

**DEVELOPING ENGLISH READING MATERIALS  
IN REPORT TEXT FOR STUDENTS OF ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING PROGRAM AT SMK NEGERI 2 MEDAN**

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**ARTIKEL**  
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**DEVELOPING ENGLISH READING MATERIALS IN REPORT TEXT  
FOR STUDENTS OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM  
AT SMK NEGERI 2 MEDAN**

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**ABSTRACT**

The objective of this study was to develop the appropriate English reading materials in report text for students of electrical engineering program at SMK Negeri 2 Medan. This study was conducted by using Research and Development (R&D) design. The data were gathered by distributing questionnaires to 35 students of electrical engineering program and administering interview to the teacher. The result of this study was a set of developed teaching reading materials as supplementary entitled “English for Electrical Engineering Students” which covers of three chapters on the topics of (1) things in electrical about hammer drill, (2) natural phenomena about lightning and aurora, (3) social phenomena about short circuit and electric shock. It is also accompanied by documents such as syllabus, lesson plans, reading materials, worksheets, and assessments.

**Key words:** *Research and Development (R&D), Reading Materials, Report Text, Vocational School, Electrical Engineering Program.*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### *Background of the Study*

Reading activity is a process to acquire information from reading materials which has contained of various texts as an enhancement of knowledge toward the reader. The reading activity involves one or more purposes or tasks, some operations to process the text, and the outcomes of performing the activity, all of which occur within some specific context (Snow, 2002).

In learning English as a second language, it is important for learners to master reading skill in order to ensure success in learning any content class where reading in English is required (Nunan, 2003). By enhancing reading skill, learners will make greater progress and development in all other areas of learning. In addition, Hedge (2003) states that any reading component of an English language course may include a set of learning goals for the ability to read a wide range of texts in English.

Students of vocational school (SMK) are under the management of the provincial government that is expected not only master in knowledge of their specific subject but also has the understanding of communication in international language. By inserting engineering themes through English material, students are expected not only have good ability in reading but also have deep knowledge of engineering. Hence, in this globalization era, vocational students are expected to master English language in order to have competitiveness in getting job.

Seeing the fact that reading is necessity, reading interest should be invested in student mind as early as possible and the ability of comprehension must be improved. Based on the preliminary data and the phenomena that happened at student in SMK 2 Medan, it was found that the reading materials in textbook were not appropriate to students' needs based on their program, electrical engineering, which is the genre of text about factual report text.

From the interview that had been done by the researcher, teacher said that they gave the reading material from the textbook only in order to achieve the base competence which has been standardised by the ministry of education. So it means that teachers haven't provided any appropriate reading materials. This is unfortunate because the English teacher doesn't develop or provide reading materials content based on the students' necessity. Teachers of vocational school should be more creative in presenting the reading materials so that the students will be given more attention in learning reading. Reader's awareness in the structure of a text and reader's sufficient knowledge of a text organization will enable the readers to become efficient in reading (Sulistyo, 2011).

This study was aimed at developing English reading materials for electrical engineering students. This study was focused on the development at a set of teaching reading materials about factual report text for grade XII students at SMK Negeri 2 Medan. The research question for the study was formulated as "How are the English reading materials developed appropriately for students in grade XII of electrical engineering vocational high school?"

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Reading is a result of an interaction between reader and text which represents language, idea, and knowledge of the world. Nunan (2003: 68) states that reading is a process of combining information from a text and reader's own background knowledge to build meaning in achieving comprehension. The goal of reading comprehension is to gain overall understanding of what is described in the text rather than to obtain meaning from isolated words or sentences (Woolley, 2011).

The approaches related to materials development for vocational high school is ESP. ESP is an approach to language teaching which aims to meet the needs of particular learners. It means, in practice that much of the work done by ESP teachers is concerned with designing appropriate courses for various groups of learners (Hutchinson & Waters, 1986: 21).

In designing the materials, it should be selected and modified based on learners' needs. Hutchinson & Waters (1986) mention that there are six principle in the designing materials: materials provide a stimulus to learning, materials have to organize the teaching-learning process, materials embody a view of the nature of language and learning, materials reflect the nature task, materials can have a very useful function in the broadening the basis of teacher training, materials provide models of correct and appropriate language use. Referring to the background of the study, the specific skill was focused on reading of report text since it was meant for the third grade students. Pardiyono (2007: 271) states that report text is a text which presents information about something, as it is. It is as a result of systemic observation and analysis.

### *Relevant Studies*

The study by Febriani (2015) developed supplementary reading materials for Islamic learners of man 03 Malang based on Genre Based, particularly on the narrative text, spoof text, and hortatory exposition text. The materials were really appropriate to students' major she implemented to. But the researcher needs to add a colourful picture for a long passage so can attract students' interest to read story.

Another study was conducted by Kusumawardani and Kurniasih (2016) to develop English for Specific Purposes (ESP) for tourism program at SMKN 6 Surabaya. They conducted this study because the materials stated in the syllabus did not match and fit to learners' need. As the results, the contents that should be included in the English material in tourism Program at SMKN 6 Surabaya are speaking and pronunciation for language skill and components, videos and pictures for media, asking and giving question for teaching technique. It was found that the materials were too complete and had met the learners' needs, interests, and demands.

Then, Suspartiana, Mirjam, and Suharmanto (2015) developed reading materials for sport science sophomores. They developed materials Sport and the topics are about the history of soccer, risky sports, athlete biography, and sport issues. The materials are compiled into texts and students need to have skimming and scanning skill in reading text. As the results, the materials were met the sport science students' want and needs and the learning objectives for materials are explored the reading skills, like scanning, skimming, and finding references.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### *Research Design*

The research was conducted based on educational research and development (R & D) method which was aimed at developing and validating educational products, like curriculum, syllabus, textbooks, instructional media, modules and assessment instrument (Borg & Gall, 2003).

This research was conducted by following six phases of R & D: (1) Gathering data and information, (2) Analyze existing syllabus, existing textbook especially reading materials, and students' needs, (3) Reviewing the theory of principle of effective reading materials, (4) Designing or developing syllabus and reading materials, (5) Validating new reading materials to the experts, (6) Revising new reading materials as suggested by expert.

The subjects of this research were students of electrical engineering program class XII at SMK Negeri 2 Medan which has employed the 2013 Curriculum.

The data were collected by observing the documents (existing English reading materials which was used by the grade XII students, syllabus, lesson plan) administering questionnaires to the students, and interviewing teacher.

### *Technique of Analyzing Data*

The students' questionnaires were analyzed by calculating the optional item using the percentage of frequency. Then, the measurement to analyze the data of expert judgment questionnaire was used Likert-scale.



## RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### *Finding*

The finding of this research was a set of supplementary teaching reading materials. It was accompanied by documents such as syllabus, lesson plans, worksheet, assessment and rubrics. The reading materials were focused on factual report text in electrical field consists of three chapters: things, natural phenomena, and social phenomena. The structure of unit design was divided into three: reading materials, introduction and learning activities.

#### **Chapter 1: Things in electrical**

**Reading Materials:** Rotary hammer drill and Miniature circuit breaker.

**Introduction:** warm up and vocabulary builder

**Learning activities:**

- Observing: read a text (part 1)
- Questioning: write relevant questions.
- Exploring: read a text (part 2) and analyze the parts of report text.
- Associating: write a report text
- Communicating: display the result of writing report text by presenting it in front of class.

#### **Chapter 2: Natural Phenomena**

**Reading Materials:** Lightning and Aurora

**Introduction:** warm up and vocabulary builder

**Learning activities:**

- Observing: read a text (part 1)
- Questioning: answering questions
- Exploring: read a text (part 2) and identify grammar.
- Associating: rearrange the sentences into a good paragraph.
- Communicating: doing monologue

### **Chapter 3: Social Phenomena**

**Reading Materials:** Short circuit and Electric shock

**Introduction:** warm up and vocabulary builder

**Learning activities:**

- Observing: read a text (part 1) and analyze the generic structure.
- Questioning: answering questions
- Exploring: read a text (part 2) and identify grammar.
- Associating: create a report text.
- Communicating: doing presentation

#### *Discussions*

The purpose of this research was to develop appropriate reading materials for grade XII students of electrical engineering at SMK Negeri 2 Medan based on 2013 curriculum. In developing reading materials, there were several steps to develop them, those are: 1) Gathering information and data, 2) Analyzing data, 3) Designing materials, 4) Validating new materials by expert, 5) Revising materials, and 6) Final products (Reading Materials). As finding, the final product was a set of teaching reading materials focused on genre of report text in electrical field. It was accompanied by documents such as syllabus, lesson plans, worksheet, assessment and rubrics. Topics of product have divided into three chapters: things, natural phenomena, and social phenomena. Each chapter consists of warm up activities, explanation of grammar and report text, exercises, pronunciation practice, vocabulary builder, and assessment.

In contrast to other study, Jayanti (2015) provided detail learning activities in completing the development of reading materials for grade X students of

Computer Engineering and Networking based on content based instruction (CBI). The researcher expanded the materials into three parts: introduction, main lesson, and reinforcement. But, the tasks in the textbook were organized too much which each of tasks has 20 – 22 tasks.

There is also a study by Febriani (2015) which proposed supplementary reading materials for Islamic learners. The product consists of three units about narrative text, spoof text, and hortatory exposition text. By seeing the material mapping, each of unit was not completed by grammar focus. The developed materials were focused on reading and vocabulary activities.

In addition to the strength of the product, each chapter was developed equally in terms of the texts about electricity. Each chapter has no more than 10 tasks. Each text was completed by relevant picture to support the text, so the students become interest in reading activity.

However, the product also has a possible weakness. This reading material only covered one genre, namely report text. Therefore, it is suggested that future researchers develop other types of genre.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### *Conclusion*

The product of this study had been developed a set of teaching reading materials as supplementary for students of electrical engineering at SMK Negeri 2 Medan. The development of reading materials contained of seven report texts which has divided into three sub topics in three chapters. The teaching reading materials also accompanied by documents such as syllabus, lesson plans, reading materials, worksheets, and assessments.

### *Suggestion*

In line with the conclusion, there were some suggestions proposed to the students in order to enrich their understanding on the theory of teaching materials on report text that related to electrical. For English teacher, the findings became source of reference especially in electrical engineering program for grade XII at SMK Negeri 2 Medan. For further studies, the product can be selected resources for the people who are interesting in developing reading materials.

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