

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Pronunciation often gets pushed to the bottom of the list. Many lecturer says there is just not enough time to teach pronunciation. Students often think it is not that important. But, if students want to speak English understandably, pronunciation is important. The days when learners only reading and writing skills in English are past. Many of students will need to speak and understand English in real life to communicate with both native speakers of English and speakers of other languages. Even if their grammar and vocabulary are strong, if their pronunciation is not easy to understand, their communication will fail. So, pronunciation English course help learners improve their English pronunciation. teacher should be accurately trained in pronunciation to improve their learners' english pronunciation.

According to Azkia (2016), pronunciation is one of the most important things in learning English as a foreign language. It is the first and most important thing native speakers notice during a conversation. A mistake that is made in pronouncing sounds may rise misunderstanding in communication. It is related to the Holy Qur'an verse Al-Muzammil:4, as follow:

أَوْزِدْ عَلَيْهِ وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلاً

From the verse, it is known that the Almighty commands us to pronounce each word in Holy Qur'an clearly according to the rule. Many cases of misunderstanding in communication are caused by the mispronouncing of words or the improper intonation.

According to Fatmawaty (2016), pronunciation is absolutely crucial in learning language including English. It has significant role in determining the degree of literacy in one's communication with others. In as much as to talk with another people one must pronounce words. Yet, pronunciation problem is common language in learning foreign language, including English.

In English pronunciation, silent letters are an informal term for a letter the alphabet (or a letter combination) that are usually left unpronounced, such as the *b* in *subtle*, the *c* in *scissors*, the *g* in *design*, the *t* in *listen*, and the *gh* in *thought*. Also called a *dummy letter*. Therefore, a silent letter in a word is one that is written but not pronounced, such as the "b" in "doubt".

In the process of learning foreign language, learners often face a number of difficulties. The difficulties are related to learning new, new vocabulary, and various ways of arranging words into sentences in a new language. Learning English for students of English Department at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin is a difficult matter. This is because their habits in using local language (Banjarese) is said to be strong, so it is difficult for them to change it. As a result, they simply apply the pattern and the

phonemic rules of Banjarese language into language. This causes interference. In detail, the interference is caused by many difference is caused by many differences between the two language, namely Banjarese language and English. Banjarese language has 3 vowels, while English has 12 vowels. Banjarese language only has 3 diphthongs, whereas English has 8 diphthongs. Banjarese language only has 18 consonants, while English has 24 consonants. Given that the students' habit in speaking banjarese language has been strong and there many difference phenomenon cannot be avoided, which is, in this case, phonemic interference.

Banjarese people speaks with various sounds of their mother tangu, accent, rhythm, intonation, and their expressions in everyday interaction. Banjarese language is a language that is spoken by banjarese people in South Kalimantan,as mother tongue or first language.

Benefit of Silent Letters is necessary to help us to distinguish homophonems. Although the context usually tell us which word was meant, coming across an isolated word may result in doubts about the actual meaning. In written form, silent letters help us tell apart words, such as *hour/our*, *know/now*, *two/too*, *knight/night*, *write/rite*. Their actual function was to draw a line between grammatical and lexical words. The Old English scribe left grammatical words short because of their frequent occurrence and these had to be somehow differentiated from similarly looking lexical words.

To conclude, silent letters perform a host of function in English and after taking a close look at them, it appears that they are not just a hindrance to pronunciation but can be beneficial.

Based on the background information above, the researcher is interest to make research entitle **"BANJARESE STUDENTS' PROBLEMS IN PRONOUNCING SILENT LETTERS."**

### **B. Research Question**

This research is done in order to answer the following problem”:

What are Banjarese students’ problems in pronouncing silent letters in English Department at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?

### **C. Objective of Study**

The purpose of this research is: to know the Banjarese students’ problems in pronouncing silent letters in English Department at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

### **D. Significance of Study**

The result of this research are expected to contribute to the field as follows:

1. To give information how the students ability in pronouncing silent letters in the English Department at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
2. Give clear information to English lecturers who want to know about their students’ ability in pronouncing English silent letters.

3. Benefit of silent letters for the next researcher help develop better understanding of the English language. The letters that are to be silent are determined in the context of where they occur in the word.

#### **E. Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid any misinterpretation toward the title in this research, the researcher will clarify the title as follows:

1. Banjarese students' problems

Which is mean in this research is the problems which is encountered by Banjarese students in pronouncing silent letters.

2. Silent letters

Silent letters are English words that are not pronounced. In English pronunciation, silent letters is an informal term for a letter in alphabet (or a letter combination) that is usually left unpronounced, such as a, b, c, d, e, g, h, gh, I, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, u, and w.