

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

Human is social being that can not live alone. To fulfill their necessities of live they need to communicate with their colloquial. One of beauty that was given by Allah the Almighty to the human is language because language is an implementation of communication.

Roud Sadri states that “Language is a medium to express an inner will opinion and feeling which are expressed orally or with symbol according to certain purposed of human.”¹ Normally, through language people can express the idea, gain something such as giving information, interact with the other people, control the attitude and make an imaginative world”.² Furthermore, language is the means by which result of human thought and action are passed on.³

Through language human being can receive and transmit message, so, that they can know each other. A language is not only used to know each other but also needed to develop science and technology. Mary Mc Groarty also said “Language is an intimate part of social identity”.⁴

¹Panlin Tomasouw, *Cross Cultural Understanding*, (Jakarta: Karunika, 1986), first edition, p. 1.

² Leonard Bloomfield, *Outline Guide for the Practical Study of foreign Language*, (Baltimore: 1992), p. 22.

³Mary Finocchiaro, *English a Second Language from Theory Practice*, (New York, Regent Publishing Company, inc 1974), p. 3.

⁴Sandra Lee Mc and Nancy N. Homberger, *Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching*, (Cambridge: University Press, 1996), p. 3.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ
 أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ (١٣)

The verse says people that have to know to one another. The variety of languages in the world, there are many ethnic, country in the world. These varieties forced people to learn languages. Nowadays, to communicate with other counties is a must. Thus, learning foreign language is not only a kind of obedience to Allah, but also a necessity.

Learning a foreign language is an integrated process that the learner may not ignore or more aspect of the four basic skills, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. All of those skills have their own way to master them; Alexander also stated that the students must be trained adequately in all four basic languages.⁵

English has very essential position of communication among people. English is used as an international language. It also becomes the language that most frequently used in modern science and technology. English has the largest number of user all over the world.

Language has some characteristic; two of them are that all languages are meaningful and sound.⁶ The reason of people interested in studying language is that the sound produced in speech is connected with almost every fact of human life and communication. There is a relation between the kind of sounds speaker of various languages make and their cultural setting.

⁵L. G. Alexander, *Practice and Progress an Integrated Course for Intermediate Students*.

⁶Raja T. Nasr, *The Essential of Linguistic Science: Selected and Simplified Reading*. (England, 1978) p.9

Every language especially for English has sound. The statement that language especially is sound may appear natural, because the most common experience all people have of language is in speaking and listening. Every word that we speak of course makes a sound.

The study of how sound are organized and used in natural languages is called phonology.⁷Phonology is essential the description of the systems and patterns of speech sound in a language. Phonology is concert with the aspect of sound in language. The phonological of a language includes rules which specify how sound interact with each other.⁸

Remembering the significance of English, it is important for students to learn English because in their learning activity, students must read a lot and speak fluently, also master all of English grammar. Speaking and reading can not be separated with skill in pronouncing the English conversation.

When someone masters a large number of words of the target language and rules of how these words are put together to become sentences, but fail to produce the correct sound of the word, he or she will not be understood by other users of the language. This means that mastering grammar rules and vocabularies of language but unable to pronounce them correctly will hinder and a learner of language to communicate other speaker of that language.

⁷ <http://www.sil.org/Linguistics/2009/03/11>

⁸George, Yule. *The Study of Language.*(Australia: Cambridge University Press, 1985), p. 44.

Pronunciation is one of part important skill in English language. Good pronunciation can make the listener and speaker understand each-other what do they talking about. And bad pronunciation can create misunderstanding between listeners and speakers. For Indonesia learners of English case is also true with English of which has different sound system for Indonesian language.

The sound have to pronounce when someone communicate, but there is scientific study about the ways make a sound is known as pronunciation. Pronunciation in English is one of scientific study that pointed to two fields, namely phonetics and phonology. Phonetic refers to the study of speech sounds (hearing and produce them), and phonology is the features of sound in a language are systematically structured. They are divided into two main branches "First, The branch of segmental features including consonant and vowels and, second the branch of supra segmental features including stress, intonation, pause, juncture, and rhythm.

Consonants are opposite of vowel and the meaning of consonants here does not refer to the consonants found in English alphabet, but the word consonant is phonemic, in other word, the consonant that are produce orally as sound.

Vowels are some letters that are produced by articulation that makes sounds, and the number vowels are about fourteen that arranges in point of articulation in the mouth and it is pointed to chart of vowels namely: 1. front, central, back, high, mid and low refer to the position of the tongue in the mouth, 2. rounded and rounded refer to shape of the lips and, 3. close and open refer to relative opening of the jaw.

Vowel has some branches in phonetic, they are:

Vowel height is named for his vertical position of the tongue relative to either the roof of the mouth or the aperture of the jaw. In high vowels, such as [i] and [u] , the tongue is positioned high I the mouth. The IPA prefers the term close and open vowel, respectively, which describes the jaw as being relatively open or closed.

The International Phonetic Alphabet identifies six different vowel heights:

- a. Close vowel (high vowel)
- b. Near-close vowel
- c. Close-mid vowel
- d. Mid vowel
- e. Near open vowel
- f. Open vowel (low vowel)

Vowel blackness is named for position of the tongue during the articulation of a vowel relative to the back of the mouth. In front vowels, such as [u], the tongue is positioned toward the back of the mouth.

The international phonetic identifies five different degrees of vowel blackness':

- a. Front vowel
- b. Near front vowel
- c. Central vowel
- d. Near back vowel
- e. Back vowel

Roundedness refers to whether the lips are rounded or not. In most languages, roundedness is a reinforcing feature of mid to high back vowels, and is not distinctive. Usually the higher a back vowel is the more intense the rounding.⁹

The phenomenon of pronouncing vowel sounds can be observed easily in MAN 3 Haruai Tabalong academic year 2009/2010. It is because the all of the students at MAN 3 Haruai Tabalong more influence by Banjarese accent. On the other hand, Banjarese, especially Haruai people has unique accent, unique intonation, and long intonation. They have difficulties to pronounce vowel sounds like o, e, æ, ^. It is caused by all of the students of MAN 3 Haruai Tabalong have the habits speak Banjarese at the school, besides there is no rule of the school which obligate for the students to speak in foreign language outside of the English class, school, and their environment. The foreign language is learned formally in the class only. It means that the second grade of MAN 3 Haruai Tabalong academic year 2009/2010 have to use the foreign language in the class only. So, if they speak in a foreign language their native language will influence in using foreign language, especially in pronouncing the vowel sound

From the writer's pre observation it is found that at MAN 3 Haruai - Tabalong, there are many students who still un-able to pronounce vowel sound in English word correctly. For example: red become "rid".

⁹<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/vowel/2009/12/07>

Based on the problem above, the writer is interested in getting a research in script from with title: “THE STUDENTS’ ABILITY IN PRONUNCING VOWEL SOUNDS AT THE SECOND GRADE OF MAN HARUAI TABALONG ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010”.

To avoid any misinterpretation towards the title, the writer needs to explain some term in the title as follows:

1. The ability means the skill or power that student’s faced in mastering pronunciation in conversation and how to teaching to develop pronunciation skill.
2. Pronouncing from word pronounce it means make the sound of a word or letter in particular way.¹⁰ In this study, pronounce means how to students say some words with particular way according to certain phonetic symbols of each sound.
3. Vowel sounds means some letters that is produced by articulation that make sounds. The word vowel comes from the Latin word vocalic, meaning “speaking” because in most languages words and thus speech are not possible without vowels. Vowel is commonly used to mean both vowel sounds and written symbols that represent. Vowel is speech sound in which the mouth is open and the tongue is not touching the top of the mouth, the teeth, etc. example: α ., e, o, etc.¹¹

¹⁰A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced learners Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press 1995), p. 331.

¹¹*Ibid.*, fifth edition, p. 1334.

But in this research, the writer determined for four vowels, they are sound /æ/, /e/, /ʌ/, and /o/ in initial, medial, and final position.

Actually, in phonetic a vowel is a sound in spoken language, such as English ah! [a:] or oh [ou] pronounced with an vocal tract so that there is no built up of air pressure at any point above the glottis.

The writer has chosen four vowels to observe, because they have related with the language condition of students of MAN 3 Haruai.

These vowels are:

1. The vowel [æ] is low close front unrounded vowel. Example: add /æd/
2. The vowel [e] is mid open front unrounded vowel. Example: end /end/
3. The vowel [ʌ] is mid open central unrounded vowel. Example: up /ʌp/
4. The vowel [o] is mid open back rounded vowel. Example: bond /bond/¹²

B. Statement of Problem

Concerning with the topic/title above, the problem of this research is about :the student ability in pronouncing vowel sounds” on English word or English sentence. This problem is formulated as follow: How is students’ ability in pronouncing vowel sounds at the second grade of MAN 3 Haruai Tabalong academic year 2009/2010?

¹²Raja T. Nasr, *op.cit.*, p. 36-37.

C. Reason for Choosing the Title

There are some reasons make the writer to conduct the title, they are:

1. Student's ability in pronouncing vowel sounds is very important to avoid misunderstanding in communication.
2. English is one of most popular languages in the world that has become the main communication device in the field of science and technology.
3. Pronunciation is one of the parts which must be mastered by English learner to master speaking skill.

D. Purposes of Research

The purpose of this research is: To know the student's ability in pronouncing vowel sounds at the second grade MAN 3 Haruai Tabalong academic year 2009/2010

E. Significance of Research

1. As one input for students to improve their ability in pronouncing vowel sounds on English conversation.
2. Be an information and input for the teacher, especially English teacher to develop learning process.
3. To identify the nature of problems and the manner can find some method to eliminate and to solve the problem.

F. Organization of Content

This study divided into five chapters as follows:

The first chapter contains introduction that involves: rationale, statement of the problems, and reason for choosing the title, purpose of research, significance, and organization of contents.

The second chapter contains theoretical review on related field which involves: Perception and production of speech, The English vowels, The Indonesian vowels, Banjarese vowels.

The third chapter contains method of research which involves population and sample, data and source of data, techniques of data collection, processing and data analysis, and research procedure.

The fourth chapter contains report of research result which involves general description about the object research, presentation of data, and data analysis.

The fifth chapter contains closing from the research which involves conclusion and suggestion.