A. The Background of the Research

Pronunciation is essential for students in learning English. It is because pronunciation is the biggest thing that people notice when speaking English. Fraser (2001:5) stated that “Excellent grammar can be completely masked by poor pronunciation”. This means that learners who have better pronunciation will have more opportunities to communicate naturally and this in itself is one of the surest paths to improvement in all aspects of language.

However, pronunciation is difficult enough to be learnt by students. It is because in learning pronunciation, the students not only read but also pronounce the words correctly with good intonation. The other problem faced in learning pronunciation is the students still pronounce the words with Indonesian accent. As the result the students have bad pronunciation in learning English.

Based on the pre-observation at 5th grade students of SD N 1 Mersi Thursday 23th of October 2013, there were some problems found that were faced by the students, namely: 1) the students didn’t pronounced the words correctly and fluently, 2) the students pronounced the words by reading the letters. Those problems happened because the teacher didn’t correct the
students’ pronunciation. Besides that the teacher taught monotonously without media, game or method.

An appropriate technique from the teacher in teaching learning process can help the teacher to make the students more understand in learning pronunciation. The technique here should make the students easily in learning pronunciation and master it well. So the students will have confidence in English class because the students can say the words correctly with good pronunciation.

Based on the explanation previously, reading aloud is proposed as appropriate technique to solve the problem in learning pronunciation. Reading aloud is a technique that can be used by the teacher to teach pronunciation. Further Routhlein and Meinbach in Rahim (2008:124) stated that reading aloud for children is good activity to improve the oral skill, because reading aloud is the base of words pronunciation.

Based on the explanation previously, the researcher and the collaborative teacher would conduct a classroom action research in order to improve students’ pronunciation. The researcher and the collaborative teacher interest to do research which is entitled “Improving Students’ Pronunciation through Reading Aloud (A classroom Action Research at 5th Grade Students of SD N 1 Mersi in Academic Year 2013/2014)."
B. The Reason for Choosing the Topic

1. The students at 5th grade of SD N 1 Mersi couldn’t pronounce the words correctly.
2. Reading aloud is a technique to improve students’ pronunciation in learning English. Reading aloud was chosen because it is the base of words pronunciation and also technique to practice pronunciation.

C. The Problem of the Research

The problem of the research based on the background explained previously was attempted to address the following question: “Can reading aloud technique be able to improve students’ pronunciation for 5th grade students of SD N 1 Mersi in Academic Year 2013/2014?”

D. The Aim of the Research

The aim of the research is to know whether or not reading aloud technique can improve students’ pronunciation of the 5th grade students of SD N 1 Mersi in Academic Year 2013/2014.

E. The Clarification of the Terms

The title of this research is “Improving Students’ Pronunciation through Reading Aloud among the Students on SD N 1 Mersi” (A Classroom Action Research at 5th grade students of SD N 1 Mersi in Academic Year 2013/2014).
To make it clear, the researcher wants to clarify the key term as follows:

1. **Improve**

   It means to become or make something better. (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary.1995:598).

2. **Pronunciation**

   Gilakjani (2012:96) defined that pronunciation is a set of habits of producing sounds.

3. **Reading Aloud**

   Tarigan (2008:23) said that reading aloud is an activity or activities which are a tool for teachers, students, or readers together with other people or listeners to capture and understand the information, thoughts and feelings of an author. Reading aloud here means that the students speak loud when reading the words.

F. **The Contribution of the Research**

1. **For teacher**

   This method can help the teacher to know the real fact of students’ pronunciation. It will be useful for English teacher to broaden the knowledge of language of teaching pronunciation. In this way the
teacher can take more appropriate technique for teaching pronunciation with better judgment.

2. For SD N 1 Mersi

From this research, the researcher hopes that it will give good effect for the English teaching learning process as a consideration technique to teach pronunciation at grade five especially and also for all grade of SD N 1 Mersi generally.

3. For the Institution

The researcher hopes that this research will be an input for the institution to improve and develop the teaching and learning process in English.

4. For the Next Researcher

This research will be useful for the next reader to get information and knowledge about teaching pronunciation.