

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an introductory explanation to a number of things related to phonological interference on MoFA's press conference video about the development of covid-19 vaccine in Indonesia. It consists of research background, statement of problem, research objectives, significance of the study, conceptual framework, definition of key terms, and previous study.

1.1 Research Background

Language is one of the important cultural products for humans. In carrying out daily activities, it would not have been possible for humans to do all activities without using language. Moreover those activities involve other humans in interacting. It can be said that language is a verbal form of the human mind. The verbal form leads the activity we often call communication. Verbal communication occurs when someone delivers a message or information to one person or more, and the process of delivering the message certainly involves language as a means of communication.

People use language as a tool of communication in daily interaction. We often found that people in this world speak bilingual and even speak more than two languages. Bilingualism is the ability to use two or even more languages (Liddicoat, 1991, p. 2). While Weinreich (1968, p. 1) says that "bilingualism is the practice of alternately using two languages." It can be concluded that

bilingualism is one's ability to use two languages in turn without losing the ability to speak in one of the mastered languages.

Indonesia with its rich culture and the variety of languages used has many local native languages that are used by various ethnic groups in Indonesia. Indonesian as the official language of Indonesia is used as a liaison among the ethnic groups in Indonesia. In addition, the use of foreign languages has recently been found in Indonesia. Foreign languages are used as a means of communication and information exchange among countries in the world. Among the foreign languages used, English as an international language is the most widely-spoken by Indonesians. English as a language learned by many people in Indonesia with various local languages gives some effects on how their speaking or pronouncing English words. The way that the first language influenced the second language or foreign language is called language interference. Dulay (as quoted in Samingan, 2016, p. 6) mentioned that "Interference is the automatic transfer, due to habit, of the surface structure of the first language onto the surface of the target language." Interference is one of language disorders where language users difficult to distinguish the structure of the first language and the second language.

Each language has its system of arrangements. This thing would probably make some misunderstanding to English native speakers or common people who understand English well in Indonesia. This is why the first language can affect the use of a second or foreign language. The differences in the language system in the first language and second language caused interference. The interference is

usually caused by the contact of two languages. There are three types of language interference, namely phonological interference, grammatical interference, and semantic interference (Weinreich, 1968, p. 12).

In this research, the researcher only focuses on phonological interference. Muhassin et al. (2018, p. 144) mention that “Phonological interference happens when the speaker pronounces the English words, then the word are interfered with other sounds of native language.” Usually, phonological interference is related to speaking skills. In government institutions, the correlation between the English language and the world of work is made the main benchmark. Indonesia as a country that cooperates with many foreign countries uses English as a standard needed to be able to achieve cooperation between the countries well. Having people with good English skills in government will facilitate a successful cooperation process with foreign countries. A successful cooperation between countries can give a valuable view how a country fits into the global challenges and how it can affect a country’s future strategy.

Phonological interference phenomenon could have happened to everyone including those who work in an environment that use English as a common spoken language in some activities, such as state officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. This research focuses on phonological interference that occurs in MoFA’s Media Briefing on COVID-19 Vaccine Development in Indonesia. MoFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Indonesia is the official YouTube channel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. The video was taken from the *For World Citizens*

YouTube video playlist. This playlist is made for non-Indonesian speaking world citizens who put interest in Indonesia's foreign policy. The speakers of this video are Indonesian native speakers but they deliver their speeches in English. The researcher chose this object to be analyzed because there are found phonological interferences when each speaker delivers their speeches. This reason can help the researcher to do this research because there are some types and factors of phonological interference that occurred in the video. The video also has a topic that is currently discussed in the world, related to the Covid-19 virus and its vaccine, so this object is very interesting to study.

Based on the research background above, the researcher is interested in discussing the topic entitled "Phonological Interference of Indonesian towards English on MoFA's Media Briefing of Covid-19 Vaccine Development in Indonesia."

1.2 Statement of Problem

Many people in Indonesia are bilingual by default because they speak at least two languages: Indonesian and their local native languages. But there are a lot of people who also learn foreign languages. English is the most widely spoken foreign language in Indonesia. A lot of people speak English in Indonesia, but there are also many have limitations of linguistic awareness, especially at the phonological level. In the interference phenomenon which refers to the problem of phonological interference, this research intends to gain a more detailed understanding of why bilinguals are sometimes involved in this phenomenon. In

connection with the problems above, the researcher only limits this research to a discussion of the occurrence of phonological interference which is related to the types and factors of phonological interference. Based on the identification and limitation of the problems above, the researcher formulates some questions related to the research problem as follows.

1. What types of phonological interference are found on MoFA's media briefing of covid-19 vaccine development in Indonesia?
2. What factors cause phonological interference on MoFA's media briefing of covid-19 vaccine development in Indonesia?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions above, this study is intended:

1. To find out the types of phonological interference on MoFA's media briefing of covid-19 vaccine development in Indonesia.
2. To analyze the factors that cause phonological interference on MoFA's media briefing of covid-19 vaccine development in Indonesia.

1.4 Research Significance

This study is expected to be used theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is expected to be able to contribute to the development of knowledge that has relevance to phonology or sociolinguistics field, especially in language interference research in the form of phonological interference. Practically, the researcher expects that the results of this study are able to present a model of interference analysis for research in the linguistics practical field. This

research is also expected to be a reference for other researchers who want to study language interference, especially phonological interference.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

In this part, the researcher presents the theories relating to the research. These theories are presented as a framework of analysis to answer the questions of this research. The theories that are used in the research involved the explanation of the research analysis.

1. Language Interference

Language interference has become one of the interesting discussions in sociolinguistics which has been carried out by many experts and researchers in this field. Language interference usually occurs due to the presence of two or more language contacts, then the habits or systems of the first language used by the speaker carry over and affect the second language system.

As a result of language contact, the interference phenomenon occurs when bilinguals deliver their speech and the result shows the familiarity of the first language system in the second language system (Weinreich, 1968, p. 1). Interference is influenced by several factors such as language structure in the first and second languages and the diversity of vocabulary that a language user has (Weinreich, 1968, p. 1). These factors cause errors in the use of a second language, resulting in interference phenomenon. Furthermore, he divides language interference into three types, namely phonological interference, lexical interference, and grammatical interference.

2. Phonological Interference

Weinreich (1968, p. 14) explains that “Phonological interference concerns the manner in which a speaker perceives or reproduces the sound of one language, which might be designated secondary, in terms of another, to be called primary.” Phonological interference will arise when the bilingual identify phoneme of the secondary system in the primary system, then reproducing it to phonetic rules of the first language.

3. Types of Phonological Interference

Weinreich distinguishes four types of phonological interference. The types according to Weinreich (1968, pp. 18–19) are:

- a. Under-differentiation of phonemes. It occurs when two sounds of the secondary system whose counterparts are not distinguished in the primary system.
- b. Over-differentiation of phonemes. Weinreich states that this type of phonological interference involves the imposition of phonemic distinctions from the primary system on the sounds of the secondary system, where they are not required.
- c. Reinterpretation of distinctions. It occurs when the bilingual distinguish phonemes of the secondary system by features that in that system are merely concomitant or redundant, but which are relevant in the primary system.
- d. Actual phone substitution. It applies to phonemes that are identically defined in two languages but whose normal pronunciation differs.

4. Factors of Phonological Interference

Weinreich defined four factors of phonological interference, they are:

- 1) Absence of corresponding distinctions in primary language;
- 2) Presence of distinction (only) in primary language;
- 3) Different phonemic system;
- 4) Different pronunciation of equivalent phonemes.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Some of the main terms used in this research, especially those related to the title of the research, will be defined to avoid the confusion of terms that sometimes appear in research. These terms are also explained to make it easier for readers in understanding and interpreting the title of this research. The following are the explanations of the terms.

1. Interference

The term interference is used to mean the phenomenon occurs when bilinguals deliver their speech and the result shows the familiarity of the first language system in the second language system (Weinreich, 1968, p. 1). It is the phenomenon due to one's habit that affects the ability in transferring the target language system which is still dependent and found similarities in the source language system.

2. Phonology

Katamba (1989, p. 1) defines phonology as "the branch of linguistics which investigates the ways in which sounds are used systematically in

different languages to form words and utterances.” The term phonology used in this research refers to the sound system under investigation as in Indonesian and English phonological system.

3. Phonological Interference

This research used the term phonological interference to refer to the manner in which the speaker reproduces the sound of one language that designated secondary but tend to be primary (Weinreich, 1968, p. 14). It is the phenomenon when the speaker tends to reproduce the sound in the second language system but still recognizes the used of the first language system.

4. Phonetic Transcription

Wells (2006, p. 1) implying phonetic transcription as “the use of phonetic symbols to represent speech sounds.” It refers to the phonetic writings in this research in order to illustrate the correct pronunciation of a word or an utterance in English language.

5. Bilingualism

Bilingualism is the knowledge in using two or more languages (Grosjean, 2012, p. 5). This research used the term bilingualism to refer to the ability of the speakers in using two languages (English and Indonesian).

6. MoFA

The term MoFA used in this research refers to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as one of the government institutions that used media platforms such as YouTube in English as a tool of communication to the public.

1.7 Previous Study

Regarding to the previous studies, there are several studies conducted in relation to phonological interference. For instance, Muhassin et al. (2018) with the title “Phonological Interference of Madurase towards English at the Eleventh Students of SMA Al Hikam Bangkalan East Java”, focused on phonological aspects and accent with the aim to analyze the types of phonological interference and to know the percentages of phonological interference that occurred from the object. The object of this study is the result of the interview with the Eleventh Students of SMA Al Hikam Bangkalan East Java. This study used Weinreich’s theory of Phonological Interference to analyze the types of phonological interference itself. The result of this study shows that there are 5 types of students’ phonological interference and the percentages of students’ phonological interference are 52.93%. The highest phonological interference that occurred is sound replacements. Utami et al. (2017) with the title “The Phonological Interference of Students’ First Language in Pronouncing English Sounds (A Case Study on Buginese and Makassarese Students)”, focused mainly on the analyses of types and factors of phonological interference of Buginese and Makassarese students that learn English language. The data was taken from students’ oral test and interview. The 46 kinds of manner of articulation of students’ sounds in English were found as the result of the data analysis. Interlanguage transfer is the main factor that influences the students when producing English words. Jaya (2018) with the title “Phonological Interference of Buginese into Indonesian by Buginese Speakers in Tolitoli Central Sulawesi (A study of transformational-

generative phonology)”, focused on analyzing the types and the factors of phonological interference of Buginese into Indonesian. The data of this study were taken from the daily conversation of Buginese society. This study used Weinreich’s theory of phonological interference to analyze the types and its factors. The result shows 9 types of phonological interference and 3 factors that influenced the phonological interference of the analysis.

Different from previous studies, this study aims to focus on phonological interference of Indonesian towards English produced by some speakers in the video. They are state officials of the Indonesian government, Ms. Retno Marsudi (the Minister of Foreign Affairs), Mr. Honesti Basyir (CEO of PT. Biofarma), and Mr. Wiku Adisasmito (the Head of Expert Team for the acceleration of covid-19 mitigation). And this study uses Weinreich’s theory of phonological interference to find out the types of phonological interference and Weinreich’s theory of phonological interference factor to know the factors of phonological interference that occurs in the object.