

# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of the Study

English is an international language. English is one of the most important language that used in a communication. It is also a means to achieve trade and economic goals, international relationship, socio-cultural and education. In the era of globalization, Indonesian employees must have a good knowledge of English. Receptive skills (reading and listening) play an important role in receiving and understanding English. When conveying ideas and messages, productive skills (speaking and writing) are very important.

Based on these importances, English is the main foreign language which taught in Indonesia schools. Elementary school students are taught it as one of the community subject and it is taught as a compulsory subject in junior and senior high school. as stated in KTSP (School-based Curriculum). The aim of English teaching and learning process at SMK is equip the students with the four language skills, which is ability in reading, listening, speaking and writing. The skills are taught in an integrated way so the student can communicate in English at the end of the teaching and learning process.

Therefore, it makes a lot of sense that teaching English in Vocational high schools will emphasize the reading skill because it is very important to master reading comprehension because English play a role as a linguistic medium for the transfer of knowledge in Education, Science, and technology. Most international scientific publications in the forms of books, magazines, journals are being written in English. Therefore, reading comprehension skills are very important for SMK students and especially for those wish to continue their studies at a higher level of education.

Reading task dominate in English textbook. Reading is part of language learning. As a fundamental language skill that cannot be separated from other language learning skills besides writing, speaking, and listening. According to Harmer (2007) reading is helpful for language acquisition. Reading skills are important for improving language skill and using them in the teaching and learning process. Reading involves the teaching process of the students to use their knowledge in understanding the unfamiliar elements. Reading as an activity to gain information and knowledge from the text.

According to Greeley (2004), there are two reasons for reading. First, reading for pleasure and second reading is for information: to find something or to do something for the information that one receives. Reading is a skill that is highly valued by both students and teachers. This showing that reading is an important activity that must be provided for students and teacher.

When the reader wants to read a narrative text, they can use some features information, general structures and also grammatical structures to recognize it. Next section, the author will explain in more detail, especially about the form of culture, which is part of people's lives.

Each tribe in the country of Indonesia has a different culture, including customs, music and language. A culture that is passed down from generation and preserved by now carrying it out in everyday life. One of them is the culture of the Bataknese tribe which is a tribe that lives and develops in the province of

North Sumatra. Culture values serve as the philosophy of life of the indigenous people of Batak Toba in general, namely dalihan na tolu. Dalihan na tolu is a philosophy of life in the Batak culture that regulates family relations.

The Researchers assume that dalihan natolu argument as a community system, by describing a social grouping in society that is deliberately carried out to determine the social functions of each community related to each other. Etymologically, dalihan natolu means three furnaces. The stove is a cooking place consisting of three stones arranged in a triangle so that the pot can rest firmly on it.

Based on the explanation that have been told above about the importance of understanding in English textbooks, especially that related to the Batak culture of dalihan natolu that is appropriate in teaching English, the researchers interested in designing a textbook that focus on reading texts about the Batak culture of dalihan natolu to motivate students about the Batak culture in SMK Telkom 2 Medan.

### **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Comprehension is the key of reading. A reading activity without comprehension will not achieve the goals. The most important part of reading is understanding the message or the gist of the reading material. Comprehension is the way to grasp reading contents. If the reader cannot get the message presented, most probably he will face a problem related to the reading comprehension.

The text's contents have a critical bearing on the reading comprehension. During reading, the reader's knowledges will interact to the content of the text, the vocabulary used, the discourse style, the genre, and its linguistic structure. When these factors are not matched to the reader's knowledge and experience, the text may be too difficult to comprehension with it. Reading occurs in a process. It is done for achieving some purposes. Activity refers to this nature of reading. A reading activity involves one or more purposes, some operation to process the text, and the consequences of doing the activity.

### **1.3 The Scope of the Problem**

In reference to the findings of reserchers observation on the English teaching-learning process in SMK Telkom 2, this study will focus only in designing reading tasks to provide learning source of the materials for Grade VIII students of SMK Telkom 2.

### **1.4 The Problem of Study**

Based on the identification of the study above, the problem of this study is How to design an english reading text about dalihan natolu to encourage Batak culture which are suitable for the eight grade students of SMK students?

### **1.5 The Objectives of Study**

Based on the problem of study that have been told above, the objectives of this study is to design an english reading text about dalihan natolu to encourage Batak culture which are suitable for the eight grade students of SMK students.

## **1.6 The Significances of the Study**

The researchers expect that this study will carry advantages to the theoretical as well as practical uses to the education.

### **1. Theoretically**

The researchers hope that the findings of this study will be one of the ways to introduce a culture by reading text to the students at school.

### **2. Practically**

The findings of this study are supposed to be useful for the following parties:

- a) For SMK students, the findings of this study will be expected to provide a learning resource in reading text about dalihan natolu to develop students' comprehension in the reading skill.
- b) For English teachers of SMK, the findings of this study will provide a variety way to develop the comprehension of reading for SMK students.
- c) For other researchers who are concerned with developing a reading text, the findings of this study will be supposed to give input to their study.