

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language plays an essential role in our communication. People must speak with one another as a tool for exchanging ideas and wishes.¹ It is difficult to comprehend how individuals can cooperate and communicate with one another in the absence of language.

English is an international language that is recognized throughout the world and is used in various fields, such as business, trade, education and technology.² Therefore, the ability to speak English is very important for someone to be able to communicate with people from all over the world.

According to Hornby pronunciation is defined as the way of how language is spoken³. It means that pronunciation is the speech production that creates meanings. To be able to speak English properly and correctly, apart from understanding grammar, one must also be able to pronounce every word properly so that listeners can easily understand it. However, there are many obstacles in achieving good pronunciation skills.

As a foreign language in Indonesia, English pronunciation is one of the most challenging skills to acquire and learn. English pronunciation is quite tricky for Indonesian students since they have been used to speak their mother tongue since childhood. Basically, the challenge in learning English comes from the difference between the mother tongue of the learner and English. Learners often experience difficulties in pronouncing

¹ Ramelan, M.A., *English Phonetics*, (Semarang: UPT UNNES PRESS, 2003), 1

² Allan Lauder, *The Status and Function of English in Indonesia: A Review of Key Factors*. (Makara Sosial Humaniora, vol 12, 2008), 12

³ Hornby, A.S., *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 352

consonants, vowels and accents in English, especially those who are not familiar with English sounds and continue to use their own way of pronouncing their own language in constructing English sentences.

According to Gilakjani (2012) stated that pronunciation is an essential component of foreign language acquisition because it directly influences learners communicative competence as well as performance. Pronunciation difficulties can reduce a learners self confidence, limit social interaction, and negatively affect perceptions of a speakers credibility and talents. One of the most important needs for language success is for the language learner to have comprehensible pronunciation

Pronunciation is the fundamental feature of English that students must master in order to excel in speaking and writing. Students' English pronunciation abilities are still poor, and they frequently struggle. Another issue that both students and teachers confront in school is pronouncing words. Because pronunciation plays a crucial role in communicating. To begin, teachers frequently struggle to find enough time in class to devote to English instruction.

Furthermore, in the context of study pronunciation many aspect that influenced student producing the English sounds. According to Zhang, biological factors such as age, ear perception, brain and ability are influenced student pronunciation in internal aspect. Both internal and external influences affect students in pronouncing English sounds. Pronunciation also plays an important role because it is one of the factors for foreign speakers to be categorized as having good English skills.

Therefore, in this research, the researcher tries to identify various factors that influence learners' pronunciation difficulties in learning English and also which phonemes that mispronounced by the students especially in sounding consonant sounds. One of the ways to know which consonant

sounds that mispronounced by the students is using English Language Speech Assistant (ELSA) Application. ELSA is an English learning communication app that helps correct pronunciation errors to every syllable using AI recognition and get a feedback for pronunciation test, which is a good feature to know the feedback or evaluation after doing pronunciation test to know which phonem or other aspects that can be fixed by the students. ELSA app has many lesson and practice exercises to support students in learning various topic and also pronunciation skills.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher would like to conduct research pronunciation difficulties facing by students especially in consonant feature and also the factors that influence students pronunciation. This study would develop a efficient, fun and feasible for “ **Exploring Learners Pronunciation Difficulties in English Language Learning Through ELSA Application at eighth grade of MTS Al-Rahmah**”. The development of this method is expected to enable student awareness of study pronunciation, to know, learn and fixed their mistakes in pronouncing English sounds, so as to create students exciting and fun learning pronunciation.

B. Statement of The Problem

In relation to background of the problem above, the following problems can be identified:

1. What are the most consonant sounds error to be pronounced ?
2. What are the factors that influences to students' difficulty learning pronunciation?

C. Objectives of The Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the specific objective of the research are:

1. To find out which consonant sounds are often mistakenly pronounced by students.
2. To identify the factors of students having difficulty learning pronunciation To find out which consonant sounds are often mistakenly pronounced by students.

D. The Scope of The Study

The scope of the research is focused on the consonant phonemes sounds that are difficult to be pronounced by learner and factor that influenced student pronunciation. **This study named Exploring Learners Pronunciation Difficulties in English Language Learning Through ELSA Application at Eighth Grade of MTS Al-Rahmah** with pronunciation test and written interview. The subject of study is the students of eighth grade at MTS Al-Rahmah.

E. The Significance of The Research

1. This research is expected to be helpful some aspects of the English pronunciation teaching process in class.
2. This research expected to be helpful for student to understand the importance study pronunciation.

F. Previous Study

After attempting to locate this pertinent research, the following studies have relevance to this study are:

1. Research by Alifa Camilia Fadillah (2020) was entitled "Pronunciation Difficulties of EFL Learners in Indonesia: A Literature Study" Based on the findings, the study concludes that there are many vowels and consonants that EFL learners are having difficulties pronouncing and some factors influencing this phenomenon, namely the influence of mother tongue⁴.
2. Research by Mochamad Adnan Falahuddin (2019) this research was entitled "The Influence of Mid-East Sundanese Dialect (L1) in The Pronunciation of English Sounds Among English Department Students At Universitas Majalengka" Based on the findings, the vowels that were pronounced properly by students were: /ʌ/, /ɪ/, /ʊ/, /e/, /u:/, /ə/, /ɒ/. While the consonants that were pronounced by the students easily were: /b/, /c/, /d/, /g/, /h/, /j/, /k/, /l/, /m/, /n/, /dʒ/, /t/, /r/, /w/, /ŋ/, /ʃ/ and /p/⁵.
3. Research by Malikatul laila (2012) was entitled "Pronunciation Quality of Javanese of ESL Students in Producing the English Sound" Based on findings, the quality of Javanese ESL students pronouncing of English sounds is initiated from identifying its consistence in its routine production⁶.

From the previous studies above, there are similarities and differences to the research that I will examine: similarity in research analyzes the same object, the difficulties students learning pronunciation. The difference is that the first study used a literature review or review paper the second one is focused on students properly

⁴ Alifa, C.F., *Pronunciation Difficulties of EFL Learners in Indonesia*. (Jurnal Budaya Brawijaya, vol2, No1)

⁵ M. Adnan Falahuddin, *The Influence of Mid-East Sundanese Dialect L1 in the Pronunciation of English Sounds Among English Department Students At Universitas Majalengka*, UNS 2019.

⁶ Malikatul Laila, *Pronunciation Quality of Javanese of ESL Students in Producing The English Sound*, (UNS Jurnal of Language Studies) vol 01, no 01, November 2012.

producing sounds and the last one is focused on how Javanese students producing sound in English. Meanwhile this research is using qualitative descriptive and only focusing to the common sounds that student facing the difficulties to pronounce and some factors that influence it.

G. Organization of The Writing

This paper is arranged into five chapters; every chapter has some point to explain the chapter.

Chapter I is introduction contains the background of the study, statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, previous study, and the organization of writing.

Chapter II is theoretical frameworks; this chapter is consists of the theorist from some experts we have conducted the research related to this research.

Chapter III research methodology contains the research method, the site and time of the study, participant and sample, the technique of data collecting, and the technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV explain the result of the research, which consists of a description of data and hypothesis testing.

Chapter V presents the conclusion and the suggestion.