

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Language is the thread that connects experiences of our lives, giving access to the society of others, and allowing others to understand our thoughts, needs, desires. And we know that communication is basic existence that live without words is difficult envision. Basically, language and communication have deep relationship. Language for communicate, and communication with language. That does not know the spoken language, written language, or sign language.

Man speaks a language. He uses a language as means of communication with other people, as a tool to express his ideas and wishes. Without language it is hard to imagine how people can cooperate and get along with one another.¹ Language has been defined as a means of communication which uses speech sounds as the medium. Besides using language man can convey message in various ways. To do it he can use such signals as clapping with his hands, using signals using fingers, the sounds of the flute, and the like. However, the kind of sounds produced by man is rich variation, because he can pronounce such vowels as /a, i, u, e, o/, or consonants like /b, p, d, t, m, n, v, f, z, s/ etc. In addition to their varieties, human speech sounds can also be combined in various ways in order to form utterance.²

According to the *KTSP (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan)* teaching English in Indonesia is concerned on contextual teaching learning that help students to understand the material of the lesson by relating them to their personal, social and culture life. Its purpose is the students are able to apply their knowledge into their daily life contextually.³ So, however pronunciation is a part importance

¹ Ramelan, *English Phonetics*, (Semarang: UPT UNNES Press, 1994), p. 1.

² Ramelan, *Introduction to Linguistic Analyses*, (Semarang: IKIP Semarang Press, 1992), p.9.

³ Ulfatul Qurnia, "The Use of Songs to Improve Students' Achievement in Pronunciation", A Final Project (Semarang: IAIN Walisongo Semarang, 2009), hlm. 1.

in a language. The students have to know and understand how to pronounce words so that, there is no miss communication in a language. But, sometimes they can't get it in their school specifically.

Pronunciation is one of the components in speaking skill and it is very important to make students' speaking clear, smooth and beautiful. In English pronunciation, students learn about new speech sounds. They must be able to pronounce of English speech sound correctly and mistakes in pronouncing these sounds will cause miscommunication and misunderstanding between speaker and listener (Ramelan, 1994: 8). Many kinds of pronunciation, one of them are diphthong is a kind of vowel sound with special feature, that is there a deliberate glide made from one vowel position to another vowel position, and which is produced in one syllable.⁴

Many students of elementary school have difficulties to pronounce the English words; the same case happens at SDN 01 Tembok Luwung Tegal. The use of boring strategy is problematic to elementary school, because they as young learners prefer playing to thinking hard. So, the writer encourages purposing another method which seems to be more interesting to the young learners.

The choice of one of learning method will influence the kind of media will be chosen, although there are many aspect that must be noticed when choose a medium. There are the aims of learning, the kinds of assignment and responses of students that is hoped after getting the lesson. Hamalik states that the use of media in learning process will be able to arouse desirability and proclivity arouse motivation and stimulation to study and even carry out the influences of psychology to the students. Ibrahim (196:432) explains how very importance media in learning because: "learning media is the most important influence for one of the five senses and it can be more give comprehension"⁵

In addition the teacher should be able to know that the students' interest and motivations are important factors in learning a new language for the students achieve this goal of study. It will be achieved by deciding the most efficient and

⁴ Ramelan, *English Phonetics*, (Semarang: UPT UNNES Press, 1994), p. 81.

⁵ Azhar Arsyad, *Media Pembelajaran*, (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2009), P. 15-16

effective technique and media in learning process. Here, the media is nursery rhymes. It is a simple traditional poem or song for children. Therefore, the writer chooses nursery rhymes to teach students' pronunciation of diphthong in elementary school.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The writer's reasons for choosing the topics are:

1. Pronunciation is one aspect in spoken English that is very important, but it is difficult for Indonesian students to master good pronunciation.
2. Nursery rhymes are English type that is rich of words, and idea. Using nursery rhymes in the right order will improve students' pronunciation ability.
3. Nursery rhymes make students more enjoy than pronounce word by word and easy listening.

C. Definition of Key Terms

There are some key terms of this study, as follows:

1. Nursery rhymes

According to dictionary, a nursery rhyme is a traditional poem or song for young children. Such as Little Jack Horner, Humpty Dumpty, and twinkle-twinkle little star, etc. A nursery rhyme is a short rhyming story, often set to music and usually designed for young children, such as those in a nursery.⁶

2. Students in Elementary School

A student is a learner, or someone who attends an educational institution. The elementary school students are youth enrolled in public or private elementary schools in kindergarten through grades 5 or 6.

3. Pronunciation of diphthong

Pronunciation is the way in which a particular word person pronounces the word of language.⁷ In other word pronunciation also refers to the way a

⁶ <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-nursery-rhyme.htm>, accessed on 8th June 2013

⁷ Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary Current English*, (London: Oxford University Press, 1974), p. 670.

word or a language is usually spoken, or the manner in which someone utters a word.⁸ A diphthong is a kind of vowel sound with a special feature, that is there is a deliberate glide made from one vowel position to another vowel position, and which is produced in one syllable. In such a glide, as we have in a diphthong is normally represented by two symbols vowel sounds, which have definite tongue position, such as /ea/, /ou/, and /ai/.

D. Research Questions

Is nursery rhymes effective to facilitate students' pronunciation of diphthong at the fifth grade of SDN 01 Tembok Luwung Tegal in the academic year of 2012/ 2013?

E. Objective of the Research

The Objective of this study will find out the effectiveness of nursery rhymes to facilitate students' pronunciation of diphthong at the fifth grade SDN 01 Tembok Luwung Tegal in the academic year of 2012/ 2013.

F. Limitation of the Research

Research should be limited in its scope, so that the problem being examined is not too wide and the research effective. To limit the scope of the research and to analyze the problems, this research is limited by the following factors:

1. In this research, the writer only limits the items of standards pronunciations fluency as stated by Ramelan that is supra segmental features of pronunciations such as stress, linking sounds, and intonation.
2. In this research, the writer uses experimental research as media to get information about techniques, and strategies to improve students' pronunciation ability. This research will be done at fifth grade students of SDN 01 Tembok Luwung Tegal. So that when the same research will be gone in other places, it is still possible to get different result.

⁸ Wikipedia, "Pronunciation", *en.wikipedia.org/wiki/pronunciation*, accessed on 8th June 2013.

G. Significances of the Research

The objective of the research the use of nursery rhymes to facilitate students' pronunciation of diphthong. There are also benefits in this research for several elements connecting with teaching and learning process. They are as follows:

1. For the Researcher

It is expected that it will be useful knowledge and experience for the researcher when he/ she will begin his/ her profession as a teacher in teaching pronunciation in the future time.

2. For the Teacher

By doing this research, the researcher hopes that it will be useful to give contribution of developing and improving teaching especially in teaching pronunciation. Moreover, the researcher hopes teacher can use some appropriate materials and exercise in teaching pronunciation. Therefore, the students will get better achievement.

3. For the Students

By appropriate materials and exercise in teaching pronunciation hopefully the students will improve their English skills. They may improve their English since they can learn English through a lot of sources that they like and understand easily such as practice their English sounds with some interesting methods prepared by the teachers in teaching pronunciation.