# CHAPTER I
# INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. It contains the background of the research, statement of problem, research objectives, research significance, definition of keyterm, and organization of writing.

## 1.1 Background of the Research

Language is dynamic that can change through time. Therefore, a language can grow, develop, and also change over time. Changes in language are also caused by the attachment of language to humans because human life is always changing, so language also changes. Language also changes along the development of people, technology and circumstances.

The change of language can be actually observed by linguistics as the science that studies a language. It is under comparative linguistic or Historical Comparative Linguistic that this phenomenon can be identified. Historical Comparative Linguistics is a branch of linguistics that questions language in the field of time and changes in elements of language that occurs over time. In Historical Comparative Linguistics, data from a language or more are studied, at least in two periods. "These data are compared carefully to obtain the rules of change that occur in the language" (Keraf, 1996: 22).

Language changes can cover all aspects, namely morphology, phonology, syntax, and lexicon. These changes occur gradually and do not occur at once. Therefore many people are not aware of these changes, especially in changing words and even pronunciation. Morphology is the sciences of linguistics that discusses word changes. Morphology studies such patterns of word formation and within languages and attempts to explicate formal rules reflective of the knowledge of the speakers of those languages. In terms of pronunciation, people often do not understand and know how to pronounce well. Therefore, phonology is the sciences of linguistics that discusses pronunciation

procedures. Phonology tells us about sounds in language and explains certain phonetic features to identifying a word.

Changes that gradually make a language look different from time to time. There are several significant differences between morphology and phonology both in middle and modern English. Middle English is period of early fundamental changes of English language. van Gelderen (2014: 111) says that Middle English is usually considered around 1150-1500. It is begun since the synthetic character of Old English starts to change.

There are many developments in Modern English. van Gelderen (2014: 206) explains that around 1700 English becomes more recognizable for speakers of Modern English. The spelling is relatively stable and changes such as the GVS (Great Vowel Shifting) are nearing completion in many varities. There are several same literary works that written in two different periods. The differences of both texts are showed by several aspects such as word, pronunciation, grammatical and vocabulary. Certainly text in Modern English looks easier to be understood than Middle English.

Research about comparative linguistics was previously written by several researchers. Ramadhan (2015) with the title of the research "Comparative Linguistics of The Middle and Modern English Words in Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (A Morphological Analysis)". The results of data analysis show that words with a final *-e* in Middle English have lost in Modern English as the result of GVS (Great Vowel Shifting). In Modern English, *nouns* have *-s* and *-es* endings as a sign of plural forms, these replace *-en* plural ending in Middle English. The first and third person *pronouns* have a similar form, the changes are drawn by the second person pronouns *thou*, *ye, thee*, and *yow* are replaced by *you* in Modern English. *Adjectives* have lost a final *-e* in Modern English. The transformation of *verbs* is shown by the replacement of *-eth* inflectional ending. It is replaced by *-s* or *-es* in Modern English. *Adverbs* have no replacement of inflectional endings. The *-ly* ending is found in both periods as a sign of adverbs.

Nurjakiah (2014) with the tittle of the research "The Comparative of Words In British And American-English Version Study of Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone And Harry Potter And The Sorcerer's Stone". The result shows that there are one hundred fifty one words of the differences between American and British English from the two novels in spelling, pronunciation, and vocabulary. The differences of American and British English in spelling word using using *–or / -our*, words ending *–re / -er,* words ending *–ise / -ize.* Then, in pronunciation, there are pronunciation of "r", pronunciation of "a" word change from [ɑ:] to [æ], pronunciation word using "o" change from [ɒ] to [ɑ:], pronunciation of "t" word change from [t] to [t̬].

Renawati (2013) with the title of the research "Analysis of the Structure of English in Drama Coriolanus by William Shakespeare". This research examines the range of structures presented by Shakespeare very strongly influenced by the general tendency of the Elizabeth period when the transition from Middle English to Modern English was taking place. The results of this study can be concluded that the structure of the English language and the types of sentences cannot be separated from external influences, and this is evident in the dynamic patterns in Shakespeare's Coriolanus, as a representation of Elizabeth's English period.

Then Suwardi (2007) with the title of the journal "The Development of English Adjectives From Old English to Modern English". In the discussion it is found that the Old English adjective had inflectional modification to indicate numbers, genders, cases, and degrees of comparisons, and there was a distinction of weak and strong declensions. In Middle English, most of the declensional distinctions were lost, the general tendency of the language being to drop all suffixes. Adjectives in Modern English do not change their forms to show changes in number, case or gender; and only a few adjectives of the pronominal class possess meanings which indicate number. One, and every, each modify singular nouns while several, few, many modify only plural substantives. In modern English no adjective is capable of indicating gender or case.

As the time changes rapidly and languages become more diverse, therefore we must follow the development of the era and understand each language because the change of language is very important for us to know. Therefore the researcher is interested in examining the change of language by using one of the linguistic sciences, namely, comparative linguistics which object is the selected poems as Confessio Amantis by John Gower, Pearl by Pearl Poet.

Confessio Amantis is a late 14$^{th}$ century poem by John Gower. In Confessio Amantis makes use of the structure of a Christian confession (presented allegorically as a confession of sins against Love) as a narrative frame within which a multitude of individual tales are told. Like Gower's previous works, the theme is very much morality, even where the stories themselves have a tendency to describe rather immoral behavior. One scholar asserts that Confessio Amantis "almost exclusively" made Gower's poetic reputation. Confessio Amantis poetry has been updated into modern English by Richard Brodie.

Then Pearl is a 14th-century Middle English poem that is considered one of the most important Central English works that still exists. With medieval allegory elements and the dream vision genre, the poem was written in a variety of Mid-West Midlands Middle English. The author is unknown, so the author of this poem is only called the Pearl Poet. Then the poem was updated into the modern language of English by Bill Stanton.

Both of these poems come from the middle English, where when in the modern era the second English changed. Both are also written by famous writers in the middle of the English era. For this research, the researcher, choose those poems because they are "rich" of the words that are different and refer to the refer to the same meaning and vice versa.

Based on the background of the research, the researcher takes the title "Morphophonological Changes Contained In The Words of Middle And Modern English Version In Selected Poems".

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

The problem of this research is the change of words and phonology in the poetry text written by John Gower and Pearl Poet from two periods, Middle and Modern. It triggers the researcher to analyze changes in morphological and phonological by asking several questions, which are specified in the following questions:

1. What morphological changes happen to some words contained in middle and modern English version of two poems: Confessio Amantis by John Gower and Pearl by Pearl Poet?

2. What are the phonological differences between middle and modern English in both poems: Confessio Amantis by John Gower and Pearl by Pearl Poet?

3. What are the similarities and differences in the two poems: Confessio Amantis by John Gower and Pearl by Pearl Poet?

## 1.3 Research Objective

Besides the objectives of this research are the writer focuses on comparative linguistics of the middle and modern English word. The research is aimed at:

1. To describe the morphological changes happen to some words contained in middle and modern English version of two poems: Confessio Amantis by John Gower and Pearl by Pearl Poet.

2. To describe the phonological differences between middle English and modern English in both poems: Confessio Amantis by John Gower and Pearl by Pearl Poet.

3. To describe the similarities and differences in the two poems: Confessio Amantis by John Gower and Pearl by Pearl Poet.

## 1.4 Research Significance

The results of the research are expected to give a contribution to the theoretical and practical uses of language. Theoretically, the research findings

are expected to enrich the comprehension and understanding of linguistics learning, especially about comparative linguistics middle and modern English word in poem context. Practically the research findings will be useful for English Lecturer to teaching about linguistics learning, especially about comparative linguistics middle and modern English word in poem context. Lecturers can use the findings of this study as an additional resource in Linguistics subject. Then for the students of English Literature can be used as another reference for the students of English Study Program who want to conduct research on linguistics, particularly based on the theory of comparative linguistics middle and modern English word in poem context.

## 1.5 Definition of Keyterm

### 1. Historical Comparative Linguistics

Historical comparative linguistics is a science that discusses the comparison of two or more languages that have long periods of time. Historical-comparative linguistics was originally a branch of language science that compared languages that did not have written data, or it could be said that historical comparative linguistics is a branch of language which emphasizes techniques in pre-history of language.

### 2. Middle English Morphology

Middle English morphology is a word that is in the middle of the English language. Baught and Cable (2002: 46) says that middle english words are drawn by the inflection, which has begun to break down toward the end of the Old English period.

### 3. Modern English Morphology

Morphology in modern English is easier for everyone to understand. At this time the changes became wider compared to the previous periods. Barber et al. (2009: 211) explains by about in the year 1700 is known as Modern English. The main changes in pronunciation that made up the

Great Vowel Shift are all completed, at least in the south of England is the beginning of Modern English.

**4. Middle English Phonology**

In the middle of the English language, most of the pronunciation methods were the same as the words. In Old English, the vowels have long and short variants, but in Middle English, the short vowels change their height and are not just short variants of the long vowels.

**5. Modern English Phonology**

Phonology in the modern English era experienced changes becoming clearer and easier to understand. van Gelderen (2014: 210) explain that correct pronunciation also becomes a major concern in the Modern English period.

**1.6 Organization of Writing**

The organization of writing describes the parts that are in this research. This research is composed into five chapters, there are: The first chapter consists of introduction which describes the research background, statement of the problem, research objective, research significance, and organization of writing. Then, in the second chapter, there are theories that were used in this research, which include the theories of phonology and morphology, van Gelderen's theory of history the english language, and some theories that are related with the research. The third chapter presents the research methodology of the research. It begins with research method, data, the source of data, techniques of collecting data and techniques of analyzing data. The fourth chapter, there are results from the analysis of the research. This chapter focuses on comparing middle and modern English in morphological and phonological aspects. The research concluded in chapter five. In addition, the research will give some suggestion for readers. In other words, as a closing, this chapter consist of a conclusion and suggestion.