

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

A language is a communication tool produced by human utterances. When people learn a language, whether as a foreign or a second language they will learn all the elements of the language. One of the elements is pronunciation. To mastered pronunciation ability students need a lot of practice and also need a long time to do that.

To have good speaking needs more practice and needs a long process. Burns (2003) stated that learners are more likely to communicate effectively when they have good pronunciation and intonation, despite minor inaccuracies in vocabulary and grammar. Pronunciation mastered by students is very influential in speaking English skills. There are many students especially in the English students' department still lack in pronouncing some words. It can be seen when they are doing conversation in speaking class or when they are doing a presentation. They are often wrong in pronouncing some words and they cannot revise it.

Some problems influence in learning English as a foreign language including pronunciation possessed by students. The factors including interest, need and also learning style. Another factor namely students' environment such as family and university (the lecturer, equipment, method, and teaching media). Based on the explanation above, learning style includes autonomous learning can be one of the factors that influence good pronunciation.

Autonomous learning is a way that can be conditioned by the teacher towards their students and vice versa students can also choose this way of learning autonomously because students can adjust to the time, location, place, and stages of autonomous learning. As Rubin (1979) stated that one who sets his or her direction and takes responsibility for his or her learning. Certain metacognitive skills are necessary for independent learning, including awareness of learning styles and the ability to track one's progress.

Learning pronunciation is not easy, it needs many times to master that. The students should have a lot of practice not only in a class. Practice mouth, lips and throat movements in front of the mirror. This helps the students to move them correctly as they say different words. Doing something like that is called autonomous learning. Autonomous learning is an alternative that can support students' problems in pronouncing the words because autonomous learning can be free for students, where or when the students will do it's up to the students themselves. With autonomous learning, the students have many occasions to practice pronouncing the word with autonomous learning. More practice carried out by students, the students' pronunciation will be better.

Based on the phenomenon above, the writer was interested in conducting research entitled "The Influence of Students Autonomous Learning Toward Increased Students Pronunciation".

B. Reason for Choosing Topic

There are two reasons why autonomous learning and pronunciation is chosen as the topic of this study, namely:

1. Most of the previous research revealed autonomous learning and its factors. Consequently, the researcher is interested in investigating whether or not autonomous learning influences pronunciation.
2. Pronunciation is one of the elements in English language learning. When students have good autonomous learning, their pronunciation will increase.

C. The problem of the Study

The researcher had two research questions for this research such as:

1. Is there any difference between students autonomous learning and students non-autonomous learning on their pronunciation?
2. Does student autonomous learning influence students' pronunciation?

D. The Aim of the Study

Based on the problem formulation above, the aim of this study was:

1. To find out whether or not there is a difference between student autonomous learning and student non-autonomous learning.
2. To investigate whether there is a significant influence on students autonomous learning toward increased students' pronunciation or not.

E. Clarification of Terms

To make the terms more clearly, the researcher classify the meaning of terms which are used in this topic:

1. Ex-post facto

Survey ex-post facto method is one of the methods used to examine events that have occurred which then proceed to the past to find out the factors that can cause the incident. Sukmadinata (2010:55) said that ex-post facto is a study that examines the causal relationship that is not manipulated or treated by the researcher.

2. Autonomous learning

Autonomous learning is one of the ways to increase student pronunciation. According to Kozma, Belle & Williams, autonomous learning is a form of learning that provides opportunities for students to determine: learning goals and learning activities according to their own needs. The autonomous learner takes a (pro-) active role in the learning process, generating ideas and availing himself of learning opportunities, rather than simply reacting to various stimuli of the teacher (Boud, 1988; Kohonen, 1992; Knowles, 1975).

Based on the explanation, it can be known that autonomous learning is a learning activity that does by students itself outside in the class and students can take the learning goals on their own.

3. Pronunciation

Pronunciation means how someone says words. Pronunciation is an important element in learning English. Before students mastered a speaking skill they have to master in pronunciation first. Because of pronunciation also part of speaking.

F. Contribution of The Study

The result of this study was expected to be useful for:

1. The Students

The result of this research can be a useful input in learning English. Students' autonomous learning increased students' pronunciation. Finally, it can enhance student achievement, especially in the academic context.

2. The Teachers

The result of this research gives good information that can be used to understand more about students pronunciation through student autonomous learning.

3. The Other Researchers

This research can be an inspiration or idea for other researchers to conduct a relevant study in line with pronunciation.