooks as a learning tool, and students follow directions in the textbook to the point where the material becomes a benchmark for learning toward students.

In English classes, teachers were supposed to create material that was appropriate for the students' circumstances. It implies that the instructor must be aware of the needs of the students. Students' requirements varies from one another. Some students require more abilities, some require more competence, and yet others require more knowledge. Hutchinson and Waters (1987;2) describe the examination of students' needs as the first stage before establishing a bravery design. Finally, analyzing students' needs entails making an attempt to assess students' conditions prior to arranging materials.

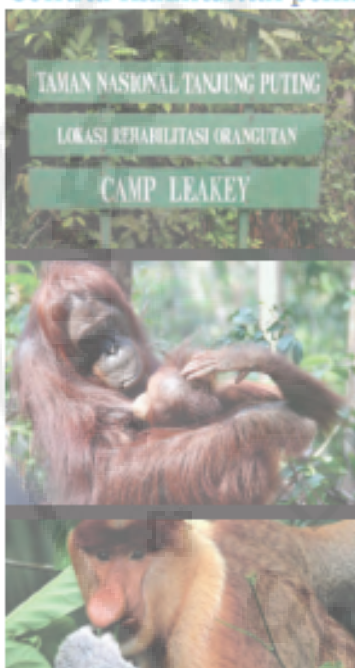
According to my observations at SMK Negeri 1 Stabat, the material offered in schools and the learning methods employed in schools did not correspond to the demands of students based on their major. An interview with one of the English teachers was used to do the observation. According to the interview, students in the fashion design program require a specific reading text for their vacation because they are now utilizing a generic textbook (English book for all school genres) and the reading materials in their books are not assisting them in improving their skills. Students are also educated through the use of materials that are unrelated to fashion, such as descriptive texts. "Tanjung Puting National Park" on page 70 and "My Best Friend" on page 58 are two subjects

covered in the textbook. The issue is that this study discovered that the teaching materials were inappropriate for their profession and the needs of their students.

Here about the facts which have been found in student's textbook:

TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK

One of the internationally famous *ecotourism destinations* in Indonesia is Tanjung Puting National Park in the southwest of Central Kalimantan peninsula. Tanjung Puting National Park offers



Source: <http://orangutanexplore.com>
Picture 6.2

impressive experience to its visitors. This is called a park, but *unlike* any park that you have seen in your city, this is a jungle! It is a real jungle, which is home to the most incredible animals in the world: orang utans and proboscis monkeys! The male proboscis monkeys are interesting because they have *enormous* snout. So, imagine yourself to be in the jungle and meet these special animals in their original habitat. What will you do when you meet them?

To see orang utans we should go to Camp Leakey. Camp Leakey is located in the *heart* of Tanjung Puting National Park. This is a rehabilitation place for *ex-captive* orang utans and also a *preservation* site. This camp was established by Birute Galdikas, an important scientist who has studied orang utans since 1971.

To reach the place, we should take a boat down Sekonyer river. The boat is popularly called *perahu klotok* which is a *boathouse* that can accommodate four people. The trip by the boat to Camp Leakey takes three days and two nights.

The traveling in the boat offers another *unforgettable* experience. You sleep, cook, and eat in that klotok, night and day during your journey into the jungle. In daylight, on your way to Camp Leakey, you can see trees filled with proboscis monkeys. At night, you can enjoy the clear sky and the amazingly bright stars as the only lights for the night.

Text sources: 1. www.lonelyplanet.com,
2. www.Indonesian.travel.com, 3. www.Exploguide.com

Figure 1.1 Descriptive text in Textbook "Tanjung Puting National Park"

Unfortunately, this text and task have little to do with the needs of students in the Fashion Design program; the issue is with text materials. Students enrolled in the Fashion Design program are expected to be productive workers in the future. As a result, the students are taught with fashion design materials, which means that the reading materials will be tailored to their needs.

Students require materials that will assist them in better understanding the topic in their major. This content is designed to pique students' interest in reading it during the teaching and learning process, making it easier for them to enroll in courses that are relevant to their field of work. English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is a method of learning English for specialized subjects with a specific major in mind, based on Hutchinson and Water's (1987:3) beliefs. As a result, when designing materials for a fashion design program, the aforementioned considerations are taken into account in order to create a decent form of materials that adheres to the 2013 curriculum and was changed in 2016.

Knowing and witnessing the aforementioned difficulty, the researcher attempted to use English reading resources in SMK N 1 Stabat to build reading abilities in a format that was appropriate for the students' learning needs. Making a content that was suited for students was an excellent strategy. Based on the foregoing, the researcher concentrated solely on generating reading materials for use in SMKN 1 Stabat.

B. The Problem of the Study

The problem of study is formulated as follows, based on the study's backdrop "how are reading materials of descriptive text for grade X students of fashion design study program developed?"

C. The Objective of the Study

As stated in the study's problem, the goal of this study is to create English reading materials for descriptive text that are appropriate for students in grade X of the fashion design program.

D. The Scope of the Study

The goal of this research is to create English reading materials for students in the fashion design program at SMK Negeri 1 Stabat in grade X. This research will focus on reading materials, particularly descriptive text.

E. The Significances of the Study

The results of this study are expected to give theoretically and practically contributions as follow:

- a. Theoretically, the result of this study can be reference for those who are interested in developing English reading materials especially english materials in vocational school and for the next researchers.
- b. Practically, the researcher expects this study will be useful for:
 - a) The students; presumably, this study will increase their motivation to learn English, and they will be able to comprehend reading materials that are tailored to their needs as a result of this research.

- b) The teacher; the purpose of this study is to assist teachers in locating useful information based on the contents and findings of this study, which are related to the development of English reading materials.
- c) Other researchers; this study is meant to be one of their tools for creating new English reading materials and providing extra information for future studies.

