

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background, the problem, the focus, the purpose, the benefits, the scope, and the definition key terms of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

English is considered something called the lingua franca, the world major language. This basically means that the language of English is something that is basically an international language of people not speaking a mother tongue. So, it's not uncommon around the world for people to speak English if they want to communicate with someone from other country. It is also the dominant language in many fields, such as business, science, entertainment, radio, and diplomacy or even the education one. Moreover, teacher should have the competence of making a Communicative Language Teaching. Textbooks are considered as useful utilities used by teachers to improve their skills in teaching. From the explanation above, textbooks are a kind of visual aid in teaching the learning process. That is, the actual function of textbooks is as one of the teaching aids by teachers, when they teach and explain teaching materials. In addition, it also helps students in getting a better reading materials. Textbooks are considered to be at the heart of educational activity, as they provide students with “a large number of new and potentially interesting facts, and open” doors to a fantastic world of experiences”. Textbooks have an important role they are regarded as “the primary vehicle for conveying content knowledge, for

“determining in large measure what happens in the classroom” and for assessing what students do and don't do. The majority of teachers consider textbooks as the only source of teaching. Textbooks influence not only what and how students learn, but also what and how teachers teach. Textbooks should be selected in order to support successful teaching and learning in reading.

Reading in English language is one of the skills that have to be mastered by students when they are learning English although each skill is, in fact, interrelated. According to Nunan et al., (2003) reading is a fluent process where in building the meaning, readers should combine information from the text with their own background knowledge. In reading classroom, materials have a significant position in defining the course itself. Richards, (2001) states the advantages of textbooks are (1) providing structure and a syllabus for a program; (2) helping to standardize instruction; (3) maintaining quality; (4) providing a variety of learning resources; (5) being efficient; (6) providing effective language models and input; (7) training teachers; and (8) being visually appealing. One of the main components in a curriculum is textbooks. They determine many aspects such as the content, the procedures, the methods for teaching and learning. They also have a systematic syllabus for teachers to follow in teaching. Textbooks usually published by authorized publishers. In addition, the government of Indonesia try to make curriculums periodically which suit the demands in the global era.

Educational system in Indonesia had implemented different curriculums since the independence of the nation. BSNP (National Standardization Board of Education) who is responsible in designing curriculums had tried hard to deliver good

curriculums. Some of the products of BSNP are KBK (Competency-Based Curriculum), KTSP (School-Based Curriculum), and the recent one, Curriculum of 2013. In this case, textbooks should follow the curriculum that is used by the government. Since its inception in 2012, Curriculum of 2013 has many advantages and disadvantages especially from teachers. They think that the curriculum ignores the role of teachers because students will be busy with themselves. In the other hand, School-Based Curriculum was implemented based on the belief that every school deserves to manage its own competency based on its teachers and learners competency and local potential sources. Moreover, schools have a right to manage its own curriculum based on the content standard given by BSNP. The main aspect of the curriculum are content standard and competencies which have to be achieved by learners, while its implementation of the curriculum and the syllabus was in the hand of the school management. It encourages students to be wellmannered, appreciative, confident, tolerant, creative, and critical. It is accomplished by proper communication activities both written and spoken. In addition, it covers interpersonal and transactional communication. The curriculum also required learners to study text types which have different function and purposes. It is carried out through a series of activities such as 1) building the context, 2) modeling and deconstructing the text, 3) joint construction of the text, and 4) independent construction of the text (Feez, 1999).

From above explanation, textbooks have an important role in the classroom. Most of teachers use textbooks as their aid in teaching. Therefore, teachers should know how to choose good textbooks for their students. From that point, the

researcher need to share his idea about the matter. So the aim of the study was to find out how far the English textbooks had met the criteria of good textbooks.

In previous studies, several researchers analyzed the book *When English rings a bell*. In this study the researcher intends to find out whether the *When English Rings a Bell* textbook is suitable to use for eighth grade students and has fulfilled the content and language readability aspects. There is a study with almost the same title from Fitriyani, (2013) entitled *A Textbook Analysis Of When English Rings A Bell An Textbook For The Eighth Grade Of Junior High School*. In this study, the aim of this research is to find out whether the book *When English Rings A Bell* is suitable for use by grade 7 students. In this qualitative study, the researcher obtained data by using letter thematic coding that were previously obtained from different image categories. Study results developed through textbook Analysis often display signs of an incomplete analyzing process. The researcher has not abstracted the data, or has included too many different things in a single category.

Another researcher conducted the same research on the book *When English Rings A Bell* Arba'ati, (2015) *An Analysis on English Textbook Entitled English "When English Rings a Bell" for the Eighth Year Students of Junior High School Based on the 2013 Curriculum*. The purpose of this study was to identify the themes and materials of the English textbook entitled "*When English Rings a Bell*" which was in accordance with the basic competencies of the 2013 Curriculum. This study used a qualitative descriptive study. The researcher used document analysis as a data collection method. Finally, the researcher concludes that not all themes and materials

in each chapter in the English textbook are in accordance with the basic competencies of the 2013 Curriculum.

From the two previous studies, the similarities and differences with this study are that the research topic is the same as the previous research, namely the suitability of the book *When English Rings A Bell* for junior high school students. On the other hand, the differences between previous studies that became the subject of research.

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background of the study above, the research problem can be formulated as follows :

Do the reading materials in *When English Rings a Bell* textbook for the eighth grader meet the aspect of contents, language use and readability based on the good criteria of learning materials proposed by the Book Center?

1.3 Objective of the Research

To identify aspects of content, and aspects of language use and readability based on goodness criteria for teaching materials proposed by the Book Center.

1.4 Operational Definition of the Research

The operational definition consists of three terms :

1. Reading in this study is an activity in the form of reciting or spelling an article in a textbook. Reading is included in language skills and is very important for students. Reading in English language is one of the skills that

have to be mastered by students when they are learning English although each skill is, in fact, interrelated.

2. Reading material is written material that is intended to be read, whether it is printed or handwritten.
3. Textbooks are mandatory books used in schools that contain learning materials in order to achieve national education goals.

1.5 Significances of the Research

The significances of the research was expected to give some theoretical and practical advantages for the following parties.

1.5.1 Theoretical significances

The research gave beneficial and referential contributions in delivering general knowledge of the way to evaluate English instructional materials.

1.5.2 Practical significances

The result of the research was beneficial for:

1. The researcher, he could give a practice in developing his knowledge and skill in evaluating English textbooks.
2. English teachers, the result of the research could provide helpful information in selecting and evaluating good textbooks before making decision to use it in the classroom.
3. Other researchers, the study could give general knowledge of how to evaluate textbooks or other forms of English instructional materials. The research also could be used as the foundation for further research.

1.6 Scope of Research

In accordance with the background of the study and identification of the problem, the researcher wants to discover whether the reading materials in *When Rings a Bell* textbook for the eighth grader meet the aspects of contents, and the aspect of language use and readability based on the good criteria of learning materials proposed by the Book Center.

