

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Research

In oral communication (speaking), a person is not only a speaker, but also a hearer. As the speaker, a person should have good pronunciation to make the hearer understand and get the message from the speaker. If mispronunciation happens, there will be miscommunication between speaker and hearer. This will happen in the classroom, if the teacher does not have good pronunciation.

As pronunciation is very important, it should be mastered by everyone. Selinker in Gilakjani (2012:119) stated that in language learning more emphasis should be paid on learning than on teaching. When learning English pronunciation, there may be some errors made by the students. The errors can be in the form of mistake of pronouncing some words.

This phenomenon happens at State Junior High School 2 Kaligondang. Most of the students of Seven Grade at this school make mistakes when pronounce English words. Those mistakes causing the students have problem with their English pronunciation.

One of the problems that the learner of a foreign language faces is how to utter sounds of a language accurately. English language sounds include vowel, consonants, cluster, and diphthong. The researcher will take vowel and consonants as the scope of the research, because vowels and consonants are the basic of English sound.

However, the problems will not happen if there is not factor. Biyaem in Khan and Qadir (2012:38) discussed the following factors in pronunciation errors:

- a. Interference from the mother tongue.
- b. The lack of opportunity to use English in their daily life.
- c. Unchallenging English lesson.
- d. Being passive learners.
- e. Being too shy to speak English with classmates.
- f. Lack of Responsibility for their own learning.

Therefore, this research is done to identify the common problematic sounds in English which cause students to get problem and what factors that cause the problems.

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

The reasons why the researcher is interested in doing the research and choosing the topic is the differences between Indonesian and English sound system that makes Indonesian people substitutes the sound that do not exist in Indonesian language with other sound which are close to them in the place of articulation.

C. Problems of the Research

Based on the identification of the problems, the researcher formulates the research problems as follow:

1. What are the common pronunciation problems made by the students?
2. What factors cause the problems?

D. Aims of the Research

The aims of this research are to explore:

1. the common pronunciation problems made by the students.
2. the factors causing the problem.

E. Clarification of The Terms

To help the readers, the following are the clarification of terms used in this study.

1. Pronunciation problem

Many students have problems in the pronunciation of some English sounds. They confuse to pronounce each vowel as if there is only one pronunciation for each sound. For instance women, service, obstacle, performance; the students use /u/ instead of /i/ in the word women, they use /ai/ instead of /i/ in the word service, and they use /ei/ instead of /^ə/ in the word obstacle, and they pronounce with long vowel /^ə:/ instead of short one /^ə/ in the last word.

The problems also occur in the consonants, e.g. the word think, the student pronounce it with /t/ instead of /^θ/.

It is difficult for a second language learner to speak with native-like pronunciation. Therefore, this research attempts to identify the problematic areas of pronunciation.

2. Factors causing the problems

Hassan (2014:33-36) stated that there are four factors that cause the pronunciation problems namely:

a. Mother tongue interference

Mother tongue interference cause the problems because people do not accustomed to use new ways of organ of speech in producing new sounds. In this case, Indonesian people do not accustomed to use their organ of speech to produce English sound.

b. Sound system differences between first and second language

There are some new sounds from second language that do not exist in first language. In this study, not all English sounds exist in Indonesian sound. So, Indonesian people are not familiar with that sounds.

c. Inconsistency of English vowel

English vowels have more than just one pronunciation, so Indonesian people get confuse when deciding to pronounce a vowel with an exact sound.

d. Influence of spelling on pronunciation

The sound of spoken English do not match up with letter of written English. So, if Indonesian people do not know such relationship between sound and spelling, they will mispronounce words just by looking at the spelling.

This research is done to identify the exact factors causing the students make problem in pronunciation.