

CHAPTER I

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1.1 Background of the study

As an international language, English is very popular in the world. Many people want to learn it because it is considered as a need in the modern era. As a developing country, Indonesia also considers English as an important language to be learnt. That is why the Indonesian Government prepares pupils starting from the fourth year class to get English lessons at school.

As stated in the decision of the Head of the Department of Education and Culture in East Java Province (Curriculum 1994:1), English is not an obligatory for pupils of the Elementary School, but it can be taught to pupils of Elementary School if it is considered necessary by the society in the territory and there is a teacher who is able to teach it. That is why English is not an obligatory for pupils of Elementary School, but as a local subject which can be taught starting from the fourth year of the Elementary School.

In teaching English to the pupils of Elementary School, the teacher teaches language skills, such as: reading, listening, speaking and writing. The teacher teaches the simplest ones first, in order to make pupils enjoy to learn English. In this thesis, the writer would like to give some suggested supplementary reading materials which are suitable to be taught to the fourth year pupils of Elementary School or ten year old pupils to make them more enjoy to learn English and help them to learn it easily.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

So far, the books used by the fourth year pupils of Elementary School, "Let's Practice English" by Ali Sakti are too simple. There are only a few sentences in the Reading Passages. In this case, these books can not arouse the pupils' interest to learn English. That is why it is necessary to find supplementary reading materials for them. In other words, the research problem can be formulated as follows: What kinds of supplementary reading materials are suitable for the fourth year pupils of Elementary School?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to propose some additional reading materials that are appropriate for the fourth year pupils of Elementary School.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The writer hopes the teachers to use the proposed supplementary reading materials to complete the English materials to the fourth year pupils of Elementary School so that the objectives of teaching could be achieved.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation of the Study

Considering the limited time available to do the research, the writer thinks it is necessary to limit the scope of the study.

The reading materials are for pupils in the fourth year class of Elementary School. The reading materials to be supplemented here are the reading materials in the book: "Let's Practice English 4A" by Ali Sakti, Budiarti and A. Priyadi as an English text book for the fourth year pupils of Elementary School. The topics of the reading materials are Introduction, Introducing My Family, The Things in the Classroom and Parts of the Body.

1.6 The Definition of the Key Terms

To make the discussion in the following chapters clear, the writer would like to give definitions of some key terms used in this thesis. These key terms are:

Reading

Reading is an exercise dominated by the eyes and the brain. The eyes receive messages and the brain then has to work out the significance of these messages (Harmer 1992:190).

Reading Materials

Reading materials is the written work of a writer to be read by people. It can be taken from many sources, such as: textbook, newspaper, magazine, novel, etc. (Mary Finocchiaro 1974:77).

Teaching

Teaching is showing or helping someone to learn how to do something, giving instructions, guiding in the study of something, providing with knowledge, causing to know or understand (Kimble and Garmezy 1987:6).

Elementary School

Elementary school is a school in which elementary subjects (as reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic) are taught to

children from about six to twelve years of age (Webster's Third New International Dictionary).

Supplementary Materials

Supplementary materials is an additional materials which something is or may be made (Longman Dictionary).

1.7 The Methodology of the Study

In this study the writer observes and makes a note of the reading materials which are used by the fourth year pupils of Elementary School. She also explores the theories and references that could be found in the library.

1.8 The Organization of the Study

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first Chapter is the Introduction, which discusses the background of the study, the problems, the objective, the significance, the scope and limitation, the definition of key terms, the methodology, theoretical framework, and the organization of the study. In Chapter two, the writer describes theories of teaching English to pupils. In Chapter three, the writer presents reading materials for the fourth year pupils of Elementary School for teaching reading to pupils

which support this study. Additional reading materials for the fourth year pupils in the Elementary School are presented in Chapter four. And the fifth Chapter becomes the final chapter of this study. In this chapter, the writer presents the conclusion in the form of summary. And to close this study, the writer gives some suggestions concerning the topic of this study.