

## CONTENT OF READING MATERIAL ON THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS' TEXTBOOK

by

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**ABSTRACT-**Textbook gives a big contribution to the students' improvement in teaching process. One of the contents on the English textbook is reading. A good content of reading has several criteria. The criteria can be a clear explanation, easily to be understood, and giving new information to the students. This research aims to find out whether the content of textbook especially in reading materials fulfills criteria of good content. In conducting this research, interview and content analysis method were used to collect the data about the reading content on the textbook. After conducting the research, there were several findings about the reading content of the textbook such as the reading materials were implemented by using any various forms and perspective of English teachers of the school about the textbook. Briefly, content of textbook especially reading material contributes bigly to the students in order to enhance their skill in reading any kinds of text and other forms of reading material.

**Keywords:** *Content Analysis, Reading Materials, English Textbook*

### A. INTRODUCTION

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 neither 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 understood 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 be

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 their 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. Besides 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.

In conducting this research, the research problems are formulated as follows (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?

Besides presenting the research problems, it is needed to formulate the objectives of the research. The Objectives of the research as follows (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.

## **B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

To conduct this study, it was used descriptive qualitative design. This study was about content of reading materials on students' textbook at SMP Talitakum Medan. This study was classified as descriptive qualitative design because it was intended to analyze the content of reading materials of students' textbook of junior high school. In this research, data would be elaborated in the form of description and identification of the texts. In other words, this research was also called as content analysis. It was because the writers concentrated to know the content of the reading materials on the students' textbook, to find the suitability between the content of reading of the students' textbook with the criteria of a good reading content, and to know the reasons why the teachers decided to use the kind of textbook. In carrying out this research, it did not only find out the quality of the content but also what criteria that made the students' textbook effective and quite useful for the learners. The quality

of the textbook will be measured based on explanation described on the students' textbook and teachers' opinion.

### **The Participant of the Study**

In doing this study, sampling used by the researchers was total sampling. Participants of the research were the English teachers at SMP Talitakum Medan. The English teachers questioned by the researchers were people who only handled on the eleventh grade and ever conducted the eighth grade of junior high school. The textbook chosen to be analyzed by the researchers was a book that was used by students on the eighth grade of junior high school.

### **Instrument for Collecting Data**

In order to collect data, It was needed some instruments to get the data. These instruments used by the researchers are intended to collect the data. These are the instrument elaborated for each.

#### **1. Observation**

Observation is a common instrument used by the researchers to collect the data. In applying this method, it was expected to get the data related to this study. The researchers would observe how effective the reading materials to the students in the process of learning and how the teachers used the book in every single meeting. For further explanation, the researchers will see how well the book affects the students' reading skill and how easy the book understood by the students.

#### **2. Interview**

In doing interview to the English teachers, the researchers will prepare some questions related to the teachers' opinion and experiences in using the students'

textbook. Each English teacher will be asked by using the questions prepared by the researchers. The question will be about 15-20 questions. Question prepared by researchers will be made easily understood by the English teachers and perfectly used simple words. The researchers will invite the English teacher to a special room which is very silent and there is no noisy at all because the purpose is to make the interview session running well. The data collected on the research are from the teachers' explanation and the result after analyzing the content of the students' English textbook.

### 3. Recording

As researchers in order to get the trusted data proved by a tool, the researchers needed to use a tool that is a recorder. Sometimes, researchers were quite struggling to write the opinion and explanation from the respondents while being interview. It shortly means that we as researchers need to use the tool. While interviewing the teachers, we will record the interview from the beginning until the end of the interview. Data gotten by this instrument will be interpreted.

### **The Procedure of the Study**

This research would be carried out on the eighth grade students at SMP Talitakum Medan. The school is on Block Bersama No.16, Sei Putih Tim. I, Kec. Medan Petisah, Kota Medan, Sumatera Utara. The research would be held on the December 7th, 2019.

### **Technique for Analyzing Data**

It is much more important to the researchers to use technique in analyzing data while doing the research. The technique will be so valuable for the researchers to

help them in analyzing the data easily. In applying the technique for the research, it must be followed several steps. The steps are:

#### 1. Reading

The first step applied by the researchers in analyzing data was reading. We need to read all contents of reading material on the students' textbook. After reading the all contents we will get the frame of contents of reading material on the students' textbook. We will know what kinds of text on the reading materials, how the explanation described, how the choice of words chosen. Shortly, the researchers will know the description of the content on the reading materials after reading it.

#### 2. Identification

After knowing the all content of reading on the textbook, the next step was finding the suitability between the content and the criteria of reading material. Suitability will be done by comparing the content with the list of several criteria of reading material. If the contents were suitable with the criteria of reading material, it could be said that the content of reading on the students' textbook good for them and teachers in the process of teaching.

#### 3. Analyzing

After identifying the content of the textbook, the textbook will need to be analyzed based on the explanation, the layout of the book, and so on. It is considered how the explanation of the textbook, the interested layout of the content of the textbook to make the students interested to read the book especially in reading material. After analyzing the content of the reading material, it will found some

data of the quality of the content of the textbook.

### C. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

While observing the content of English textbook entitled “Bright” from the Erlangga publisher used by the eighth grade students’ at SMP Talitakum, it was found several content of reading materials on each chapter of the textbook.

**Table 3.1.1**  
**Reading Material on Each Chapter**

No.	Title of each Chapter	Form of Reading Material
1	Excuse me!	Reading Material in conversation form
2	Good Job!	Reading Material in interview form
3	Isn't it Good?	Dialogue
4	You can do it!	Dialogue
5	Put on the life jacket, please	Dialogue and conversation
6	Will you come to my party?	Text, conversation, dialogue
7	Congratulations!	Invitation card and letter
8	There are many people	Dialogue and interview
9	What do you usually do?	Interview
10	What are you doing?	Text
11	As Timid As A Rabbit	Text
12	It was tasty!	Text
13	Let's share our experience	Text and letter

14	I want you to	Short messages
15	May I have your attention please!	Announcement
16	Music time!	None

From the table above, reading materials on the Textbook used by students at SMP Talitakum were different each other. The materials could be in form of text, interview script, announcement, short message, letter, and so on. Reading materials on the textbook were implemented differently each other but they could be considered to be reading materials to the students.

According to criteria of good content of reading material stated by Patel and Jain, it was found a finding of the reading content.

**Table 3.1.2**  
**The Subject matter should be well graded**

No.	Subject Matter	Yes/No
1	The text gives new information to the students	Yes
2	The reading material is suitable with the indicator and the objective of the lesson	Yes
3.	Arranged from the simple ones to the difficult ones	Yes

Table 3.1.2 shows that the textbook fulfilled all subject matters of the criteria of the good content in case of reading material.

In order to get more explanation of the good textbook, it was needed to interview the English teachers at SMP Talitakum Medan. This table below shows explanation of English teachers at SMP Talitakum Medan about the reading material of the textbook students of the eighth grade. While interviewing the English teacher who handled class eight, it was found several explanations from the teacher about a content of textbook used at SMP Talitakum Medan.

Table below shows the questions asked by interviewers to the English teacher and the answer of a good content of textbook especially content of reading told by the English teacher.

**Table 3.1.3**

**List of Questions and Answers**

No.	Questions	Answer
1	Why do students at SMP Talitakum need to learn about reading material?	Through reading, it will increase their knowledge, getting a new vocabulary, and so on
2	Are reading material printed out in the textbook corresponds with the purpose of the lesson?	Absolutely yes. It must be suitable with the purpose of the study.
3	What is your opinion sir about	Of course the reading material of the textbook is quite interesting to the

	reading material presented in the textbook?	students because it will stimulate students to read more.
4	Are the reading materials on the textbook used by the students interested?	Interested, because it gives a lot of knowledge to them
5	Is the reading material on the textbook suitable with the syllabus?	Sure, that is the requirement that need to fulfill. Content on the textbook should correspond with the syllabus.

**Discussion**

1. Various Reading Materials

Reading materials on the textbook used by SMP Talitakum have several forms. They can be text, conversation, announcements, and so. Reading material is not always in form of text in which the students can read and find a new knowledge but other forms can be included as reading materials where they can read them and find specific information from it. It can be concluded that reading material can be implemented in various forms as long as the students can read it and find specific information and learn about intonation if it is a conversation.

One of the reading materials is text. From text on the textbook, the students can learn to read the carefully and try to find a specific information from it in order to increase their knowledge. Another form of reading material is announcement.

Announcement consists of several sentences that contain information to the people. The students also can learn from announcement to increase their ability in reading.

#### 2. Starting From the Easiest Ones to the Hardest Ones

Reading materials should start from the easy to the hardest. It is because the students can't directly learn the material starting from the hardest to the simple. They should be in a good order of the content. If the reading material on the textbook starts from the easiest to the hardest, it will make the students easily to increase their ability in reading. If it starts from the hardest, it will cause difficulties to the students to increase their ability in reading.

From the easiest material reading, the students can get information and also vocabulary that is useful to the students. Vocabulary that students get will affect their ability in other skills in learning English. Briefly, the reading materials on the students' textbook should begin from the easiest ones to the hardest ones.

#### 3. Being Interesting and having a lot of Information

Getting explanation to the English teacher of the school, it can be concluded that the reading materials should be interesting to the students so that the students are keen to read the reading materials on the textbook. Beside it, the reading material on the textbook should have a lot of information. The purpose of reading is to get more information so that they will be knowledgeable. If the students are knowledgeable, it will affect good to them.

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **Conclusion**

According to the result presented on the previous pages, it can be concluded as follows:

1. Reading materials can be implemented on the various forms in which the students on the school can learn to read the material in order to get more information.
2. The reading materials should be interesting to attract the students to read it and to make them keen to read any kinds of reading material especially on their textbook at the school.
3. The reading materials on the students' textbook should start from the easiest to the hardest ones.
4. Content reading on the textbook must give a lot of information to the students so it will affect their knowledge.

### **Suggestion**

There are several suggestions about the content of reading materials as follows:

1. The textbook especially reading materials should be added more so that it will let them read the text and give information to them
2. The teacher must encourage the students to read so the reading material has function to them.

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