CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Vocational high school is a form of formal education unit that organizes vocational education and prepares students to work in certain fields. In vocational high schools, student will be given various materials related to skills of their major. Students from vocational high schools expected to be ready to work in their field after graduation. In law, No.20 of 2003, on National Education System states that the orientation of vocational high schools is to prepare students to be able to take part in the business industry.

The 2013 curriculum in accordance with the minister of education regulation, No. 70 of 2013 states that senior high schools and vocational high schools are basically the same, so the curriculum structure in senior high schools is almost the same as vocational high schools. The 2013 curriculum divides subjects into three groups A, B, and C. Groups A and B are compulsory subjects and group C are specialization subjects. English subjects are included in group A, which are compulsory subjects. In accordance with the 2013 curriculum, English language subjects for senior high schools and vocational high schools are general English.

According to Richards (2001), the needs of students in English for Specific Purpose (ESP) are explained in terms of performance, namely in
terms of what students can do with language at the end of the study. This means that students are taught with the specific material based on their major to prepare them to face the target situation. So, vocational high school is categorized as English for Specific Purposes, because the purpose of learning English is specific, according to their majors. In government regulation, No.29 of 1990, on Secondary Education Article 1, paragraph 3 which states that vocational education is education that promotes the development of students' ability to have special skills.

Need analysis is the first step in designing English for specific purpose programs, such as material and syllabus. In accounting vocational competencies in vocational high school, accounting students learn the process of summarizing, analyzing, and reporting financial transactions. Thus, they find a lot of financial vocabulary in English and they must know the meaning of all the words to understand or present financial report. Therefore, need analysis helps to develop materials that fit with students’ need and field of the study.

Accounting major at SMK N 2 is the most demanded by new students each year. From school data, many students from the accounting major have managed to get achievements for school. Graduates from accounting major at SMK N 2 have been recognized by outsiders to work as, accountant, tellers or cashiers, paymaster, calculating machine operator, warehouse administration, financial report compiler. The researcher would like to know the needs of
students in learning English, and the target needs of accounting students in
learning English at the end of study. Therefore, the researcher thinks it is
worthwhile to conduct a research about students’ needs of English for
Specific Purposes at SMK N 2 Jambi City.

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background of the research, the research questions are
formulates as follows:

1. What are the learning needs of accounting students in learning
   English at SMK N 2 Jambi City?
2. What are the target needs of accounting students in learning
   English at SMK N 2 Jambi City?

1.3 Aims of the Research

The aims of the research are as follows:

1. To describe the learning needs of accounting students in learning English
   at SMK N 2 Jambi City in learning English.

2. To describe the target needs of accounting students in learning English at
   SMK N 2 Jambi City in learning English.

1.4 Significance of the Research

Theoretically, this research will be useful for the students of SMK N 2
Jambi city to understand in order to decide what should they learn to improve
their specific skill in learning English, especially for students of accounting major. Then pedagogically, this research is hoped can be useful for the teachers to give some inputs in deciding and designing the appropriate material for teaching English based on the students’ needs. Practically, this research can give the information about the needs of the accounting students at SMK N 2 Jambi City in learning English.

1.5 Limitation of the Research

This research conducted for the eleventh grade of accounting class at SMK N 2 Jambi city. The subject of this study was eleventh grade students at class AK 1. They were consists of 35 students. The focus of the research was on the learning needs and the target needs of accounting students at SMK N 2 Jambi City in learning English.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Learning needs refers to learners wish and need to learn in language. According to Hutchinson and Waters (1987) learning needs is what the learners need to do in order to learn

2. ESP refers to an approach to language learning that is based on the learners’ needs in learning, and the specific reasons for learning identified from the needs analysis. According to Hutchinson and Waters (1987) ESP is an approach to language learning, where all decisions are based on students' reasons for learning.
3. *Vocational High School* prioritizes students to prepare to enter the world of work, and develop professional attitudes in work. Vocational high school is secondary education which prepares students especially to work in certain fields" (Law of Republic Indonesia, 2003).