CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

English is used for the first time by the western countries, such as the US, Britain, Australia, and others. But then it evolved in many countries because the UK colonizes almost all countries in the world. Therefore colonialism is one of the causes why English has become the international language of science, technology, commerce, politics, and other fields. The government’s programs to educate the children of the nation and the era of globalization, made English a compulsory subject in every school. Therefore, English language should be the first priority for study in foreign learners.

English is one of foreign languages in Indonesia. However, English has been incorporated into the curriculum. It is taught in schools from junior high school to college. The students should learn English because it is very important for the development of their knowledge.

There are four skills in teaching and learning English: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Those skills are related to each other and cannot be independent; therefore, learners need to master all of the four skills.

One of productive skills which is very important to be mastered by English learners is speaking skill. When the foreign learners have to communicate with foreigner orally, they have to speak. According to https://www.englishclub.com/-speaking/what-is-speaking.htm speaking is the delivery of language through the mouth. To speak, we create sounds.
using many parts of our body, including the lungs, vocal tract, vocal chords, tongue, teeth and lips. Speaking skills are closely related to pronunciation. Speaking is the most effective and commonest way, used by people when they want to interact with other. The students should master English speaking skill in their knowledge and capability. It is because they have to speak up with foreigners. There are many elements in speaking, such as grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, and others.

Pronunciation is very important element in speaking. It is because if the students mispronounce, not only meaning that can change but also the speaker will misunderstand. Besides, mispronunciation can interrupt conversation. Another way is if the students have good pronunciation, the students will active in classroom activity.

Pronunciation is important to be taught for young learners in Junior High School, because it is very fundamental in oral communication. First, if words are pronounced incorrectly, it does not only change the meaning but also cause trouble for the listener. In addition, having good pronunciation can increase students’ confidence in speaking. Moreover, students will understand what the teacher says.

Yates and Zielenski (2009 : 11) states that pronunciation is important because it does not matter how good learners’ vocabulary or grammar is if no one can understand them when they speak. Gillbert (1999 : 3) said that pronunciation is one of important skills that should be mastered by students.
Based on the explanation above, pronunciation is one of the elements that should be mastered by students because it is important for them. It is because they need good pronunciation for communication in English. This research is to find out whether the students’ pronunciation is good and what errors are there in pronouncing the words.

B. Problem of the study

Based on the background above, there are two problems:

1. How is good students’ pronunciation of the second grade at SMP N 2 Sokaraja?
2. What are the errors made by the students?

C. Aims of the study

There are two aims of the research:

1. To find out the ability of students’ pronunciation competence of the second grade students of SMP N 2 Sokaraja.
2. To find out the errors made by the students.

D. Reason of the study

The writer chooses the topic because pronunciation is very important in speaking to communicate with others. So that, the writer wants to know the level of students pronunciation competence and the errors made by the students.
E. Contribution of the study

For the teachers

The result of the research hopefully gives help as the reference for the teachers in evaluating the teaching learning process to develop students’ pronunciation competence. If the result of the research is good, the teacher can keep his learning strategy. But, if the result of the research is bad the teacher can improve learning strategy.

F. Limitation of the problem

According to the topic of the research, the writer wants to find out the quality of students’ pronunciation competence and the factors that are influenced the students’ pronunciation. Actually, according to Ramelan (1994:22), there are two features of pronunciation that can be distinguished. Those are segmental and supra segmental. Segmental features refer to sound units arranged in a sequential order while supra segmental features refer to such features as stress, length, intonation, and other features that always accompany the production of segmental feature. In this research, the writer limited the problem on the segmental feature especially on pronouncing words sounds. The write considers that the students have to pronounce the words. In other words, the pronunciation ability which is used in this research is segmental features.
G. Clarification of the term

1. Descriptive

According to Hornby (1989: 324) descriptive comes from “describe” it means depict something in word, whereas descriptive itself means to give a picture or account of something in words.

2. Study

a) In the Grolier International Dictionary (1981: 912) a word study means: “The act of process of studying, the permit of knowledge, as by pronunciation observation or research.

b) According to Hornby (1989: 1012) Study is defined as the process of gaining or investigating knowledge or certain subject.

So, descriptive study is trying to study, to know even to analyze by examining language parts to the students.

3. Pronunciation

According to Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary Fourth Edition (2011: 352) Pronunciation is a way in which a language or a particular word or sound is spoken.

4. Competence

According to Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary Fourth Edition (2011: 85) Competence is the ability to do something well. Competence is the ability to perform an action.
5. Student

Student is a person who is studying at a college or university, secondary school, or some other place of higher education or technical training (Oxford: 441)