

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, scope of study, the statement of problem, the purpose of study, the significance of the study, and the definition of key term.

A. The Background of the Study

Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication. Language is the expression of human thoughts¹. Language is very important to human to communicate with the other even language has important role in this world. Law, religion, government, education, the family all are carried out with language. Therefore, language holds on the important aspect in our society. Without language, there will be misunderstanding on our communication and we can't understand each other.

Every language has three basic language components those are phonology, vocabulary and grammar. In language learning, a good language learner must be ever conscious of these. Phonology is the first of the three basic language components. It has to do with the sound system of a language. Every language has its own unique sound system. It is a system in the sense that it can be analyzed by a linguist who can determine which sounds and sound combinations are normally made in said language and in what positions in words or phrases. For example, native speakers of French make a sound not normally heard in English. It is a

¹ William Downes, *Language and Society* (Cambridge University Press, 1984), 2.

sound that can be made by rounding one's lips and keeping them rounded while attempting to pronounce the name of the fifth letter of the English alphabet.

Phonology is a branch of linguistics concerned with the systematic organization of sounds in languages.² It has traditionally focused largely on study of the systems of phonemes in particular languages. In this study the writer will focus on pronunciation where pronunciation has feature phonemes and suprasegmental features³. According to Kenneth L. Pike (1963: 63) *a phoneme is one of the significant unit of sounds, or a contrastive sound unit*⁴ L. Bloomfield (1961: 79) said that, "*a minimum unit of distinctive sound feature is a phoneme.*"⁵ In phonology, phoneme is divided into two kinds those are consonants and vowels. In English language consonant has 24 members and vowels has 20 members. Vowels itself is divided into pure vowels that has 12 members and diphthong that has 8 members. Learning a pronunciation in mastering language is important, because the goal from learning language is we can use language in both oral and written language.

Here the writer will focus on vowels error pronunciation. There are vowels in both Indonesian and English, but they are quite different in pronunciation, especially in phoneme and articulation. Because of the differences between English and Indonesian vowel, the students are not aware of the lack of long and short vowels in English so that when they pronounce the English words they often make many mistakes in both of consonant sound and vowel sound.

² Courses.nus.edu.sg/course/elltankw/history/Phon/A.htm (accessed on 16 oct 20.05)

³ Gerrad kelly, *How to Teach Pronunciation* (USA:longman group UK limited,2000), 1.

⁴ Masnur Muslich. *Fonology bahasa indonesia:Tinjauan Deskriptif Sistem Bunyi Bahasa Indonesia*(jakarta: Bumi Aksara,2009), 77.

⁵ Ibid

Pronunciation is very important in learning a language. Every language will always use pronunciation because commonly when we communicate with the other people we prefer use spoken language than written language. If you do not have a good pronunciation you will make the other people confuse. There are many words in English which has similarity in written but symbols and pronunciation is different. If you miss in pronouncing word in English this word may have other meaning that will make the other people confuse.

Every human in the world has different characteristic and there is no one that precisely same with us; even the twins in the world that has same gender and same blood in their body also different. The differences like that will make human in the world have difficulty in pronouncing new languages that they have learn as foreign language. In English there are 24 consonants and 12 vowels in its phoneme. Indonesian learners will have difficulties in learning vowels pronunciation because in Indonesia they just have 5 vowels and from these five vowels the pronunciation is different and clear, but it is quite different with English language that has variation in its vowels.

Actually every human is teacher of pronunciation because they always use a pronunciation when they speak by using language that they have. They also have already mastered pronunciation since they learnt their native language. Pronunciation is very important in learning language moreover for the students that learn foreign language. As a teacher to be mastering good pronunciation in foreign language that they have learnt is really important because as a teacher we will become as model of our students. Most of the students always imitate their teacher when they are learning. This condition is called as behaviorism theory,

because they imitate from the teacher and remember it and then make it as their habitual. If the teacher is not good enough in their ability in pronunciation, it will influence to their student. So here learning pronunciation is really important because we are undergraduate students of STAIN Kediri exactly in English department will be a teacher someday and we will teach our students.

B. The Scope of Study

This study will focus on the errors that have been made by the student when they pronounce English vowels. Through the occurrence of errors we can know the students' pronunciation skill. This research will take place on STAIN KEDIRI in English department and the subject of research will be from first year, second year, third year and the fourth year. The researcher will take some people from each grade to represent their grade.

C. Statement of the Problems

In this research the writer formulates the statement of the problems as follow:

1. How is the development of vowel pronunciation skill of English department students of STAIN Kediri?"
 - a. How is the development of vowel pronunciation skill of freshmen students?
 - b. How is the development of vowel pronunciation skill of sophomore students?

- c. How is the development of vowel pronunciation skill of junior students?
 - d. How is the development of vowel pronunciation skill of senior students?
2. What are the causes of the errors made by the student?

D. Purpose of Study

Based on the problem of the study above, the purpose of the study is:

The purpose of this study is to present an analysis of pronunciation errors encountered by STAIN's undergraduate students. The study is about an investigation the error of pronunciation English vowel made by the first until the fourth years undergraduate students. This study is concerned only the vowels system in English. This research hoped that in the present day findings the problems in error of pronunciation English vowel can help the language teacher to improve their student awareness and understand the differences vowels sound in English.

E. Significance of Study

1. The teachers

It hoped that the result of this research can motivated the teacher to select the best method to transfer their knowledge to the students, so that the student will gain knowledge correctly.

2. The students

The students are hopefully motivated to practice English better, build self confidence and rising their natural performance like native speakers do in normal communication

F. Definition of Key terms

1. Vowel

A vowel is defined as a voiced sound in forming which the air issues in a continuous stream through pharynx and mouth, there being no obstruction and no narrowing such as would cause audible friction⁶. In English there are 12 members of vowels and 8 diphthongs⁷.

2. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is the way in which a language or a particular word or sound is spoken.

3. Development

Development is a specified state of growth or advancement. Here the development that is emphasized by writer is the advancement of students during their experiences in learning English about their skill in vowels pronunciation.

⁶ Daniel Jones, *An Outline of English phonetics* (Cambridge University, 1918) 23.

⁷ Gerrald Kelly, *How to Teach Pronunciation*, 2.