

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction chapter presents background of the research, statement of the problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Every human being has the ability to speak, which is one of the fundamental aspects of social and cultural life. Language serves as the main tool to convey messages, ideas, thoughts and desires to others. Without language, humans will face great difficulties in communicating and expressing themselves, which will ultimately hinder social interaction and the development of knowledge.

According to Finocchiaro (1974), "Language is an arbitrary system of vocal symbols, which enables all people in a particular culture, or others who have learned the cultural system, to communicate or interact." This definition emphasizes that language consists of sound symbols that are randomly created, but recognized and used by members of society in a culture to communicate. This shows that language is not only a means of communication, but also a bridge that connects individuals with their society, as well as with existing cultures and traditions.

Incorrect English pronunciation is a common problem faced by Indonesian people. This can be seen from various contexts, such as daily conversations, in the educational environment, to the professional world, especially in public speaking. Speakers often make mistakes in pronunciation that cause confusion to the audience, make the audience unable to enjoy the event properly and reduce the credibility of the speaker in the event. Pronunciation errors can make speakers look unprofessional and less competent so as to decrease audience confidence in what has been delivered.

Factors that cause speakers to make pronunciation errors are the lack of exposure to the English language, the majority of Indonesian people don't have the opportunity to often interact with native English speakers. So, they are not familiar

with the correct pronunciation. English teaching methods that are less focused on pronunciation. More focus on grammar and vocabulary, so the pronunciation aspect gets less attention. As well as having low self confidence. Many speakers don't feel confident in speaking English, so they don't dare to try and improve their pronunciation. Therefore, good and correct English pronunciation is very necessary in public speaking. Speakers must practice and familiarize themselves with English so that during the performance the audience can listen and understand the content of the speaker's delivery well.

When learning a new language, anyone studies the components of language. Language has three major components including phonology, vocabulary, and grammar (Nasr, 1980). Language is primarily spoken; therefore the sounds are very important. In this relation, phonology takes an important. According to Ramelan (1994), phonology is a branch of linguistics that specifically studies the sounds of language or speech sounds. Phonology not only studies how sounds are physically produced, but also how they function in a language system. Phonology is an important basis in understanding how humans use and process sounds to communicate.

In the study of phonology, there are two main areas of focus: phonetics and phonemics. These two fields have different but complementary roles in the analysis of language sounds. Phonetics is the study of speech sounds from a physical and biological perspective. In phonetics, sounds are studied as physical phenomena that can be measured and analyzed based on how they are produced by human articulation devices (such as the tongue, lips, and vocal cords), how they are produced and transmitted, and how they are heard and received by the listener. Phonemics focuses on how certain sounds in a language function to distinguish meaning. Phonemic aims to identify the smallest units of sound in a language that are able to distinguish one word from another, referred to as phonemes.

According to Yule (2010), pronunciation is defined as the way in which a language is said. Pronunciation is the production of utterances that create meaning.

Pronunciation is one of the challenging speaking skills in English, because learning pronunciation requires a lot of time and effort to improve understanding of how to pronounce it properly and correctly. When speaking English the speaker and the listener have a reciprocal relationship in a communication. This affects each other so that the listener can understand the message that has been conveyed. The speaker must speak with the correct pronunciation so that the listener can understand what has been conveyed. Otherwise, the listener will misunderstand due to the wrong pronunciation. Therefore, the sounds of speech in a language are certain units so that different sounds can cause their own meaning, so the science that studies the sounds of a language is called phonology. For instance, the sentence “ Before begin, i’d like to take a few moments to explain the rules for today’s seminar ...”. For example in the word ‘take’ /teik/ which mean to carry or move something from one place to another. Then the speaker say ‘teak’ /ti:k/ that mean hard durable timber used for making furniture. in the sentence would have different meanings, as speakers we must improve the pronunciation.

Pronunciation is very important for communication. the purpose of pronunciation is not to ask speakers to be able to pronounce like native speakers, but pronunciation that can be understood by the speaker is the real purpose of communication (Pourhosein, 2016). The successful of communication is marked by clarity in pronunciation which helps to understanding information from the speaker to listener. Pronunciation is very important to prevent misunderstanding when people are communicating. In public speaking, clear and correct pronunciation is crucial. Pronunciation is produced by humans through their speech organs, each having a specific position that varies with each sound. Pronouncing and saying something in English is very important so that the speaker and the audience can grasp the ideas or messages expressed by the speaker to the audience. If the speaker articulated words unclearly, it will cause misunderstanding and misinterpretation.

Good pronunciation in speaking skill is essential. However pronunciation is the most difficult aspect for speaker. It should be viewed not just as the correct

production of individual sound but as an important part of communication. The speaker make mistakes in pronouncing words in english when they are the master of ceremony. From these mistakes, the members *Komunitas Speaker Muda Indonesia* can learn how to correct them to produce accurate sounds.

Komunitas Speaker Muda Indonesia is a community based in west java that focuses on developing and public speaking skills. In this community there are several fields including voice over, master of ceremony, seminar, and talk show using in english. The writer wants to know about Pronunciation Errors of English Vowels by the Members in *Komunitas Speaker Muda Indonesia* because pronunciation is very important for them, and it will make it easier for them when they speak with foreigners and as a good speaker especially in english you must pay attention to pronunciation so that there is no misunderstanding between the speaker and the audience. The author examines the pronunciation of English by using the text of the English master of ceremony and inspires others the importance of speaking English properly and correctly.

The first previous study was conducted by is a research identified by Peter Roach (2009), with a research entitled "*English Phonetics and Phonology A practical Course*". At a higher level, as is the aim of this course, information about speech sounds is usually presented in the context of a general theory of speech sounds and how they are used in different languages. This theoretical context is very important as it involves not only a basic understanding of how these sounds are produced and articulated, but also how they function within the grammatical system of a language. Within the scope of this theory, grammar is not only viewed as a set of rules that govern the formation of grammatically correct sentences, but also as a more complex system that includes an understanding of how speech sounds interact with other elements of language to produce intelligible meaning. Therefore, at a lower level one may only focus on how to form sentences that conform to basic grammar rules. However, for those who will be working with language at a more advanced level, especially as researchers or academics, a deeper understanding of grammar theory

and related areas of linguistics is crucial. In this context, the theoretical material presented in this course is designed to provide a deep understanding of the principles that govern the use of sounds in spoken English. The course aims not only to introduce basic concepts, but also to explore how speech sounds are produced, how they are organized in phonetic and phonological systems, and how they affect meaning and structure in English communication.

The second research was conducted by researcher identified by Yuli Puspitasari (2018), with a research entitled *“Error analysis on Students Pronunciation Produced by Student Fourth Semester of English Education Departmen of IAIN Ponorogo”*. The purpose of this study is to find out the types of errors in English pronunciation and to analyze the causes of English pronunciation errors produced by the Fourth Semester Students of English Education Department by Fourth Semester Students of English Education Department. There are two main factors that cause students to make mistakes in pronouncing foreign language words, namely interlingual transfer and intralingual transfer. Interlingual transfer refers to the negative influence of the student's native language on the language being learned. This influence often causes students to apply pronunciation patterns or rules from their native language to the new language, which are not always appropriate. For example, students whose native language has a different sound system from the target language may be inclined to pronounce words in the foreign language with accents or sound patterns similar to their native language, which ultimately results in pronunciation errors.

The third research was conducted by researcher identified by Eliza Eka Pratiwi (2021), with a research entitled *“An Error Analysis on Triphthong Sounds Pronounced by The Eight Semester Students of English Education Study Program UIN Raden Intan Lampung in the Academic Year 2020/2021”*. In this research pronunciation is very important for communicating with others. It is as if when someone pronounces a word incorrectly, misunderstanding will occur. This study aims to analyze students' errors in pronouncing triphthong sound. The objectives of this study to find out the types of errors pronounced by students on English triphthong sounds and to know the

causes of errors made The Eight Semester Students of English Education Study Program UIN Raden Intan Lampung. To analyze the errors, this study utilizes James' theory of surface structure taxonomy to describe the errors in the pronunciation of triphthong sounds, as well as Brown's theory of error causation to understand the factors that cause the errors. The results show that students only make a few errors in the pronunciation of diphthongs, which is due to their fairly good knowledge of the correct pronunciation. The author suggests that readers pay attention to the stress on the initial and final vowels when pronouncing diphthongs, as these factors can affect the quality of pronunciation. In addition, it is hoped that the results of this analysis can provide new insights into the pronunciation of triphthongs.

The fourth research was conducted by researcher identified by Ni Luh Rara Tian anyar Sari, Wayan Simpen and Ni Luh Nyoman Seri Mahalini (2020). This research is entitled "*Pronunciation Errors in Students English Performance*". This study aims to analyze the pronunciation errors found in students' speaking performance. In addition, this study also explores the factors that cause the occurrence of pronunciation errors in students' speaking performance. The data for this study were obtained from the results of a speaking test conducted on students of class VIII C SMP Negeri 2 Blahbatuh, Gianyar Regency, Bali. The test was conducted by asking the students to tell their experiences during the vacation briefly. The documentation method was used to obtain data from the oral materials of speaking performance, while the note-taking technique was used to record data relevant to this study. The data from this study were analyzed qualitatively based on the theory of phonological errors by Keshavarz (2012) and the factors causing errors by Brown (2020). These errors include errors in the pronunciation of English vowels, consonants and diphthongs. The causes of English consonant and vowel pronunciation errors are influenced by intralingual and interlingual factors. English consonant pronunciation errors are mostly caused by interlingual factors, while vowel pronunciation errors tend to be influenced by intralingual factors. From the analysis, it can be concluded that the form of mispronunciation of English consonant sounds

made by students of class 8C SMP Negeri 2 Blahbatuh includes the replacement of certain consonant sounds that are not found in Indonesian with similar consonant sounds. The forms of vowel sound mispronunciation made by the students include vowel sound replacement and vowel sound simplification. The causes of these English consonant and vowel pronunciation errors are intralingual and interlingual factors.

The contrast between some of the previous studies above and my research is in terms of the scope of research and the object of research. Most of them focus on consonant pronunciation errors while my research focuses on vowels pronunciation errors. In this study used qualitative method, followed by interviews and pronunciation tests in collecting data to find out the sounds of English vowels that are mispronounced by speakers.

1.2 Statement of Problem

From the background in this research above, the researchers concludes that there are two questions that will be the main focuses on this research, there are :

1. What types of vowels change in the pronunciation error of the members in *Komunitas Speaker Muda Indonesia*?
2. What are the kinds of pronunciation errors of English vowels pronounced by the members in *Komunitas Speaker Muda Indonesia* ?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the formulation of the research question above, the researchers is intended:

1. To find out the types of vowels change in the pronunciation error of the members in *Komunitas Speaker Muda Indonesia*.
2. To find out the kinds of pronunciation errors of English vowels by the members in *Komunitas Speaker Muda Indonesia*.

1.4 Research Significance

Theoretically: This study described types of vowels change and describe the kinds of pronunciation errors of English vowel by the members in *Komunitas Speaker Muda Indonesia*

Practically : The author hopes that the results of this study can be used as input for the *Komunitas Speaker Muda Indonesia* to improve their pronunciation. They should realize how important role pronunciation plays in the teaching of English in general and especially in speaking. In addition, this research can also be used as an input that pronunciation can be used as one of the measures of their strengths and weaknesses in language skills. Measure their strengths and weaknesses in their language skills and motivate them to improve their abilities.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

There are some terms that is used in this research, there are:

1. **Phonology** is branch of linguistics that studies how the sounds in a language function and are organized to form an effective communication system. Phonology is not limited to analyzing phonemes, which are the smallest units of sound that can distinguish meaning in language, but also includes how these sounds interact and form structure and meaning in language
2. **Pronunciation** is the way in which individuals pronounce words, which involves the organization of sounds within the prevailing language context.
3. **Error** is errors arising from a lack of knowledge or understanding of the rules of the target language
4. **Vowel** is a vowel as a sound made with the vocal tract open, with no significant constriction or closure. The quality of the vowel sound is determined by the position of the tongue and the shape of the lips, and it serves as the core of a syllable.