AN EVALUATION OF LISTENING COMPREHENSION MATERIALS IN THE ENGLISH COURSE BOOK FOR GRADE VII OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL “SMART STEPS, THE SMARTEST WAY TO LEARN ENGLISH” PUBLISHED BY GANECA EXACT PUBLISHER BASED ON THE SCHOOL-BASED CURRICULUM OR KTSP

RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department

by

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2008
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The curriculum from elementary until senior high school is developed by the government. Now days, it is called the School - based Curriculum or in Indonesian it is called Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP). Language Teaching Material is one of elements in the language teaching process. A course book as a teaching medium is used to present the material in school. In English teaching, course book is really needed. It gives support to the teaching learning process. The presence of the textbook is necessary to support teaching learning process (Brown, 1994:143).

As an English teacher, she or he can not avoid using a course book which is important in giving instruction at school. It is not only for the teacher but also for the students who use course book. Brown (1994:145) argues: “the most obvious and most common from the material support the language instruction comes through textbook to support the success of teaching learning process”. In other words, a course book means a created material design as materials for teaching learning process in order to increase the learner’s knowledge and experience. Course book can also be defined as a book prepared for the learners in teaching learning process.

Teachers can teach well if there is an appropriate course book guiding for the teaching learning process, not only inside but also outside of the
classroom. The teachers and the students can build and develop their competencies better if they use qualified course book which provide and support the material needed.

On the School-based Curriculum or KTSP according to BSNP, listening comprehension material is one of important skills in English. It is based on the standard and basic competencies in teaching learning process. Successful listeners use both bottom-up and top-down approaches to listening comprehension. Bottom-up activities focus learners on individual elements and building blocks of the language. Decoding oral utterances, discriminating between individual sounds, particularly those with minimal contrasts and identifying different stress, rhythm and intonation patterns feature prominently in early stages of learning and the students is only gradually moved from sound to word to sentence to text. Top-down activities focus the learners on the knowledge of real world. The activities require the students to use their background knowledge or schemata to interpret message. According to Brown and Yule as quoted by Nunan (1998:24), there are four clusters of factors that affect difficulty of oral language task, namely: 1. the speaker (the accent, volume, speed, etc), 2. the listeners (the level of response required, the role, etc), 3. the content (grammar, vocabulary, background knowledge, etc), 4. support (whether there is a picture, diagram, etc). Anderson and Lynch (1998:11) found difficulties as follows: the organization of information, the familiarity of the topic, the explicitness sufficiency of information and the type of referring expressions used. There are principles for designing listening
comprehension materials, such as: (1) use techniques that are intrinsically motivating, (2) utilize authentic language and context, (3) carefully consider the form of listener’s response, (4) encourage the development of listening strategies and (5) include both bottom-up and top-down listening techniques.

There are many publishers that have published English course book for grade VII of Junior High School. The course book 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.

Considering the problem, the writer wants to analyze the English course book used the Junior High School student’s grade VII based on the School - based Curriculum or KTSP. The writer chooses the English course book for grade VII of Junior High School entitled “Smart Steps, the Smartest Way to Learn English” written by Akhmadi, Ali and Ida Safrida, published by Ganeca Exact Publisher because content of that book is appropriate with the standard of BSNP (Badan Standard Nasional Pendidikan) content and it uses based on Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 20 tahun 2003 (UU 20/2003) and Peraturan Pemerintah Republik Indonesia Nomor 19 tahun 2005 (PP 19/ 2005). The standard of content which arrange by BSNP consist of the points in teaching learning process that have to more improving by the English teacher for reach the goal optimal.
B. Problem of the Study

In this study, the writer formulates the main problems:

Are the materials of listening comprehension in the English course book entitled “Smart Steps, the Smartest Way to Learn English” for grade VII of Junior High School suitable with the standard and basic competences of listening comprehension in the School - based Curriculum or KTSP according to BSNP?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the objective of the study is:

To know whether materials of the listening comprehension of the English course book suitable with the standard and basic competences of listening comprehension in the School - based Curriculum or KTSP according to BSNP or not.

D. Limitation of the Study

This research deals with an evaluation of the listening comprehension materials based on the School - based Curriculum or KTSP according to BSNP. The writer only deals with the English course book for grade VII of Junior High School entitled “Smart Steps, the Smartest Way to Learn English” written by Akhmadi, Ali and Ida Safrida, published by Ganeca Exact Publisher based on guideline of the School - based Curriculum or KTSP according to BSNP.
E. Benefits of the Study

The writer hopes that will be two advantages of this study, namely:

1. Theoretical Advantages
   a. The result of this study can give some intent to others who wants to evaluate English course book based on the School - based Curriculum or KTSP.
   b. The result of this study is useful as reference for those who want to conduct a research on an evaluating course book on the School - based Curriculum or KTSP because it gives some knowledge to the readers about English course book which are consistent with the School - based Curriculum or KTSP.
   c. The result of this study can give input to improve English course book can made better.

2. Practical Advantages
   a. The writer hopes that it is useful for the teachers to select appropriate the English course book which is based on the School - based Curriculum or KTSP that can be used in teaching learning process.
   b. The teachers know how far the English course book follows the curriculum demand.

F. Research Paper Organization

The writer organizes this research paper by dividing into five chapters in order to make it ease to understand. Each of them is concerned with different issues but it is related to each other.
Chapter I is introduction which consists of Background of the Study, Problem of the Study, Object of the Study, State Limitation of the Study, Benefit of the Study and Organization of the Research Paper.

Chapter II presents the theories of underlying theory which covers the School-based Curriculum or KTSP, the Standard and Basic Competencies of Listening Comprehension Materials for Grade VII of Junior High School according to BSNP 2006, the Listening Comprehension Materials, the Course Book and the Evaluation.

Chapter III is about Research Method that consists of five parts, such as: Type of the Study, Object of the Study, Data and Source of the Data, Method of Collecting Data and Technique for Analyzing Data.

Chapter IV is Research Finding and Discussion. It consists of the Listening Comprehension Materials in the English Course Book for Grade VII of Junior High School Based on the School-based Curriculum or KTSP according to BSNP, the Comparison of Listening Comprehension Materials in the English Course Book with the Listening Materials in the School-based Curriculum or KTSP according to BSNP and Result of an Evaluation of Listening Comprehension Materials in the English Course Book for Grade VII of Junior High School “Smart Steps, the Smartest Way to Learn English” Published by Ganeca Exact Publisher Based on the School-based Curriculum or KTSP.

Chapter V is about Conclusion and Suggestion based on the discussion of research finding.