

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

English is taught as a foreign language in Indonesia. Thus, students only get English at school. It makes them get difficulties when learning this language. So, students do mistakes and errors in learning this language both of skills and components. Language has four skills: speaking, listening, and writing, and three components: grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

As one of language components, pronunciation needs to be known by the students but, the reality, Indonesian learners could not produce English words correctly. They get confused when producing English words. It is because there are differences between Bahasa Indonesia and English. The first is differences in the number of vowel sounds. Bahasa Indonesia have six vowel sounds namely /i/, /u/, /o/, /a/, /e/, and /ə/ while English has twelve vowel sounds; /i:/, /ɪ/, /e/, /æ/, /ʌ/, /ɑ:/, /ɒ/, /ɔ:/, /ʊ/, /u:/, /ɜ:/, and /ə/. The second is English is known as inconsistent language. For example words *good* this word should be pronounced as /ɡʊd/. contrary, Bahasa Indonesia is consistent language. The way words were spelling is the way to be pronounced. For example *tadi* it should be pronounced /tadi/. In addition, English has tense and lax sound while Bahasa Indonesia does not.

There are so many languages in the world, one of them is English. It is one of the international languages that is spoken by many people all over the world and in so many areas of every day life. It is also learned by most people in many countries, either as mother tongue (first), language or as a second or foreign

language. English is different from Indonesia language, especially in pronunciation.

The statements above indicate how very important the function of foreign language, especially English, and it is the reason that English has to be studied hard. But the important problem here is how the people speech can be understood if there a lot of error in pronouncing the word. Now it is realized how very importance of correct pronunciation to avoid misunderstanding when people speak English.

Pronunciation is one of the components that are recognized in analysis of speech production. It is related to the Holy Koran verse Al-Qiyamah: 16 - 18, as follow:

لَا تُحْرِكْ بِهِ لِسَانَكَ لِتَعْجَلَ بِهِ ۚ إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا جَمْعَهُ وَقُرْآنَهُ ۚ فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَهُ فَاتَّبِعْ قُرْآنَهُ ۚ

From the verse, it is known that Allah the Almighty commands us to pronounce each word on Quran clearly according to the rule. Actually, in English has the rule too that should be known by someone who want to masters it, especially for students at English Language Education.

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 other people one must pronounce words. Yet, pronunciation problems are common in learning foreign languages, including English.

In Indonesia, English is the first foreign language that is considered important for facing this globalization era. In learning English, a good pronunciation is important because different pronunciation may have different meaning, and the wrong pronunciation can make misunderstanding in conversation. For Indonesian students, English is the first foreign language they learn. Furthermore, it seems that they seldom use English in daily conversation. They will speak in English if they are involved in a certain situation.

The pronunciation of English can not be separated by aspect of speech, an activity carried on by people who use English for communicating. On the other hand, it is an aspect of language, a code which exists, handed down from the past with slight changes made by each generation, something that is known by those who speak and understand English. For one thing, the voice has characteristics which may carry extra messages. More important, speech is an activity which is carried on in numerous events. Language is knowledge, a code which is known and shared by people who use their knowledge for transmitting and interpreting messages in these events. When someone is speaking, anyone who is close enough can hear the sound waves set up in the air by the speaker reach the eardrums of the hearer. But only a person who knows the language can understand what is said. Because pronunciation is a part of speech and it is important, it needs information and concepts of pronunciation that drawn from two disciplines, phonetics and phonology (Kreidler, 2004, p.3).

Based on Ramelan (1999, p.5-7), as a non-native speaker of English, Indonesians students often make errors in pronunciation. The first reason is the

different elements between target language and native language. The problem in pronouncing English words may be caused by the similar sounds between native language (L1) and target language (L2) with slightly different quality. The other reason is the same sounds between native language and target language but allophonic in target language. The same sounds between native language and target language when occurring in cluster may cause Indonesian's students pronounce English words difficulty. In addition, the last reason the problem is the same sounds having different distributions.

The English consonants are usually classified according to their place and manner of articulation. The diagram opposite, much conventionalized, shows the organs used in their articulation (Brown, 2009, p.58).

To produce consonant sounds the air coming from the lungs through the mouth (the vocal tract) is totally or partially impeded or obstructed somewhere along its path. Consonant may be classified into sets or classes on the basis of three phonetic criteria or features, namely the places of articulation, the manner of articulation, and the presence or absence are the lips, the tongue tip and blade, and the back of the tongue. Fricatives is one of the part in manner of articulation, it is one of the main parameters in the phonetics or phonology classification of speech sounds, referring to the kind of articulatory process used in a sound's production (Husin, 2013, p.5-6).

Most of Indonesian students have problems in producing some of the English sounds and some of them are fricative consonants [f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ]. An Indonesian student, in learning English, is likely to have difficulty in pronouncing

the English fricatives [f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ] since these sounds are not used by most Indonesian speakers in speaking their language (Ramelan, 1985, p.119). Pronunciation becomes very essential in learning English because when we make mistakes in pronouncing the English words, the listener may not understand what we mean. Based on the reason above, the writer interested to make a research entitled **“An Analysis of Students’ Errors in Pronouncing English Fricatives at IAIN Antasari English Department”**.

B. Statement of Problem

Based on the background above, the problem:

1. What are the dominant errors in fricatives pronounced by the Sixth Semester Students of English Department at IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin?

C. Objective of Study

Regarding to the problems above, specifically the study is aimed at:

1. To know the dominant errors fricatives word pronounced by the Sixth Semester Students of English Department at IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

D. Significance of Study

The significances of this study are:

1. Give clear information for English teachers who want to know about students’ ability in pronouncing English fricatives.

2. Give information, consideration and input for the students especially for improving the pronunciation of English fricatives and avoiding them from making mispronunciation.
3. Enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in the specific study especially about pronunciation English fricatives.
4. The research is also useful to enrich literary sources in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies' library. It includes Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training's library and also institute library.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Analysis is the effort and the process of outlining a subject matter.
2. Students' error is regarded as everything that is wrongly answered by students in doing pronunciation test.
3. Pronunciation is to speak words or sounds, especially in certain way (Chambers, 1998, p. 385). The pronunciation which discussed in this study is related to pronouncing English fricatives.
4. English fricatives, also called spirants, are articulated by forcing breath through a narrow opening—a slit or a groove (Brown, 2009, p.60-61).