

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In the School-based Curriculum there are four language skills that have to be mastered by the students, namely speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Writing is one of the important skills in English. It is a very complex activity, because it is involving vocabulary, ideas, and grammar. To improve the writing skill, student needs writing exercises, one of possible sources available in the textbook that containing learning guide in the form of activities which lead the students to achieve the competency as demanded School-based Curriculum.

Nowadays there have been many English textbooks published to fulfill the need of English textbooks. Due to this condition it is the task of the English teacher to choose a textbook that is appropriate to his/her students. This is because there is no perfect book that can fulfill various kind of student' needs. "No textbook designed for a general market will be absolutely ideal for particular group of learner" (Cunningsworth, 1995: 5).

There are many publishers that have published English textbook for the first year student of Senior High School. They claimed that they are based on School-based Curriculum. The textbooks should hold a main instrument to do the curriculum which has been arranged before. However, sometimes some of them are not appropriate with the standard of

curriculum yet. It is questionable whether the content of textbook is consistent with the School-based Curriculum or not.

Knowing this fact, evaluation of English textbook is really needed to get the appropriate English textbook that is suitable with the learners' needs. Water (1987: 96) states that "evaluation is a matter of judging the fitness of something for a particular purpose".

The situation stated above encourages the writer to do evaluation on the textbook. In this research paper, the writer emphasizes her evaluation on the writing exercises. In this research, the writer chooses an English textbook published by Tiga Serangkai Pustaka Mandiri entitled "*Contextual English 1*". It is an integrated English textbook for Senior High School student. The themes and topics of this book are centered on our life to help the students relate the student own experiences as well as those of other. The book is also designed to help student develop positive attitudes toward the learning of English. It is also suitable with competency standard and basic competency. The book is carefully designed based on School-based Curriculum. The course covers the four skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Based on the previous reason the writer decides to do a research entitled *The Evaluation of Writing Exercises of English Textbook Entitled "Contextual English 1" Based on School- based Curriculum*.

B. Problem Statement

In this research the writer formulates the main problem as follows:

1. Are the writing exercises compatible with those required in School-based Curriculum?
2. Do the writing exercises facilitate the students to achieve the competency?

C. Limitation of the Study

In order to limit the problem that is discussed in this study, the writer only focuses on evaluation of writing exercises of English textbook in *Contextual English 1* based on School-based Curriculum.

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study of this research paper are as follows:

1. Describing whether or not the writing exercises are compatible with those required in School-based Curriculum?
2. Describing whether or not the writing exercises facilitate the students to achieve the competency?

E. Benefit of the Study

In this research the writer hopes that this research will give some benefits, such as:

1. Theoretical Benefits
 - a. The result of this research can give input to improve the English textbook especially for writing exercises or writing materials, so

that the next English textbook can be made by using genres as the main tool in language learning.

- b. The result of this study can be used as the reference for those who want to evaluate the other textbooks.

2. Practical Benefits

a. The English Teacher

The writer hopes that the English teacher will know the appropriate textbook that can be used in teaching-learning process, the English teacher know how to evaluate a textbook, and also the English teachers know how far the English textbook follows the curriculum demand.

b. The Book Writer

For the book writer of English textbook especially "*Contextual English I*" should give balance among all language skills in every aspect in the textbook. In this study, the researcher finds the writing exercises are compatible with the School-based Curriculum.

c. The Next Researchers

For the next researchers who have interest in this study, this study limits in evaluation of the materials in the textbook with the indicators suggested by School-based Curriculum. The next researcher can research in other aspects not only an evaluation of

writing exercise textbook but also in the contextual meaning, communicative competency, grammatically, and the other.

d. The Government

The government is expected to control the distribution of the English textbooks in the schools. The government is expected to cooperate with the expert of English language teaching to examine the content of the English textbooks before the textbooks are distributed to the schools as a handbook.

F. Research Paper Organization

The writer divides this research paper into five parts. They are as follows:

Chapter I, introduction, consists of background of the study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research paper organization

Chapter II is review of related literature. It deals with previous study, School-based Curriculum, English textbook, writing exercises

Chapter III is research method presenting type of the research, object of the research, data and data sources, method of collecting data, technique for analyzing data.

Chapter IV is research finding and discussion. It presents the data analysis and discussion.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. After chapter V, the writer presents bibliography, and appendix.