

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, I describe the background of the research, statements of the problems, objectives of the research, significances of the research, scope of the research and definition of the terms.

### 1.1 Background of the Research

In daily life, we are always required to get such information. The information is very important for us to develop our knowledge, skills, or just to entertain us. There are varieties of forms of information. It can be either spoken or written. However, mostly, the written information or text is rather difficult for us to understand because we must interpret it by ourselves. Therefore, sometimes we make misinterpretation of information that may be different with the others.

Therefore, in accessing information, we should have a good reading skill because we need to understand the meaning of a text. In understanding the meaning of text, we should have common knowledge, grammar skill, and vocabularies (Bernhardt, 2003:6).

The common knowledge helps us understand new text. For example, if we find a text that tells about journalism, we would find it is easier to read if we have already learned or at least read about journalism before. On the other hand, if we do not know anything about journalism, we would find it is difficult to read. The mastery of grammar and vocabulary are also needed in understanding a text.

In Elementary school, introducing a foreign language to children is challenging and is not the same as giving a toy to the crying child. It happens because Elementary school children are unique in their characteristics and have a special way of learning a new thing. They acquire knowledge by asking and listening to people around them and also experienced things. Through these acquiring children develop their vocabulary.

When the students have enough vocabularies, they are expected to master four language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. Reading is one of the four language skills which should be taught for the elementary school students. Reading according to Hornby (1983: 343) is look at and understand written text. Moreover, Mackey (1965:433) defines that reading involves the recognition of letters and words. Reading is about understanding written texts.

According to Joseph Torgesen et al (2007:5), “Our current understanding of reading growth indicates that students must continue to learn many new things, and acquire many additional skills, in order to maintain reading proficiency as they progress from early to late elementary school and beyond.” Teaching reading for Elementary school students is not easy as teaching in the higher level of school.

In teaching reading, teachers need an instructional material such as textbook, audiovisual aids, etc used by the teacher to improvestudents’ reading skill. The textbook is an ordinary instructional material. It becomes a favorite instructional material because it has several benefits. Richard(2001: 15)says, “Textbook provides structures and a syllabus for a program, helps standardized instruction, maintains

quality, provides a variety of learning resources, is efficient, can provide effective language models and input, can train teachers, and it is visually appealing”.

Textbook for Elementary school is the textbook which covers the material include four language skills, speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Then, they are presented in some standard competencies and basic competencies which cover some simple expression and utterances toward their surrounding and environment.

The function of textbook in teaching is very important in curriculum system; without textbook, teaching learning process is not organized well. Teacher can teach the material well if there is an appropriate textbook guiding the teaching learning process. Teacher and students can build and develop their communicative competence better if they use qualified textbook, which provides and support the material needed.

The textbook itself can be divided into two parts; the first is the textbook which government publishes and the second is the textbook which is published by private publisher. Almost the English teachers use both, but sometimes they use only one of them, whether textbook from government or textbook from private publisher.

TigaSerangkai is one of publishers that publishes textbook for Elementary school. It is one of private publishers which publishes “Active English” textbook for the first graders to sixth grade of Elementary school. Active English 5 A Fun and Easy English Book for Grade V SD and MI is one of English textbooks that used by many schools (SD and MI). This textbook provides the simple grammar as students’ needed and students’ real daily activity. This textbook is designed to introduce the

students of year five with first words of English and suitable with student's level in understanding grammar.

Teaching reading for the Elementary school is to facilitate students to understand simple English written text because the writer of the text has communicative purpose which is realized in the textbook texts.

Communicative purpose or we can call social purpose of the text is defined most simply 'as' what we do through language (Wilkins, 1976:41). Different with Wilkins, Bhatia (1993:13) stated, "Communicative Purpose is a defining factor of the genre of a text (other factors include structure, content, form, intended audience and medium), genre being 'primarily characterized by the communicative purpose it is intended to fulfill.' Unconsciously, the writer of the Elementary School tends to relate monologue text with certain genre that should be taught for the higher level of school.

The English textbooks for the learners of the Elementary School are various and the writer wants to investigate and analyze the communicative purpose of the texts found in the textbook of "Active English". Moreover, the writer chooses "Active English" as English textbook to analyze because many schools use it.

Based on the background of the research above, I am interested in carrying out a research entitled "*The Communicative Purpose of the Texts Found in the Textbook "Active English" for the Elementary School Grade Five.*"



## **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

Based on the background of the research, I state the problem as follow:

1. What is the communicative purpose of the texts found in the textbook “Active English” for the elementary school grade five?
2. What is the text type found in the textbook “Active English” for the elementary school grade five?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

Based on the previous problem statements, the purposes of the research are:

1. To find out the communicative purpose of the texts found in the textbook “Active English” for the elementary school grade five.
2. To find out the text type found in the textbook “Active English” for the elementary school grade five

## **1.4 Significances of the Research**

After doing this research, I hope that the result of this research will be useful for readers especially for the students of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Muria Kudus University to add their knowledge about communicative purpose of the textbook. And I also hope that the result of the research can be used as literature or source for the next researcher about communicative purpose.

## **1.5 Scope of the Research**

It is impossible for me to handle all problems since this research has a broad space. This research was limited to analyze the communicative purpose and text type of the text in a textbook. I only focused to analyze the communicative purpose of the

texts and text type found the textbook “Active English” published by TigaSerangkai. Since there are some textbooks, I choose “Active English” which are used by almost Elementary Schools.

## 1.6 Operational Definitions

In order to avoid misinterpretation of the meaning of the title, I define the terms used in the title of this research as follows:

1. Communicative Purpose is a defining factor of the genre of a text (other factors include structure, content, form, intended audience and medium), genre being ‘primarily characterized by the communicative purpose it is intended to fulfill.
2. Text is a unit or language that has the meaning contextually.
3. Textbook is a manual of instruction or a standard book in any branch of study.
4. Active English is an English Textbook published by TigaSerangkai which served the material from 1<sup>st</sup> grade until 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

