

**A Study of Teachers' Opinion on English Textbook "When English Rings the Bell" for Seventh
Graders in SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto**

Tantri Yurista Sari

English Department, Languages and Arts Faculty, State University of Surabaya
10020084210tantri@gmail.com

Kusumarasyati, Ph.D

English Department, Languages and Arts Faculty, State University of Surabaya
unfound.door@ymail.com

Abstrak

Salah satu peralatan belajar mengajar adalah buku teks. Sedangkan buku teks sendiri sangat membantu tugas guru dalam membuat RPP, memberikan inspirasi dalam membuat soal latihan dengan aktivitas yang selaras dengan kurikulum yang digunakan di sekolah. Di samping itu, buku teks juga digunakan oleh siswa untuk mempelajari dan juga mempraktekkan pengetahuan yang telah diberikan oleh guru pada saat pelajaran di sekolah.

Pemerintah secara khusus telah membuat satu buku teks untuk masing masing mata pelajaran, untuk mengatasi permasalahan ekonomi dalam membeli buku teks yang dihadapi oleh orang tua di Indonesia. Bagaimanapun penggunaan buku teks harus memenuhi kriteria sebagai buku yang baik. Sehingga pendapat guru dapat dipertimbangkan sebagai saran untuk analisis buku teks. Penelitian ini fokus kepada pendapat guru mengenai buku teks "*When English Rings the Bell*".

SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto adalah salah satu sekolah yang kini menggunakan kurikulum 2013 dan juga buku teks "*When English Rings the Bell*".

Dari penelitian didapat beberapa informasi mengenai buku teks seperti, pertama guru SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto mempunyai pendapat bahwa buku teks "*When English Rings the Bell*" adalah buku yang baik berdasarkan literature study . Kedua, semua responden mempunyai argument yang hampir sama mengenai buku, contohnya guru harus bisa mempersiapkan sendiri banyak hal yang berhubungan dengan kebutuhan mengajar yang tidak dapat ditemukan di dalam buku. Disamping itu, saran untuk pembuat buku dalam pengembangan buku teks untuk kelas tujuh SMP, mempertimbangkan mengenai pendapat guru karena saran yang positif dapan membangun masa depan yang lebih baik.

Kata Kunci: *Buku Teks, Pendapat, Guru, Kurikulum*

Abstract

One of important teaching and learning equipment is textbook. A textbook created to help both teachers and student in teaching learning process. Textbook is helpful tools for teachers to make lesson plan, giving inspiration to make exercises with activities which is in line with curriculum used in school. In English education for seventh graders is textbook titled “*When English Rings the Bell*”. However the use of textbook must fill some criteria of a good textbook. This study focuses on teachers’ opinion about the textbook “*When English Rings the Bell*”.

SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto is one of school who is currently use 2013 Curriculum and the textbook in Kota Mojokerto . Researcher collected some ideas and also suggestion for teacher about the textbook “*When English Rings the Bell*” as the result.

From the research some information about the textbook such as first the teachers in SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto have opinion that textbook “*When English Rings the Bell*” is a good book based on literature study. The textbook has good visualization. Furthermore, suggestion to the book creator in case of developing textbook for seventh graders and consider about teacher’s opinions because positive suggestion can make better future.

Keyword: *Textbook, Opinion, Teacher, Curriculum*

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia curriculum has been revised regularly with many revisions expected to complete the curriculum design. By the year 2013 a new design of curriculum announced to be used by all education administrators for elementary until senior high school named 2013 Curriculum replacing previous curriculum,

KTSP. This curriculum focuses on scientific approach as learning methodology. And now the curriculum is officially used for some chosen schools for each level in Indonesia.

Remembering the crucial function of a textbook, there are number of various books spread. And each school may have different kind of book used. As Torres (1994) reminds us that

textbook is almost universal element of English teaching. And this is one phenomenon that happened in Indonesia during the previous curriculums. There are so many English textbooks from different publisher providing different textbooks for schools in Indonesia. The English teachers can choose the appropriate textbook which expected to be able to fill students in their school need.

Mostly textbook is can be chosen by approval of some teacher's discussion. Besides textbook, in curriculum KTSP each school can use another media to support teaching learning activity for example, worksheet or LKS (Lembar Kerja Siswa) which most concerns with exercises. But it affects economical problems, because the parents must bought different books for every semester, which is not only in English lesson but also for all lessons. It caused the problem of some Indonesian people mindset that education is expensive.

In 2013 Curriculum education ministry tries to solve this problems by providing the textbook for different lessons in each level. Parents are helped in financial because they do not have to worry about buying many books. In English education, specifically seventh graders textbook entitled "*When English Rings The Bell*" has published. But it is still necessary to be considered that the students in the same

level might have different need in different school. For example, students in SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto which is one of the most favorite school as the oldest junior high school in Mojokerto has different students academic achievement from other junior high schools in Kota Mojokerto.

(Sheldon 1988) argued that ready to use textbook seems to be absolute teacher's responsibility, instead of focusing in day - today decision that have to be made and how to teach it, it is easier to follow the operation which has designed by textbook creator. Moreover teachers must able to adjust themselves to use the content of textbook to help their job not only just following what textbook creator make in the book. Since the textbook is one of important elements of teaching and learning, "*When English Rings The Bell*" as the only textbook used in 2013 Curriculum is highly expected to cover up all the problems.

One year has passed since the first time curriculum and the textbook launched, and now curriculum turns into KTSP again based on education minister in early December 2014. The implementation of 2006 Curriculum is now officially used to replace 2013 Curriculum (peraturan menteri pendidikan dan kebudayaan nomor 106 tahun 2014). In the other hand, for selected school which have implemented 2013 Curriculum for the last two years are able to

continue it, and SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto is one of the selected school.

Due to the decision of education ministry for all region governments to complete the process of providing 2013 Curriculum textbook until the end of December (Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan nomor 179372 tahun 2014). It means that curriculum 213 is still being used until the further information deals with the new curriculum system.

Teacher as the front pioneer is the one who can give evaluation of textbook, moreover, evaluation needed to monitoring the content of textbook for the best education for Indonesian students. Therefore, it is necessary to know how is the teachers' opinion on English textbook "When English Rings The Bell" in for seventh graders in SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto, as the feedback analysis to curriculum 2013 and give some advantages like beneficial input and guidance for those who have responsibility in education development, for example, for teachers who care much about education growth and their students development, for textbook creator.

METHODOLOGY

In line the research question above, descriptive qualitative design is an appropriate design use in this research. According to As Ary (2010) stated that the main approach of qualitative research is to understand and interpret human and social behavior as it is in a particular social setting, in this case is how

teacher uses the book. A survey conducted to three English teachers who have experience in teaching using KTSP and 2013 Curriculum by giving them a scale to analyze the textbook.

This research was conducted in SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto with the subjects are three English teachers from the same education background. The study is inquiring deep in teacher's experiments and situation. The teachers' of SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto were chosen because they have a lot of experience in teaching, they are expected to be able to give opinion about the textbook entitled "When English Rings the Bell" to answer the research question.

SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto was chosen as the setting of the study because this school is favourite junior high school in Kota Mojokerto since it is the oldest school in Mojokerto. Besides, this school is also the first RSBI junior high school in Mojokerto. This school is located in the middle of the town, so it is strategic to reach.

To collect data which were needed for the research, there are two kinds of instruments that were used, questionnaire and interview. In collecting data the Researcher gives a survey to English teachers as a participant in this study through two steps. First, researcher gave questionnaire to three English teachers of SMPN 1 Kota Mojokerto. Next, after answering the questionnaires the researcher conduct structured interview to collect the more complete data

about their opinion on the English textbook “*When English Rings the Bell*”.

The data analyzed by describing the analysis that teacher give in questionnaire. The analysis are: poor, fair, good and excellent. After that researcher will describe it with additional information from the comment which is also part of the test. And then the researcher combine it with the result of teacher's interview to fill the information.

RESULT

The information about teachers' opinion on textbook, gained by questionnaire and interview which given in the same day. However teacher's answer is drawing what they have found, seen, and considered about the book. Their daily activity using the same textbook should be the condition that became their consideration. There are some points that the researcher has got from teacher's statements, also the analysis in the questionnaire which related to some the criteria of good book by Sheldon (1988), the data conclusion become visible as follows:

1. Layout graphics

Question number two in the questionnaire “*penampilan jelas dan menarik: print bagus, mudah dibaca*”. And three teachers give “good” and ‘excellent” which means that the teacher has the similar opinion that the book appearance has fill the criteria.

2. Accessibility

In the question number eight, nine, and twelve contain the point of this criteria are emphasized on book organization to help the students for self learning. Teacher 1 answer “fair” for question eight and nine because she thinks that language features is not really clear and teacher is the one who show the pronunciation without any additional information from the book, and analysis “good” for question number twelve.

Teacher two give answer “good” for question number eight and “fair” for the following question. She also states that the exercise for pronunciation is less. The analysis “excellent” are for question number twelve which means that the book can direct the students for independent use. While the teacher three gives “excellent” for three questions.

3. Linkage

Related to question number seven ten and eleven are about grammar and lexical exercises in the textbook. Teacher 1 analyze fair because she assume that there is no test in the book, while teacher two has opinion that the point is poor because of the same with teacher 1. And teacher three give different answer with excellent.

4. Authenticity

Topic and content are important part of textbook, the relation between EFL and students need in the schools reflected in question number

five and six. Teacher 1 gives analysis “good” for both questions because she thinks that contents in syllabus, systematic based on difficulty level for the students and the teacher. Teacher 2 gives analysis “poor” and “fair” as in her opinion the authenticity is invincible. While teacher three analyze with “excellent”.

5. Cultural Bias

Deals with cultural content, approach to social and education accepted by the environments, is in the question number two. Teacher 1 and 3 analyze with excellent, teacher 2 gives analysis good.

6. Guidance

The teachers need guidance and the ready to use materials in order to assist teachers' job in preparing teaching materials. The guidance is focuses on the teacher as visible in question number one and thirteen. One teacher answers with “fair” and two teachers answer with “fair”. “Because teacher still need to prepare for the material themselves” is the answer that can be interpreted in their different analysis.

7. Availability

Two teachers have both the same opinion and the same reason. “good, because the book is from government”. While one teacher answer “poor” because the distribution service is barely late unlike the expectation.

Questionnaire result shows that the textbook “When English Rings the Bell” is a good book, since teacher’s opinion reflects to each point of good textbook criteria by Sheldon (1899).

Teacher 1

Teacher 1 agree that textbook appearance is attracting to the students so it makes them become active in the class and able to predict the materials that will be given by the teacher. Each picture in the book is relevant and the print is readable. Teacher 1 has opinion that K13 integrated four skills and all of them are covered in this book, if only the teacher wanted to improve one skill the teacher is the one who have to manage it as well.

“A: keempat skill... kalau K13 kan tidak terbagi perskill seperti kurikulum sebelumnya. K13 itu megintegalkan semua skill. Saya rasa tergantung penggunaanya yaitu gurunya masing - masing menitikberatkan pada listening, reading, speaking atau writing karena semua anyanya terintegrasi. Saya kira sudah teraplikasi semua.”

She also interested in the book because it is uses scientific approach methodology on each chapter in the textbook which actually appropriate to curriculum 2013, and the book is very helpful to make lesson plan.

Since the book is designed by education ministry, she believe that the content is filled with some good activities, but it is depend on the teacher who taught using the book whether they are able to make classroom more effective using it. Since K13 is still fresh and then some teachers are still mix into with the previous curriculum.

The last from teacher 1 is about her suggestion for textbook development is about the additional number of exercises. Moreover a book and audio video should be in one packaging, to make teacher's job easier in preparing teaching media. The researcher takes from teacher 1 that the grade "good textbook".

Teacher 2

Teacher 2 sees that there are some skills that didn't exist in the book such as listening and reading, so she used to use from other source to teach those skills. Because she thinks that depend on the book will be difficult to teach four skills, it is belongs to teacher's own effort.

Teacher 2 puts her attention to the distribution of the book, because her students only get one book for two students, so they need to lend the book to their friends regularly.

"A: untuk buku ini murid kami baru kebagian satubuku untuk dua anak jadi ya belum dapat semuanya dan kebetulan tidak banyak latihan jadi mereka tidak perlu memfotokopi jadi satu buku untuk dua anak ini cukup, kecuali ketika

saya memberi worksheet sendiri itu masing - masing anak satu."

Luckily the material isn't too complicated, so when the teachers must have to give some exercise she copies it for each students.

Suggestion from teacher 2, she is still stands to her comment above that there must be more exercises in the book for all skills. Because she finds instruction to develop listening, speaking, and writing skills but there is no any specific exercise for those skills.

1. Teacher 3

From teacher 3, said that physical appearance of the book is good and able to attract student's mood to learn.. In addition, he also felt that textbook is lack of exercises and the teacher must be creative to make further exercise. The visual media in the book is able to stimulate the students to wondering about the materials. That few exercises require teachers not only creative but also they must be critical in determining the materials which represent each skill. He grades good in layout but not for late distribution. Teacher 3 has one suggestion that should be there is more text for reading skill in textbook.

"A: reading teksnya ditambah lah supaya teksnya lebih variatif."

The only statements when researcher asked about suggestion, because he additionally

said that reading text for the skill is less than it should.

Technically three respondents in this case the teachers have near ideas but different way to express them. The researcher has captured their main point and concluded them. From all the findings above, based on the interview from three different teachers in different time, there are some similarity opinions:

1. Textbook layout/appearance is good and able to stimulate students to understand the materials that will be given so it helped teaching and learning process.
2. The three teachers emphasized their suggestion to increase the amount of exercise in the book. Therefore the teachers needed to make another exercise to solve it.
3. There is instruction to increase each of four skills in the textbook in the other hand there is something missing for example: listening exercise, reading passage.
4. Textbook is very helpful in order to create lesson plan.
5. In creating learning materials is also depend on teacher's creativity.

The similarity answers show that their actual mind about the textbook "*When English Rings the Bell*" is in one path, specifically in those problems above. Though the different

expression in classifying the book as good and fair book. Teacher's answer has defined how the textbook "*When English Rings the Bell*" is.

SUGGESTION

After finishing this research, the researcher would like to suggest to the teacher to be more creative in material management, despite of something which teacher thinks it is helpful for teaching and learning material but still unable to find in "*When English Rings the Bell*" the teacher must able to cover it by creates or adapt from other references. Based on the result of the study above, in case of developing textbook for seventh graders students researcher suggests to the book creator to create materials which is related to 2013 Curriculum and consider about teacher's opinions because positive suggestion can make better future. Besides, the researcher suggests to other researchers to conduct a similar study, because in the following years there will always be new textbooks which need evaluation especially for the revised curriculum in the future.

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