

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter elaborates the general outlines of the research. Starting from the research background, statement of the problems, the research objectives, the research significance, and definition of key terms.

### **1.1 Background of Research**

People share mirror neurons, which allow us to match each other's emotions unconsciously and immediately because they are social beings who seek to thrive or survive by being a part of a group. They also exchange ideas to consciously share information and messages. Social interaction provides people with a large amount of information required by exchanging ideas, messages in the mind in order to carry out every single day activities. In doing interaction humans require language. Language is a set of sounds system produced by human speech organs (Kaharuddin & Ahmad, 2018:1). It also supported by Armstrong (2011:6) that language is an arbitrary vocal code used for conveying information to each other or adjure services of some kind in a variety of situations. It means that language is a set of signs in the words form that maintains contact, as well as the part of a human being as a medium for linking people around the world. In a line with Kratch (2007:3) that language is a series of signs to communicate on a social aspect. Additionally, Hana (2011:1) states that language is a system related to sounds or gestures, the meaning of which exceeds the meaning expressed by words and sentences. It can be inferred that the presence of language to communicate is in our capacity, that abstract thinking is facilitated by language and is used by people, thus language becomes a fundamental feature of human beings. Hence, learning and acquisition language is indispensable for fulfilling human needs namely conveying the message in the mind by using speech organs in order to get communication runs smoothly.

Communication is a process through which people can exchange information between individuals through a general system of symbols, signs, or

behavior (Webster cited in Ekawati, 2019:9). By what it means with the exchange between individuals that communication involves at least two participants, a Speaker and a Hearer. The Speaker intends to convey certain meanings to the Hearer, while the hearer tries to recognize what the speaker means by saying utterances. Both of the speakers should convey and understand the thoughts, feelings, and desires of each other.

Part of communication is speaking which is the way to communicate for a certain purpose or purposes by using a language that goes along with the pronunciation in order to make good speaking (Burns cited in Sudrajat, 2016:18). It could be concluded from the states above that everyone should be able to speak English by understanding the English language from the root, and the first thing people need to learn is how to properly use English in communication for social interaction known as pronunciation.

Pronunciation is a specific sound or sounds are produced by the organ of speech as a determiner of the successful speaking skill (Richards and Webwe cited in Gusviariani (2010:17). It also stated by Hewings (2004:3) pronunciation is a gathering of consonants and vowels known as words pronounced by humans. In short, people should be aware of pronouncing words because it takes many contributions to lead efficient communication by using the appropriate intonation in the sentence to pronounce clearly and correctly. The hearer evades misunderstanding from what speakers said. Pronunciation is a crucial thing in conveying the messages.

Speech sounds have an important role in human life every day. A person produces thousands of spoken words and hears many times of them which means that speakers use thousands of voices every day to convey their feelings, wishes, and intentions, and they will encounter as many voices when listening to the feelings, wishes, and intentions of others which means humans have sound-based signaling systems and can interact with other members of the same species on a range of topics with common interest. (McMahon, 2002:12). Therefore, the study of sound is required in life, in linguistics, there are two sub-disciplines deal with pronunciation and sound known as phonetics and phonology.

According to Gut (2009:6) that phonetics is the unit speech produced by physical properties involved in the production of a particular speech sounds for classifying. Meanwhile Ekawati and Jenny (2010:23) states that phonetics is the study of the smallest speech unit which provides the raw materials to be used for phonology. It could be assumed that phonetics is the basic that build on phonology which produces sounds articulated by speech organs.

While phonetics focuses on the analysis of the sounds used by humans in the language by investigating the production, physical characteristics, and perception of specific speech or specific pitch changes that exist in human language, phonology deals with sounds and how sounds are produced by the organ of speech that utilized in languages (Pennington, 2007:1). Supported by McMahon (2002:1) phonology describes sound patterns organized into the system in order to create different sounds of the world's language that transmitted from speaker to hearer. In a line with Gut (2009:7) phonology concerned about how the sounds in speech shape patterns in a particular language. It can be inferred that phonology is how speech sounds are arranged in the mind and used to express meaning.

Every country or every nation has its own language for expressing meaning that becomes its own uniqueness which means a lot of people in the world often mispronounce the words. One of the countries is Indonesia. Indonesia is known as a country that has a lot of local languages because of its many ethnicities and tribes in. In Indonesia, English is the first foreign language to be taught. Thus, it becomes a compulsory subject that has to be mastered by people because it is a global language (Chrystal cited in Sholihah, 2013:1). It supported by Tohrnburry cited in Faliyanti and Prasety (2016:4) that non-native speakers have to give much effort to learn a foreign language so that people can understand because Indonesian who learn English lies in its pronunciation. It could be assumed that, many Indonesian people have difficulty pronouncing English properly when they speak because English is a foreign language and a third language to be learned. Moreover, phonological systems between English and Indonesian are different. Therefore, their difficulty in pronouncing English sounds made the sound automatically changed when it pronounced.

Frequently, the difference to pronounce the vowel and consonant in English causes the sound change when it is pronounced by non-native speakers. According to O'Grady (2001:270) that sound change is the subtle changes in the sound pattern of the language in a specific speech environment, which usually leads to simplification of pronunciation when people utter a sound or modified sounds when it pronounced. It is supported by Crystal (2008:145) who states that sound change refers to the sounds that spread differently through the words to which it applies. It could be inferred that Indonesians, for example, Sundanese often encounter difficulties when speaking English so-called sound change which is the shifting of vowels and consonants that pronounced by.

The sound changes happen frequently when people deliver speech. It occurred during the shift sounds intuitive. A part of sound changes is monophthongization which changing from double vowels into single vowel (Campbell, 2013:36). For instance, the researcher usually notices that Indonesian people in West Java, especially English literature students represented by Sundanese pronounced the initial letters [ei] with the sound [e]. For example, when pronounced the word 'make', they pronounced /meik/ instead of /mek/. The researcher also discovers another error in their pronunciation. Another simple example is to pronounce the word shake as /jek/ instead of /jek/. It can be inferred that Sundanese people do not recognize and do not learn about double vowels or there are no phonetics symbols of double vowels known as diphthong which exist in English language such as [ei], [ai], [ɔi], [əʊ], [aʊ], [eə], [ɪə], [ʊə], [və]. Thereby, it becomes habitual to pronounce diphthong into monophthong called monophthongization as one of sound change's types.

Considering the problem of pronunciation occurred on Sundanese people in double vowels, it makes the researcher intrigued to examine more about monophthongization occurred in English pronunciation because of different amount of vowel will determine the different pronunciation or it is not based on written language same as how it produces. As well as the researcher wants to investigate how the sound changes that occurred while it is pronouncing by Indonesian people. However, studies in this field, specifically sound change have

been conducted several times. For instances, Gusviatiani (2010) has investigated the phenomenon of sound changes in students whose pronunciation appeared and then compared it with the phonetic transcription based on the selected dictionary. There are twenty-nine kinds of English speech sounds were produced due to sound changes, and concluded that students must listen and practice the pronunciation guided by the teacher. The second, Pratika (2016) has examined sound changes of Indonesian people in Voice of America which video is taken from Youtube. The result showed fourteen loanwords had modification in vowel and consonant such as syncope, paragog, monophthongization, assimilation, and dissimilation due to Indonesian orthography. Also, Harwadi (2019) has analyzed the change of diphthong [ɪə], [eə], [eɪ] that take place in Indonesia, precisely pronounced by native Javanese in monosyllabic words because in Javanese there are no [ɪə], [eə], [eɪ], so that sound changes occur while native Javanese speaking English such as vowel deletion, monophthongization, vowel lowering, vowel raising, assimilation, insertion, and new syllable forming.

Those three previous studies have the relevance to this study, but those are different from what the researcher will explain later. The first research focused on comparing pronunciation with the phonetic based on selected dictionary. The second research deciphered modification vowel and consonant due to sound changes in general. The third research concern in diphthong of Javanese students. Meanwhile, the researcher provides the types of sound change more specifically in monophthongization that occurred in Sundanese, especially English literature students when pronouncing English.

As described earlier, the researcher is interested in the interrelationship between phonology and phonetics, as well as monophthongization as the types of sound change. The study will be conducted by Sundanese people whom the researcher picked from the speech of English Literature students of Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University Bandung on YouTube. They have the possibility that the target language may be interference with the native language. According to Subandowo as quoted by Yossa and Jufrizal (2019:251), interference is about how to apply the second language from the speaker's mother tongue knowledge and the

influence of the learner's background. It demonstrates that every speaker will establish its own voice characteristics in different situations and different ways of using languages, as long as speaking occurs. Thus, the researcher comes up with the title, **“English Monophthongization Pronounced by Sundanese of English Literature Students of Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University Bandung on YouTube.”**

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Based on the background of problem can be formulated into the research questions as follows:

1. How do English literature students of Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University Bandung as Sundanese create monophthongization when pronouncing English in their speech on YouTube?
2. How is the monophthongization produced phonologically when English literature students of Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University Bandung pronouncing English on YouTube as Sundanese?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

The objectives of this study are presented as follows:

1. To describe monophthongization as one of the types in the English sound changes pronounced by Sundanese of English Literature Students of Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University Bandung on YouTube.
2. To find out how monophthongization produced phonologically by investigating the phonetic symbols which pronounced by Sundanese of English Literature Students of Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University Bandung on YouTube.

## **1.4 Research Significance**

In this focus feature for this research, the researcher has decided to aim two parts:

1. Theoretically

This research is expected to give some significant contributions to those who interest in studying Phonetics and Phonology, precisely for people who want to learn, enrich and come into the sound change study, monophthongization, in particular.

2. Practically

Hopefully this research can be used for reference and information for those who want to investigate more about monophthongization area.

- a. English Literature students

This research can give more inspiration and variation of new ideas to students who want to learn phonetics and phonology, and monophthongization as the foremost subject.

- b. Other Researcher

This research could give some significant to other researchers in investigating this field, as well as could explore monophthongization and the sound change's type with different approaches and objects such as videos and other things that could enrich monophthongization variation.

### 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In order to prevent misinterpretation of several terms used in this study, the researcher would like to define and clarify some terms.

1. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is a specific sound or sounds consisted of consonants and vowels are produced by the organ of speech as a determiner of the successful speaking skill.

2. Phonetics

Phonetics is one of sub disciplines that deal with pronunciation which examine the studying and classifying of the speech sound as the basis build on phonology.

3. Phonology

Phonology deals with sounds and how sounds are produced by the organ of

speech that organized into the system in order to create different sounds of the world's language that transmitted from speaker to hearer to express meaning.

4. Sound Change

Sound changes start from subtle changes in the sound pattern of the language in a specific speech environment, which usually leads to simplification of pronunciation when people utter a sound or modify sounds when it pronounced.

5. Monophthongization

Monophthongization deals with changing sound from diphthong to monophthong while pronouncing English by non-native speakers.

6. Sundanese

Sundanese is one of the tribes living in Indonesia, as tribes in Indonesia, Sundanese has its own language named Basa Sunda which the second-largest regional language after Javanese as well as the most widely spoken in Indonesia.

7. YouTube

Google owns YouTube, an online video website. Every day, YouTube users watch over one billion hours of video, and hundreds of hours of video content are uploaded to YouTube servers every minute.