

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

When someone enter junior high school they would be faced with a variety of subjects that are slightly more than elementary school, one of which is English. The level of English in junior high school already has quite a lot of variations. In junior high school English has been introduced as one of the compulsory subjects. All of students started to learn listening, writing, reading and speaking skills in English class. Listening is an important skill that someone need to master to deepen our understanding of our language. However, in reality, both at school and college levels, the teaching methods used by teachers are often boring lectures. This makes students less interested in the material presented. From the teacher's perspective, finding the right material to teach listening skills is also often a challenge. It has been proven that the ability to understand what is heard is one of the most difficult skills to master, especially in the context of learning English as a Foreign Language (EFL), where students are not used to natural conversations from native speakers, which makes them reluctant to take listening classes as explained by Agustin & Ayu (2021).

Writing is one of the compulsory that must be learned. Writing is one of the skills in English that people must learn since junior high school because writing is claimed as a complex skill to be learned compared with another

skills as uttered by Ningsih (2016). Many of junior high school students think that writing skills does not important, they think that skills will apply when they are in university, even though writing skill must be learned in junior high school. Because if someone learn them in high school or college then they will left behind. As explained in the Hadith about the virtues of writing taught by Rasulullah SAW:

إِذَا سَمِعْتَ شَيْئًا فَارْتَبِطْهُ وَلَوْ فِي الْحَائِطِ

"If you hear something (from knowledge) then write it even on a wall." (HR. Abu Khaitamah in Al-Ilmu no. 146). Rasulullah SAW also added in one of the hadith that: "Tie knowledge with writing". (HR. At-Tabarani). Therefore the teacher must give a guidance when they writing an information. For effective learning of writing skills, teachers need organizations to build and develop information. Furthermore, the teacher must know and observe to rhetorical patterns in writing English to make it easier for students to learn writing class as affirmed by Amalia et al (2021).

Suyadi & Husnaini (2022) maintained that reading is a process of interpreting the meaning of written texts containing knowledge information. Reading is also an activity where readers try to understand and respond to a text that they read that leads to knowledge because they want to get information from the text that the reader is studying. The main purpose of reading is not only to remember the details of the information that has been obtained but also how readers have a good understanding of ideas or

information and then relate that information to the appropriate background knowledge.

According to Crisianita & Mandasari (2022) speaking skills are very important communication skills throughout the world. Speaking skills are used as a way for someone to convey information about something to the public. When someone want to speak, especially English and when someone want to communicate with people from a foreign country, they must study it well and use it well too. Teaching speaking skill in schools is very important for students to improve their skills in the future. Here they are trained to express something to their peers, this is the most effective way for students to strengthen relationships with foreigners in this era of globalization.

Assessment is one of the most important stages in giving appreciation to students and for the value of the subject itself. When students respond to questions, participate in providing comments, or participate in creating or writing sentences, the teacher naturally assesses the student's work. Assessment is very important in the teaching and learning process, all subjects must be assessed properly to be able to know how much progress and achievement the student has. Learning success is usually determined by the results of the assessment as uttered by Yustina et al (2021).

In English books, especially English books for junior high school level, there are many skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each skills will definitely be assessed. In the book, different assessments are carried out on each skill. According to Solikhah (2020), several findings show

that learning books are the main source of teaching for students and these books can also make knowledge simpler and more structured for teaching.

According to Zidan & Qamariah (2023) the education pattern in Indonesia has undergone drastic changes, one of which is the curriculum for students. The curriculum aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed when they enter a productive society. The Merdeka Curriculum is a new curriculum introduced by the Ministry of Education in Indonesia in 2020. The Merdeka Curriculum is designed to be more flexible, and learning is more centered on the students themselves and the use of technology. This curriculum encourages students to carry out independent learning and trains them to have critical thinking. The Merdeka Curriculum puts forward technology for student learning facilities, because the changes in the technological era are quite rapid. Students may access a variety of learning materials using the available technology. The Merdeka Curriculum also teaches digital literacy skills so that students may face the rapidly changing technological environment. Ndari et al. (2023) added that the Merdeka Curriculum is expected to be the right step for educational transformation in order to create superior human resources.

In a previous study, the researcher found that someone reviewed assessment for writing skills in online learning and found a gap in that research. Here, the researcher will research "Analysis of English Skills Assessment in English Book for Junior High School Based on Merdeka Curriculum" it is related because they both discussed about assessment. The

researcher took this research because the researcher is interested in English skills assessment in English books. The researcher thinks that this topic is very necessary to study because the researcher wants to see how assessment of English skills in the English book is in accordance with the assessment contained in the Merdeka Curriculum.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher selected the seventh grade English book entitled "English For Nusantara" as the research subject because the preparation of this book has used the Merdeka Curriculum which is in accordance with the content that the researcher will examine and the seventh grade is an initial stage for students in learning various English skills. Seventh grade is the beginning before they move on to eighth and ninth grades thus they have to master most of English skills while they are still beginners.

B. Definition of Key Terms

1. English Skills

Brown (2001) asserts that for more than six decades, research and practice in English language teaching have confirmed the role of the four core skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—as essential elements in the language learning process. However, in many ESL curricula and textbooks around the world, the focus is often only one or two of these skills, while the other skills receive less attention or are even neglected. In this research, English skills mean listening, speaking, reading and writing skills which

would be used as skills that will be assessed through the seventh grade English book entitled English For Nusantara.

2. Assessment

Yustina et al (2021) stated that assessment is a very important stage in the learning process. Assessment is usually described as the final result of students but there is another thing that is no less important, namely the process that students have gone through in achieving that result. In addition to assessing student performance, attitudes and motivation are also included in the assessment criteria so that students will be encouraged to practice a lot. In this research, assessment means are diagnostic assessment (assessment conducted to investigate and review student failure in learning, this assessment is taken before learning), formative assessment (assessment at the beginning of learning and during learning), and summative assessment (assessment at the end of learning or the end of the semester). This research will discuss diagnostic, formative and summative assessments of the four skills (reading, listening, speaking, and writing) contained in the seventh grade English book "English For Nusantara".

3. Merdeka Curriculum

According to Ferdaus & Novita (2023) a good education depends on its curriculum. The curriculum section with compulsory subjects is used to develop students' learning skills, students' creativity, and also technology. The curriculum guides the education system and determines the characteristics of students who will enter the community environment. The Merdeka

Curriculum is designed to be more flexible, and learning is more centered on the students themselves and the use of technology. This curriculum encourages students to do independent learning and trains them to have critical thinking, as Zidan & Qamariah (2023) added. In this research, Merdeka Curriculum means the curriculum that has been applied to almost all textbooks in Indonesia, especially in English books. The English book that the researcher will use is 'English For Nusantara', in this book they already uses the Merdeka Curriculum.

C. Research Question

Based on the background above, the question of the study is:

What are the English skills assessment contained in the seventh grade of English book "English for Nusantara" based on Merdeka Curriculum?

D. Research Objective

To describe what are the English skills assessment contained in the seventh grade of English book "English for Nusantara" based on Merdeka Curriculum.

E. Research Significance

1. Theoretical Benefit

The findings of this study will provide a good information to know how English skills assessment in English Book of 'English for Nusantara' for

research in general. This study will give other people an idea for those who want to study the same topic. Therefore this study will be useful information and instruction.

2. Practical Benefit

The findings of this study may provide accurate data to teachers on how assessment should be in accordance with the Merdeka Curriculum. Thus, teachers could evaluate appropriate and inappropriate assessment in the 'English for Nusantara' textbook.