

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In this rapidly changing world, basic education is crucial for an individual to be able to access and apply information. Many business leaders and also young generation are increasingly asking education systems to prepare students with “21st century” competencies that may help them to face hard challenges now and in the future. Students these days need to acquire the 21st century skills in order to succeed in their careers during the information age. One of the 21st century skills that essential in the age of internet is Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

ICT Competencies have become inseparable human competencies in the 21st Century. The widespread use of ICT in modern societies have influence various sectors. ICT have been used as tools for transforming education systems, providing access to information and expertise to support improvements in agriculture, supporting economic development through the creation of new products and services, health and education, and connecting communities, teachers and students. In addition, The European Commission argued that digital literacy is “increasingly becoming an essential life competence and the inability to access or use ICT has effectively become a barrier to social integration and personal development” (European Commission, 2008: 4). UNESCO (2008) added that ICT competencies

can be categorized as the main competencies of digital literacy, which are correlated to ICTs usage in classroom activities and presentation and comprise the usage of digital tools to gain information, and the use of materials gained from several online sources.

As information communication technology spreads its influence on various aspects of human life, it is clear that educational systems have to consider the importance use of ICT. Developed and developing countries now consider the importance of ICT and try to master the basic skills and the concepts of ICT as a part of the educational process in teaching and learning process. A study by the Australian Department of Education, Science, and Training has been found that ICT policies in most nations are focused on the educational area (Kearns, 2002). Moreover, the Ministry of Education and Culture in Indonesia applies the 2013 Revised 2017 Curriculum. *Kurikulum 2013* (K-13) demands to integrate ICT in all the subjects. It also said in the core competencies that the students are expected to have the ICT competencies for the learning outcomes.

According to UNESCO (2016), ICT provides teachers and students with the resources to collect and analyse data, create multimedia presentations and acquire greater depth of knowledge. In addition, UNESCO (2011) claimed that the increased impact of ICT is due to a dramatic increase in its power. This has been affected by the rapid development of ICT devices. The use of ICT devices such as computers, Internet, television, radio, projectors and mobile phones, e-mail facility, online audio and video conferencing as well as new applications has made the teaching and learning process attractive and convenient.

A huge amount of research has been conducted to understand more the effects of ICT on students' language learning and revealed that the use of ICT in language classes increased the students' enthusiasm and achievement and also made them stay longer on the task. (See Tunstall&Gipps ,1996; David et al., 1997; Moseley et al., 1999; Pacher,1999). In addition, British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta) revealed the positive outcomes and improvement from the integration of ICT in children teaching. Inserting ICT in a learning environment may afford possibilities for interactive learning, it can make students more active also could receive feedback from the teacher and/ or from the ICT tools and thus will improve their understanding and construct new knowledge (Schwartz et al. as cited in committee on Developments in Science Learning: 2000). In line with the current digital era, teachers are required to integrate ICT in their daily teaching and replace their traditional methods with modern tools and facilities.

The integration of ICT competence in education is closely related to the development of the teaching materials. It could be a textbook, institutionally prepared materials or teacher's own material Richards (2001). There are some cases where the teacher choose textbook among other learning materials as the only source that are used in the classroom. Even many scholars believe that teachers mostly rely on textbooks as the main teaching resources in classrooms. Byrd (2001) claims that textbooks provide content and activities that can draw what happens in the classroom. Brown (2000) added that textbooks help them to prepare the lesson. It is increase the dependency of teacher on using textbooks as the main resources of the teaching and learning process. Richards (2001) also stating that textbooks

provide ideas on how to plan and teach lessons. As textbooks play important roles in teaching and learning it should be able to help students learn how to utilize ICT competencies to help them learn English language effectively.

Due to the development of recent technology and the important role of textbooks in teaching and learning process, it will be necessary to look closer on the implementation of ICT affects the teaching and learning process in the classroom by analyzing how the recent English textbooks adopt ICT within the task and material provided to the teacher and students. This paper responds to the need of applying the practice of textbook evaluation to identify how ICT competencies have been addressed by English textbooks. Therefore, the researcher decided to select a book used by public school in Jakarta “I Love Jakarta for 6th grade” and a commercial English textbook used by some private school entitled “Stairway 6: a fun and easy English book”.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, problems can be identified as follow:

1. How ICT competencies have been represented in Elementary school sixth grade English textbooks?
2. Which ICT competencies have been the focus of the English textbooks?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This study aimed at investigating the representation of ICT competencies in English learning materials for six graders of Elementary School and to find out which ICT competencies have been the focus of the English textbooks.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study focused on portraying the electronic materials (hypermedia, multimedia, and communication media) which represent ICT competencies covered in two Elementary school sixth grade English textbooks published by PT. Tiga Serangkai as the representation of the concerns in addressing the issue of ICT competencies development in educational field.

1.5 Significance of the Study

ICT competencies becomes essential in the educational field. Many researchers have conducted the study related to the integration of ICT in the teaching and learning process. However, the study that investigated the integration of ICT competencies in the teaching materials especially textbook is quite hard to find. By doing this research, it can hopefully give the benefits in many aspects such as:

1. Theoritically

The result of this study will give the evidences for the materials development theory especially related to the integration of ICT competencies in English Language Learning materials.

2. Practically

The findings are expected to be the trigger for other researchers to study the concern of Indonesian education in developing ICT competencies to prepare the students to keep up with the rapidly growing of today's modern market.

3. Professionally

The results of this study could provide further information for educational stakeholders in Indonesia related to the ICT competencies representation in the learning materials especially textbook as the main source of teachers. Hopefully it also can motivate teachers to select a high quality textbook that has been incorporated the High Order Thinking Skills and also integrating ICT into the materials.

