

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

As human beings, we all learn to speak at least one language. Language is used for communication. It is made up of sounds. Language is a highly organized system in which each unit plays an important role which is related to other parts.¹

Being an international language, English is spoken in the most international event and it is used as the medium of the information on science, technology, and culture. English now has a prominent position in twenty more countries.²

Language as means of communication can be used not only for informative message but also for establishing and maintaining social relationship with others. Every person expresses their social relationship with language when they interact with others to communicate.

Besides as tool communication, language has function as a tool to express idea, message, feeling, and wishes of someone to other. So language has an important role in human's life. It describes how people can cooperate and get along with one

¹ Lim Kiat Boey, *an Introduction to Linguistics for the Language Teacher*, (Singapore: Singapore University Press, 1975), p. 1

²Jean Brewster, Gail Ellis, and Denis Girard, *The Primary English Teacher Guide*, (China: Pinguin English, 2003), p. 1

another. Language and people are two things that cannot be separated. People use language for many purposes. For examples, they use it just to show that they recognize each other's presence, or they use it to express emotions, to obtain information, to have control on people's physical activity, to influence the thought of listener and soon.

Language is a system of sounds related to a system of meanings. Every sound has it own meanings and it's always related each other. An important characteristic of language is recursion. It means that sentences may be produced with other sentences inside them. A sentence will have the full meaning with the construction of another sentences toward it. ³ In English language, there are many skills, such as Reading, Speaking, Listening, Writing. Pronunciation is also one skill in English which is sometime abstract to explains.

Pronunciation is absolutely crucial in learning language including English. It has significant role in determining the degree of literacy in ones communications with others in as much as to talk with other people one must pronounce word. Yet, pronunciation problems are common in learning foreign language, including English. As Ramelan states "If someone wants to learn a foreign language he will obviously meet all kinds of learning problems. Those difficulties have to do with the

³ Lim Kiat Boey, *an Introduction to Linguistics for the Language Teacher*, p.2

learning the new sounds, the learning of the new vocabulary items, and the learning of new unfamiliar ways of arranging the foreign words into sentences.”⁴

From the statement above, there many new things in learning foreign language, especially in sound system and arranging words into sentences. Understanding the sound system in language, it will made us understand about the language it self. We can understand what the foreigner speaks and means.

Pronunciation is a part of the language, it becomes something important when someone is transferring knowledge to other people, to read and to speak the words with a correct production it is hoped more easier received a meaning. Like in hadits, our prophet Muhammad said that communication can be understood if between the speaker and the listener have the connection each other, share the meaning accurately so that it will be a good tool in communication process.

كان كلامه كلاماً فصلاً، يفهمه كل من سمعه

“His (Rasulullah) speech is clear, and understandable by all the listeners (HR. Abu Daud)”.⁵

The hadits above shows that Rasulullah always speaks very clear to another people. It makes them understand what Rasulullah explains to them. If we speak with the good and clear

⁴ Ramelan, 2003. *English Phonetics*. Semarang: Unnes Press. P. 4

⁵ Sayyid Ahmad Al-Hasyimi, *Syarah Mukhtaarul Ahaadist*, (Bandung: CV. Sinar Baru, 1993), p. 682

pronunciation, the listener will understand well what we mean. It shows that Islam gives high attention toward communication. Islam also explains about reading, writing and knowledge related to the humans which are important as guidance in education activity that is teaching-learning process.

We have to pay attention to pronunciation because when we make mistakes in pronouncing the English words, it caused misunderstanding between the speaker and the listener. There are many ways in pronunciation. There are different words with the different pronunciation and transcription. The wrong pronunciation will make the wrong meaning.

Knowing what sounds we produce and use is part of understanding what makes us human. When we turn to the characteristics of the English sound system that make it specifically English and different from french or Arabic, we move into the domain of phonology, which is the language specific selection and organization of sound to signal meaning

When we know a language, we can speak and it can be understood by others who know that language, it means that we have the capacity to produce sounds that signify certain meanings and to understand or interpret the sounds produce by others.⁶

Language also includes the sounds of the long and how they may be “strung” together to form meaningful units. The

⁶ Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman and friends, *An Introduction to Language Seventh Edition*, (United States: Thomson Corporation, 2003), p.4

sounds of all the language of the world together constitute a limited set of the sounds that the human vocal tract can produce.⁷

Pronunciation is related to Speech Sound. It's one of the aspect of language. The study of speech sound in language is called Phonology. Each language has its own speech sound structure which differ from one language to another language. By learning the speech sound structure of language, we not only can recognize and understand how to pronounce a word correctly, but can also produce the words using correct pronunciation.⁸

Knowing of the sound system (Phonology) of our native language is complex. Minimally, it entails knowing what are possible and what aren't possible sounds in language. We also can know what are possible combination of sounds and what sounds are found in what parts of words.⁹

The sounds we produce constitutes the universal sets of human speech sounds. When we learn a language, we learn which sounds occur in our language and how they pattern.

⁷ Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman and friends, *An Introduction to Language Seventh Edition*, p.231

⁸ J. Sutomo, *English Phonological Processes, A Study of Generative Phonology Theory*, (Semarang: Universitas Stikubank), p. 1

⁹ Susan Gass and Larry Selinker, *Second Language Acquisition: An Introductory Course*, (USA: Lawrence Elbraum Associates Publisher, 2001), p. 6-7

According to this case, phonology is the study of the ways in which speech sounds form systems and patterns.¹⁰

Phonological knowledge includes information about sounds can occur at the beginning of a word, what sounds can occur at the end of a word, and what sounds can appear next to each within a syllable. It also permits a speaker to produce sounds that form meaningful utterances, to recognize foreign “accent”, to make up words, to add the appropriate phonetic segments to form plurals and past tenses, to produce aspirated and aspirated voiceless stops in the appropriate context, to know what is or is not a sound in one’s language, and to know that different phonetic strings may represent the same morpheme.¹¹

Phonology is very important in learning pronunciation. For having a good pronunciation as a tool of communication, achieving good phonology is important. Studying about sound, phoneme in English gives an influence toward students’ pronunciation.

This thesis tried to find out whether there is influence of the students’ achievement of English phonology toward their pronunciation.

¹⁰ Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman and friends, *An Introduction to Language Seventh Edition*, p.273

¹¹ Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman and friends, *An Introduction to Language Seventh Edition*, p.274

B. Question of the Research

This study is conducted in order to answer the following problems:

1. How is the students' achievement of English phonology?
2. How is the students' achievement of pronunciation?
3. Is there any influence of the students' achievement of English phonology toward their pronunciation?

C. Objective of the Research

Based on the problem formulation above, the objective of the research is to find out the influence of the student's achievement of phonology toward their pronunciation.

In specific, the objective of the research is to get information about:

1. To describe the students' achievement of English phonology.
2. To describe the students' achievement of pronunciation based on their achievement of phonology.
3. To identify the influence of students' achievement of English phonology toward their pronunciation.

D. Pedagogical Significance

Based on the problems above, this study is important for three reasons:

1. For the teacher

By doing the research, the teacher hopefully able to get new concept about what the students need in learning English. The pronunciation is important in learning English. The teacher can be able to understand the importance of pronunciation in Learning English. The writer give some ways in learning pronunciation by understanding and achieving phonology.

2. For the students

By doing the research, the writer hopes that the students can improve their pronunciation by achieving phonology in English learning. The students can speak English fluently with good pronunciation.

3. For other researcher

By doing this research, the writer gets some experience in teaching English and hopes that the next researcher can find out the new subjects in English research.