

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Textbooks play an essential role in language learning and teaching. It is useful for both students and teachers. Textbooks may provide the major source for students aside from the input given by the teacher and can be considered as one of the many resources that teachers can use to create effective lessons (Richards, 2011). Teachers usually use textbooks as guidance in teaching and learning process since it give them information about syllabus, teaching methodologies, and materials to be taught (Fatima et al., 2015). It also helps teachers understand, follow, and achieve the goal of the curriculum (Mukundan et al., 2011). Textbooks are the main sources that can convey the knowledge and information to the learners in an easy and organized way(Ahour & Ahmadi, 2012). Since the textbook provides them with the explanations about the materials and exercises, the students can study better by themselves. Therefore, textbook really have important role for teacher and students in teaching and learning process.

From those things before, it is necessary for teachers to be able to select a suitable textbook to be used in class. The choice of textbook can determine the quality of teaching learning process (Mukundan & Kalajahi, 2013). A good book will be significantly helpful for the teachers and students. For teachers, it can facilitate them to achieve the teaching objectives. For students, it can support students to improve their linguistic and communicative ability by some materials

and exercises in the textbook. However, the low quality book might make students get the wrong materials and it can also lead to the students' failure in learning language (Mukundan & Kalajahi, 2013). For that reason, choosing a good textbook is considered necessary.

Since Indonesian English teachers are quite big dependency towards textbook to teach in the classroom. A study conducted by Ena (2013) cited in (Masyi'ah & Ciptaningrum, 2018) shows that many Indonesia EFL teachers use textbooks as the only instructional materials to teach students. By this means, they have a big dependency on the commercial textbooks which are available in the market. Down to the reality, there are many publishers who create many textbooks to be the major materials in the classroom. Therefore, the criteria of a good course book are really important. With so many English textbooks available, it is necessary for the teacher to find out which textbooks are suitable for students by analyzing on English textbooks to be able to find out the suitability of books with student needs.

Since the 2013 curriculum was implemented, English is given as a local content subject where English lessons are not as a compulsory subject for elementary school students. So that each school has the freedom to determine the learning model of English subjects and has the authorities to use appropriate textbooks. A wide selection of English textbooks in circulation provides many alternatives for teachers to be able to use them as needed. One of textbook that used by teachers is the "Stairway: A Fun and Easy English Book" for Grade VI of Elementary School especially in some private school in Bogor District for several

years. Even though this book is written based on a competency-based curriculum it is still relevant to the conditions of learning English in elementary school because English is a subject of local content so it is still use competency-based books. Stairway book is designed to build English basic skills for Elementary School's students in easy and fun way. This book covers the compulsory skills in language and is equipped with adequate exercises and other additional interesting features. The material of the book is based on familiar daily context and prepared implement characteristic values.

To know the textbooks is good to be major source in the learning teaching process, evaluating textbooks must be conducted. The importance of evaluating textbooks or English textbooks was stated by (Sheldon, 1988) Sheldon said there are two main reasons for evaluating a textbook or textbook: first, evaluation will help the teacher to make decisions in selecting the appropriate book. Second, evaluating the appropriateness or impropriety of a textbook will make the teacher more accustomed to the possible strengths and weaknesses of the textbook or textbook.

Textbook must fulfill some criteria become a good textbook such as make the student interest to read, provide the objective studies, give task for student, there is resume and communicative stylistic. A good textbook not only seen by the complete learning teaching content arranged. The general attributes are also matters. How the book in relation to syllabus and curriculum, the methodology, and the physical appearance and many more must be considered. The quality of textbook is important. If the textbooks is complete the categories, the textbook is

also suit to the students' needs. Then the textbook can be used as the source in the teaching learning process.

From those reasons, the book is selected by the researcher. After knowing that the book has been used for several years, and the content has been designed with the relevance as it needs, there is no guarantee that the book is fulfill the criteria as a good book and the quality is still good for students' need.

Therefore, in this study, the researcher will analyze the Stairway textbook using the Mukundan and Nimehchisalem's (2015) evaluation Checklist with the consideration that the checklist from Mukundan and Nimehchisalem's had been refined several times by some teachers and experts. In addition, it is believed as a good checklist since "it is comprehensive in evaluate criteria and has been proved to have high quality (it has been approved by 2017 ESL experts), economy (shorter time needed to complete the checklist), and reliability in its design with all items have equal importance" (Mukundan & Nimehchisalem, 2012) cited in (Khoo & Knight, 2015). By using this evaluation checklist, the research is helped to find whether the Stairway textbook is good to be the source by fulfilling the criteria that Mukundan and Nimehchisalem's has.

1.2 Research Question

To what extent does the English textbook for the sixth grade of elementary school entitled "Stairway: A Fun and Easy English Book" fulfill the criteria of a

good English textbook in terms of the general attributes and learning teaching content based on Mukundan and Nimehchisalem's (2015) Evaluation Checklist?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

To describe the quality of English textbook for grade VI of elementary school entitled "Stairway: A Fun and Easy English Book" in terms of their general attributes and learning teaching content features with reference to Mukundan & Nimehchisalem's (2015) Evaluation Checklist.

1.4 Scope of the Study

In this study, the researcher focused on analyzing English Textbook "Stairway: A Fun and Easy English Book" for Grade VI of Elementary School uses English Language Teaching Textbook Evaluation Checklist by Mukundan and Nimehchisalem (2015). To know the quality of textbook, this study only focused on the criteria based on the checklist by Mukundan Nimehchisalem (2015), such as general attributes and learning teaching content. These two big categories have the sub-aspects. The general attributes contained of five sub-aspects. The learning teaching content contained of nine sub-aspect. To be more specific and focus, each sub-aspects two or more criteria.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be beneficial for the research finding in the textbook evaluation especially based on the particular criteria from experts. The result of this study are hoped to give the information about the quality of textbook in terms of criteria by Mukundan and Nimehchisalem to support the teacher in selecting the appropriate textbook to be a source in teaching learning process. Moreover, the result of this study related to the what extent that the textbook fit the criteria of a good textbook will be useful as an input for editors/publishers of English textbook for elementary school, who are expected to consider the further revision of the English textbook for better quality. Personally for the researcher, this study can be used as the basis information for conducting further studies under the same topic.

