CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

School is a place where occurs a process of learning and teaching between the learners and the teachers. It becomes a formal place to the learners if they want to enhance their skill in a various fields especially for their self-improvement, knowledge, and so on. In doing its role as a place for the learners in learning, it plays an important role in developing talent and potency of every single learner. Progress in learning process of the students cannot be separated from the role of the school. The role of school is to provide complete facilities, a warm atmosphere of the classroom, professional teachers, and so on. The roles done by the school will support interested learning and at the end of the teaching is to achieve the purpose of the learning.

Success in learning English is not only supported by the professional teachers that lead the process of teaching in the classroom nor sophisticated facilities available at schools. The most important thing is material on the students' English textbook. Richards and Renandya (2001) state that teaching materials are key component in most language program. In learning a language in case of English, the materials are really important on the teaching process. Commonly, Material printed out on their textbook will guide them before getting the explanation from their teachers in the schools. By reading explanation from the textbooks, the learners will know a little bit about the material that they are going to learn for the upcoming lesson. The teachers need to tell which topic will be discussed in each meeting in the classroom during a semester. In other words, we can call it as a planning in teaching.

Textbook is a book used as standard source of information for formal study of a subject and instrument for teaching and learning (Graves 2000: 175). It is a tool used by the students to help them in understanding each lesson in the classroom. In other words, we can say that the textbooks are the primary needs for the students. In choosing good textbooks, there are some considerations either on the layout of the books nor the content arranged in the textbooks. Schools have to be selective in deciding which textbooks are going to be used by the learners in the classroom. Textbook selection is crucial in terms of boosting students' improvement in

learning. Each school has different textbook based on their schools' boards perspective in which the boards of the school are very selective in choosing the book. It is influenced by suggestions from the teachers and students' needs in learning English.

Furthermore, The textbook is an almost universal element of teaching (Hutchinson & Torres, 1994, p. 315). This element cannot be forgotten in the process of teaching because it contributes big in the process of teaching handled by the teacher. The role of the textbooks occupies a crucial part on the process of teaching and without the textbook as the element of teaching, the objectives of the learning will not be achieved. The teaching goals will be achieved greatly contributed by the textbooks as one of the elements. In other words, it can be said that the textbook is one of the important parts on the teaching process. The students on the process of teaching in the classroom taught by the teachers will be easily understanding the material which is explained in the classroom since they learn the material from the textbooks. The textbooks are not only useful for the students but also for the teachers. In arranging the material before being explained to the students, the textbooks are quite needed by the teachers in making a good material to the students. On the preparation done by the teachers as the actor or actress on the classroom, they will use the textbook. They arrange the explanation well because of the textbooks.

Learning should be fun because of some reasons. One of the reasons is having a good textbook for the students' study needs. A need of a good textbook is a must for the students and the teachers. To know whether the textbook is good or not, we have to consider some things from the arrangement of the book, the explanation, the picture that supports the books, the choice of words which are used in the textbooks. In addition, the good textbooks contribute greatly either for the students nor the teachers in the teaching-learning process.

There are four skills which are commonly discussed in the learning process. The four skills are speaking, reading, writing, and listening. They are related each other. In learning a language, it cannot separated due to unity. The learning will be successful because of learning all skills in English and the students are expected to be expertise on the four skills. The skills are discussed on the students' textbooks. Each skill will be explained the same one with others.

Reading is one of the skills in learning English. In learning English, the students need to be serious to improve this skill. There are several benefits the students get while improving this skill such as enhancing vocabulary, increasing knowledge and so on. In reading something, the students will get so many things that are important for their lives. By training themselves to read various literatures, it will make the students knowledgeable because they get something new from reading. Sometimes, reading is so boring but it can be so much fun if we read kinds of books which are interested to us.

In the textbooks of students, we find some of texts and theirs explanation. Those are contents of reading. Reading materials that can be found in an English textbook usually provide with texts, dialogue or any piece of information data and it becomes important materials input in reading session (Hutchinson and Waters, 1994, p.108). The content of reading on the English textbook plays a crucial role to stimulate the students to read. It will support progress on the reading skill's students. It means that the content of English textbook must be arranged and developed greatly to make it simple to be understood, precise and concise to the students. The importance of reading material to the students is too broad. Beside improving their reading skill but it also gain many vocabularies which are so benefit to make themselves easily to speak. Having a narrow vocabulary limit anybody to speak because they are lack in vocabulary.

Patel and Jain (2008) state that there are some criteria of good reading materials. The criteria set as follows (1) the subject matter should be well graded, (2) The words and structure are carefully graded, and (3) clear and unambiguous instruction should be given alongside the practice and exercise. These criteria above will show whether the book has a good criteria or not to the students. If the textbook includes all the criteria, it can be said that the textbook is good to the students.

The study about the content of textbook is much more important lately in the education world especially the reading content. The good content will influence self-improvement of the students. This study is about analysis content of English textbook. It will be aimed to investigate the content of reading on the students textbook for the eleventh grade of high school's students.

1.2 Problems of The Study

There are several problems which are discussed in this study, such as:

1. What kinds of reading materials are printed out on the students' textbook used at SMP Talitakum Medan?
2. Is the textbook used at SMP Talitakum Medan suitable with the criteria of good content according to reading content criteria stated by Patel and Jain?
3. How are the explanations on the students' textbook based on English teachers' perspective used at SMP Talitakum Medan?
4. Why are the contents of reading materials important to be discussed at SMP Talitakum Medan?

1.3 The Objectives of The study

1. to find out the kinds of reading material on the students' textbook used at SMP Talitakum Medan,
2. to find out suitability between the reading content of English textbook used at SMP Talitakum with the reading content criteria stated by Patel and Jain,
3. to investigate the explanations on the students' textbook used at SMP Talitakum Medan,
4. to know the reasons of English teachers in choosing the reading material at SMP Talitakum Medan.

1.4 The Scope of The study

In order to avoid from the broad explanation in analyzing the content of reading material, the writers limit the scope of the study. The writers only concentrate on the content of reading materials on the eighth grade of junior high school at SMP Talitakum Medan.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The outcome of this research is expected to be valuable for:

1. Students, to help them in understanding reading materials easily so that their reading ability will be increased.
2. Teachers, to support their teaching which is about reading and to conduct a good explanation to their learners.

3. Readers, to make this research as a reference in deciding what kind of books they use to practice their reading skills.