

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the research background, statements of problems, research purposes, research significance, and definition of key terms. The research background explains the general description of the research. Statements of problem contain several questions that form the basis of research. Research purposes contain the basic objective of the research. Research significance explains the benefits expected from the research. The definition of key terms contains several keywords in the research.

1.1 Background of Problem

English has become an international language which is an alternative language for use around the world. English is the only foreign language studied worldwide. This shows that the existence of English has great urgency in global society. As an international language, English occupies the role of language not only in communication but also in application to various systems such as learning systems. Almost every secondary school around the world is currently studying English.

English has recently replaced another language as a foreign language in many countries and is becoming a foreign language in schools (Crystal, 2003). Since the level of English use is important, many schools, especially in South Korea, applied English as the second language school subject. Including implementation in South Korean schools. Even some high schools in Korea require their students to communicate using English at certain times.

As a non-native English speaker, Korean people go through several things so that English can be mastered, such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking training. Since they have a different alphabetic and phonetic system from English. The difference between the Korean and English alphabets lies in the number of vowels and consonants. Meanwhile, the two's phonetic differences can be seen in terms of pronunciation, articulation, and intonation. In its role, English is indeed important (at least) to be understood in order to make it easier for humans to keep

up with the times that have recently used the international system even in daily activities.

In 2015, a survey conducted by Dong-Seok on 990 middle school students. The survey is about English education that is applied in Korean schools. Quoted from the Korean Times, there were 67,5 percent of students oriented to grammar and test-oriented. In addition, 44,1 percent said that speaking is the main aspect of learning English. There are at least 18,5 percent of students choosing vocabulary, listening, reading, and writing. While 9,5 percent chose speaking. This different percentage is due to the fact that the majority of Korean students study English for the purpose of preparing for college entrance tests which require students to take tests in English. So, the survey shows grammar and test-oriented as the dominant results.

Many Korean students say that English is very difficult to learn because of grammatical and phonetic differences. Pronunciation between Korean and English has a contrastive difference. In terms of intonation and articulation, Korean is certainly different from English. For instance, the use of the sound endings of English words that are pronounced differently by Koreans. For example, the pronunciation of the word night [naɪt] is pronounced by some Koreans as [naɪtə]. This difference is caused because almost all words in Korean end with the schwa sound that is interpreted in IPA as [ə] so that even English words are influenced by the Korean phonetic with schwa.

Such cases can be specified as a sound change. Since the pronunciation differs from what is already written in the Oxford Dictionary. The study of phonological processes theoretically explain sound changes, which are a branch of phonology. The phonological process is defined as a unit change which is influenced by other units in the system (Wolfram & Johnson, 1982). The system in this theory refers to the phonetic system. Alternatively, phonological processes are unit changes in sounds that are affected by sound units of other words. In theory, phonological processes have several types. There are assimilation, dissimilation, epenthesis, deletion, and metathesis. Assimilation is the common phonological processes in language. The definition of assimilation is a

phonological process that occurs when a segment transforms to more closely similar with its neighbors (Frawley, 2003). In contrast to assimilation, dissimilation is the process when the segment transforms to less similar with the neighbors segment (Wolfram & Johnson, 1982). Epenthesis is the type of sound change when there is an additional segment into a morpheme. Besides that, deletion is the opposite of epenthesis that is process of reducing sound units in words so that the syllable of the word is reduced. The last phonological process is metathesis, which is defined as a process that changes a segment unit so that it allows the unit to switch with other units even in the same segment. For example is the word *pronoun* ['prəʊnaʊn] pronounced by Korean as ['pəʊnaʊn]. There is a switching unit in this example which is /əʊ/ comes first before /r/.

The occurrence of sound change in English vocabulary by Korean is caused by differences in phonetic systems and ways of speaking. The Korean phonetic system is more complex than English. Korea has its own alphabetic system called *Hangeul*. In English, there are five basic vowels, they are /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, and /o/. Furthermore, in Korean, there are ten basic vowels which are /a/, /ɛ/, /ʌ/, /e/, /o/, /ø/, /u/, /y/, /ɯ/, and /i/. Not only in vowels, is the difference in phonetic systems between English and Korean in the number of consonants. In English, there are 24 consonants. Meanwhile, Korean has 19 consonants which are divided into three obstruent, namely stop, fricative, and affricative. However, there are 14 consonants which are categorized as the basic consonants, they are /k/, /m/, /n/, /p/, /t/, /l/, /s/, /ŋ/, /tʃ/, /tʃʰ/, /kʰ/, /tʰ/, /pʰ/, and /h/ (Shin et al., 2013). The distinction in the number of vowels and consonants between the two languages explains why sound change occur while pronouncing many syllables in a foreign language. The difficulty for Koreans in learning English is additionally caused by the fact that several letters of the English alphabet are not available in Korea, requiring further observation and adaption in order for Koreans' English pronunciation to sound ideal.

In this digital era, Korean students use the opportunity to learn and improve English through the internet. Many websites are able to facilitate students in learning. The YouTube website is an example. One of the media-based websites

that allows people all around the world to publish videos. YouTube provides a wide range of video genres from around the world. As a result, YouTube media can be found in a variety of languages. Especially English, which is the international language with the largest number of speakers on social media. Korean students take use of this opportunity to learn English, both listening and speaking.

As was created by one of the South Korean creators named Hwang Seungbin. Seungbin is a high school student who frequently uploads his daily school life on YouTube. He utilizes English as his communication language in his daily school vlog. He also frequently invites his friends to participate in his daily contents, therefore he invites his friends to interact in English as well.

Seungbin's English is quite fluent, despite the fact that he is not a native English speaker. The way he talks, nevertheless, has a distinct articulation and sound change. This is influenced by the non-native English speaker's language culture. Korean has a language culture that is contrasts with English. Learning a second language with different cultures, there are always differences in syntax, pronunciation, and structures (Kuo & Lai, 2006). As a result, when communicating in a second language, sound changes are always conceivable.

This study analyzes how the English phonemes alteration is spoken by non-native speakers. The object taken is a vlog video from a Korean YouTube creator named Seungbin. Because the Korean language has a structure, pattern, and language culture that is different from English, therefore the Korean language was chosen as the main object of this study. The English phonemic reference is using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) in the Oxford Dictionary. This study develops a comparison between Korean English pronunciation and the pronunciation found in the Oxford Dictionary.

There are several previous research that are used as a reference for this research. The first research is entitled *The Phonological Influences on Non Native Phonetic Change* by Maryana Sijinjak and Rahmadsyah Rangkuti (2022). This study analyzes the phonological effect on non-native phonetic change. The language objects used are Mandarin and Cantonese (Hong Kong). The analysis

carried out is to describe the existing phenomenon based on the pitch pattern of both language objects. The conclusion from this analysis is that there are still articulation errors from non-native speakers in speaking English. Non-native English language is still experiencing phonetic changes as a result of Mandarin and Cantonese.

The second research is entitled *A Phonetic Contrastive Analysis of English Words in Three Japanese Songs by AKB48* written by Harwintha Y. Anjarningsih and Anisa Saraayu (2015). This study compares the pronunciation of English loanwords spoken by native Japanese. This research takes objects from three songs of the idol group named AKB48. From the research data, it was found that there were 59 English words with phonetic changes. These changes are the addition of vowel sounds, changes of syllables, changes of height and place of articulation, replacements of a consonant with another consonant, and elisions of consonants. The results of this study indicate that there are phonetic differences between Japanese and English influenced by the distinct vowel and consonant inventory between Japanese and English.

The third previous study is the research written by Irma Diani and Azwandi entitled *Phonological Change Processes of English and Indonesian Language* (2021). This study analyzes the phonological changes that occur in Indonesian and English. The objects studied were university students. This study does not discuss English pronunciation spoken by non-native speakers. However, this study discusses phonological changes in both languages, namely English and Indonesian. This study discusses several phonological processes, namely assimilation, metathesis, epenthesis, epithesis, and deletion. In conclusion, this study explains the patterns of phonological changes that occur.

The gaps from previous studies above, this research focus analyzes the sound of English words' pronunciation by Korean. The main topic taken is about sound changes which are then analyzed in terms of the articulation of the pronunciation. This research also identifies sound changes that occur into the category of phonological processes. In the previous study, the analysis used was a comparison between the two languages regarding phonetic systems and changes in phonology.

Meanwhile, this study combines native English pronunciation with non-native English.

1.2 Statements of Problem

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

1. What is the articulation of English phonological changes in Seungbin's vlog video?
2. How is the processes of the phonological changes in Seungbin's vlog video?

1.3 Research Purposes

Based on the description of the statements of the problem above, this research is expected to be able to answer all the problems above. The objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To explain the articulation of English phonological changes in Seungbin's vlog video.
2. To analyze the process of English phonological changes in Seungbin's vlog video.

1.4 Research Significances

The researcher expects that the results of this study can be useful and bring some benefits for the use of language theoretically and practically. In broad outline, the expected benefits of this research include:

1. Theoretically

This research is expected able to explain theoretically about phonological changes in language. This research also expected to able to be used as a new reference in studying science or similar research related to phonology.

2. Practically

- a. This research is expected to be able to help researchers or readers in applying the science of phonology.
- b. This research is expected to be able to develop language understanding in accordance with the rules and studies of phonology.
- c. The study is expected to fill gaps in current knowledge, encouraging further research in language learning and cultural exchange.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In this section, there are several definitions of the key terms included in the research. The terms are explained as follows:

Phonology is the study of how sounds are organized in different patterns in languages. Phonology explains significantly about sounds in the linguistic field. There is a phonological inventory which comprises between 20 and 40 phonologically characterized sounds. Phonology is a discipline of linguistics that studies the development of human language's sound system, including dialect. In brief, Phonology is a linguistic study that investigate the formation of the sound of each word in a language (Kaye, 1989).

Pronunciation refers to how we produce the sound of words. Pronunciation can be defined as the process of producing speech sounds, including as stress, intonation, and articulation. Pronunciation have a reference for being standard of acceptability and correctness. It is including the segments of the language there are consonants and vowels (Yates et al., 2009). Pronunciation as a production of sounds from language words that contain meaning which is a means of human communication.

“**Articulation** refers to the physiological motions involved in changing airflow to produce various forms of speech sounds via the vocal tract above the larynx. Sounds are categorised according to where and how they are articulated in the vocal apparatus (the articulatory apparatus).” (Crystal, 2008). Articulation is a

control of the voice in order to produce clear and distinct speaking sounds. In phonetics, Articulation is a science that explains how the human physiological system produces speech sounds.

“**Phonological processes** is a patterns of phonemic system combinations in a specific language. The processes are: assimilation, dissimilation, epenthesis, deletion, metathesis, and neutralization.” (Wolfram & Johnson, 1982). The unit of the words are change with another unit become the words are sounds different. Phonological processes are patterns in which phrases or words change phonetically. This is due to the simplified form of the phrase.

“**International Phonetic Alphabet**, also called IPA, is an international alphabet utilized by linguists to precisely represent the wide variety of sounds (phones or phonemes) in human speech. In a particular language, a phoneme is a unit of sound that can differentiate one word from another.” (International Phonetic Association, 2015).

