

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. The Definition of Pronunciation

Pronunciation is one of important aspects in English, especially in oral communication. Every sound, stress pattern, and intonation may convey meaning. The none native speaker of English who speak English Have to be very careful in pronouncing some utterance or he may create misunderstanding. Pronunciation is the act or result of producing the sounds of speech consisting of consonants, vowels, and diphthongs. In addition, it also deals with such other aspects as pitch, stress, juncture, and intonation.

Pronunciation is the act of manner of Pronouncing of words, utterance of speech. In other words, it can also be said that is way of speaking a word, especially a way that is accepted or general understood. In the sense Pronunciation entails the production and reception of sound of speech and the achievement of the meaning.¹ Here is pronunciation definition from some expert:

¹ Kristina, Diah and Rarasteja, Zita. *Pronunciation* ¹, (Surakarta : Sebelas Maret University Press, 2006), p.1

According to Hornby in the production of consonants, the parts of mouth involved are tongue, the lips, the teeth, the tooth ridge, the palate, the toe, the velum and the uvula.[†]

Hornby states “Pronunciation is the way in which a language is spoken, the way in which a word is pronounced, the way a person speaks the words a language.

Harmer states “The areas of Pronunciation which we need to draw our students attention to include individual sounds they are having difficulty with word, and press sentence, stress and intonation”.[†]

Cook defined pronunciation as the production of English sounds. Pronunciation is learnt by repeating sounds and correcting them when produced inaccurately. When learners start learning pronunciation they make new habits and overcome the difficulties resulting from the first language. According to Yates pronunciation is the production of sounds that is used for making meaning. Pronunciation is the production of a sound system which doesn't interfere with communication either from the speakers' or the listeners' viewpoint . Pronunciation is the way of uttering a word in an

[†] Hijri Amri, Khairul Harha, Lely Refnita, *Journal An Analysis of the Second Year Student' Problem in Pronouncing English Consonant at English Department*, (Bung Hatta University)

[†] Devi Mustasih, *Journal of English Language and Learning*, (Swadaya Gunung Jati University Cirebon)

accepted manner . Furthermore, Richard and Schmidt defined pronunciation as the method of producing certain sounds.^۴

Pronunciation (also known as phonology) include the rule of individual sounds and sound segmental, that is feature at the segmental level, as well as supra-segmental feature such as stress, rhythm and intonation.^۵

From the definition above it can be conclude that Pronunciation is the important basic requirement of learner competent in learning English.

۱. Problems in pronunciation

In our country English plays as a Foreign language. It means that people use English only in a School they have the lesson in the Classroom. Since is rarely used by people as medium communication, students may find many difficulties in Pronunciation of English.

Cruthers explains the reasons why learning another language pronunciation are difficult; first, some sounds of the new or target language do not exist

in the learner's native language. The second is in the difference of distribution between native language and the target language. In addition, Nation and Newton mention there are five factors affect on learning of another sound system. They are, the age of the learner, the learner's first language, the learner's current stage of proficiency development, the

^۴ Abbas Pourhosein Gilakjani, *International Journal of Research in English Education*, (Lahijan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Lahijan, Iran ۲۰۱۶).

^۵ Jack C Richards and Willy A Renandya, (ed), *Methodology in Language Teaching an Anthology of Current Practice*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press ۲۰۰۲), p. ۱۷۵

experience and attitudes of the learner, and the condition for teaching and learning. It means that the differences between learner native language and target language will impact to sounds produced by foreign language learn

According to Sajavana and Dufva go on to discuss two major reasons for difficulties Finnish people face in the pronunciation of English fricatives. The first cause of problems they present is the direct cause of the physical and relational differences between the learner's native language and the target language. The speaker faces the demanding task of learning the actual allophonic realizations of sounds though articulatory processes and connecting the phonemes according to the rules of the target language rather than the learner's native one. As many of the fricative sounds are absent in Finnish a second language learner has to begin his or her pronunciation training by learning the missing sounds. Likewise a Finnish learner of English is required to learn for example the different distribution of the phonemes /v/ and /w/in English in relation to Finnish.

The second set of problems is created by the interrelationship between the spelling and the pronunciation of the words in English. This issue arises from the written form but is actually morphophonemic: the wrong phonemic interpretation is given to the orthographic form. This problem is shared by all foreign language speakers of English and is due to the nature of language learning: learning from books rather than auditory input. The result is "spelling pronunciation" in which for example the weak forms are ignored

and replaced by phonemic representations of the letters of the word. From the general description of the causes of the Finnish pronunciation problems it is possible to continue into more detailed accounts of the Finnish pronunciation mistakes regarding the English fricatives.^١

Moreover, Derwin and Murno argue that having a good pronunciation of the language can help in normal communication, particularly intelligibility. In other words, learning how to pronounce another language sounds is very important in interaction and wrong in pronunciation can make misunderstanding in conversation. So, introducing the correct English pronunciation to the English students can reduce the error produced in pronouncing English pronunciation.^٢

٢. Place of articulation

According to Ogden , “articulators are the parts of the vocal tract that are used in producing speech sounds”. They are classified into two kinds, active and passive.

Active articulators are the articulators that can move, as exemplified, the tongue tip is an active articulator in sounds like [s] [t] [n], it moves up to behind the teeth, meanwhile the passive articulator is the bony ridge behind the upper teeth known as alveolar ridge.

^١ Mina Marika Timona, *Pronunciation of the English Fricatives*, (University of Iceland ٢٠١١).

^٢ Andri Donald, *Journal Indonesian Students’ Difficulties in Pronouncing English Dhiptongs*, (University of Pasir Pengaraian ٢٠٠٦)

Passive articulators are articulators that cannot move, but are the target for active articulators. Most places of articulation are described by reference to the passive articulator. Place of articulation focuses on where the sounds are made and produced. On sounds production, each consonant has its own articulators place. The consonants on this place of articulation are classified as follow:

١) Bilabial

Bilabial sounds are sounds made at the lips. “Bi” means two and “labial” is an adjective based on the Latin word for lips.

In English, the sound { p,b,m } are bilabial.[^]

٢) Labiodental

Labiodentals sounds are made with the upper teeth (dental) against the lower lip (labio) then, the labiodental sounds {f v} occur. Labiodentals sounds can be made with the teeth against either the inside surface of the lip (endolabial) or the outside edge of the lip (exolabial).

٣) Dental

Dental sounds are made with the active articulator is part of the tongue. Place of articulation where the tongue is involved after passive articulator, it follow that the passive articulator is the top front teeth, the active articulator is the tip of the tongue. In English

[^] April McMahon, *An Introduction to English Phonology*, (Edinburgh University Press, ٢٠٠٢),p.٣٠.

dental sounds [θ ð] occur. In English as in the initial sounds of thigh and thy are included in dental that is, produced with the tongue between the teeth.

٤) Alveolar

Alveolar sounds are produced by the tip or blade of the tongue moving up towards the alveolar ridge, This is a bony ridge behind the upper teeth. Alveolar ridge is behind the upper teeth. When producing consonant sounds such as in word dent it can be felt that tip of the tongue makes a light contact with alveolar ridge. Sounds with an alveolar place of articulation in most varieties of English are [t d n l r s z].

٥) Post alveolar

Post alveolar sounds are made just behind (post) the alveolar ridge. There are four of these in English, [ʃ] and [ʒ], the sounds spelt [sh] in word “ship”, [ʃɪp], and [si] in “invasion”, and the sounds [tʃ dʒ] as in “church” and “judge”.

٦) Palatal

Palatal produce by the front of the tongue, which moves up toward the hard palate. We have so far encountered two palatal sounds the approximate /j/ in *yes*, and the voiceless palatal stop [c] in *kitchen*.

٧) Velar

Velar sounds is the back of the tongue and the soft palate. The soft palate is at the back of the roof of the mouth, and is also known as the velum. The sounds [k g] are velars, as is the sound [ŋ], represented by [ng] in words like king, wrong, rang.

٨) Glottal

Glottal sounds are made at the glottis, the space between the vocal folds, which are located at the larynx. English uses a number of such sounds: [h] as in word high.

٢. Manner of Articulation

As well as knowing where a sound is made, we need to know how it is made. Consonants involve at least two articulators. When the articulators are brought closer together, the flow of air between them changes: for instance, it can be stopped or made turbulent. The channels between any two articulators govern the pressure and flow of air through the vocal tract, and in turn this affects the kinds of sound that come out. The way a sound is made (rather than where it is made) is called manner of articulation. Most manners of articulation are combinable with most places of articulation.^٩

Stop articulations are those sounds where a complete closure is made in the oral tract between two articulators; this stops the air moving out of the oral tract. Stop articulations include a whole range of sound types, which

^٩ Richard Ogden, *An Introduction to English Phonetics*, (Edinburg University Press, ٢٠٠٩), p.١٦.

vary according to the kind of air flow (oral vs. nasal) and whether the closure can be maintained for a long time or not.

Plosives are made with a complete closure in the oral tract, and with the velum raised, which prevents air escaping through the nose. English plosives include the sounds [p t k b d]. Plosives are ‘maintainable’ stops because they can be held for a long time, and the closure portion arises from a deliberate articulation. The term ‘*plosive*’ relates to the way the stop is released – with which it is sometimes called an ‘*explosion*’.

Nasals are made with a complete closure in the oral tract, but with the velum lowered so that air escapes through the nose. For English there are three main nasal sounds, [m n ŋ], bilabial, alveolar and velar respectively. Nasals are usually voiced in English.

Fricative articulations are the result of two articulators being in close approximation with each other. Fricatives in English include [f v θ ð s z ʃ], the examples are: *Fish*, *vow*, *think*, *the*, *loose*, *lose*, *wish*, *vision*.

Affricates are plosives which are released into fricatives. English has two of these: [tʃdʒ], both post alveolar, as in ‘church’ and ‘judge’. The sounds [h ʁ] as in ‘heart’ and ‘ahead’ are voiceless and voiced glottal fricatives respectively. These sounds are produced with friction at the glottis.

Approximants in English include the sounds [j w l r]. The English

approximants [w j r] are central and [l] is lateral. Approximants are among the phonetically most complex of sounds in English because they typically involve more than one articulation.

B. Definition of Fricative

Fricatives are sounds during the production of which there is a close approximation between the articulators. Due to the sudden narrowing in the oral cavity, the air flows out with a hissing sound. 'In the articulation of a fricative consonant, two organs are brought and held sufficiently close together for the escaping airstream to produce local air turbulence' (Gimson: ١٨٩).

١. The Production of Fricative

At the systematic level, English has nine fricatives. This makes them the largest class of consonants in English by manner of articulation. One determining factor in the auditory quality of fricatives is the shape of the tongue; the shape of the surface where friction is generated (such as the teeth or the roof of the mouth) is also important. Although they are not explicitly represented on the IPA chart, these factors explain why it contains so many fricatives. Fricatives in English. Labiodental, Dental, Alveolar, Post alveolar, Glottal, Voiceless f θ s ʃ h, Voiced v ð z ʒ

١) Labiodental Fricatives

For labiodental fricatives [f v], air passes between the upper teeth and

١٨ Richard Ogden, *An Introduction to English Phonetics*, p. ١٨٨.

lower lip. Labiodental articulations are made with the upper teeth on either the outside or the inside of the lower lip. They do not sound very different from each other and, as far as is known, no variety of English exploits the difference because they are made without involvement of the tongue.

Examples:

[f]- word-initial: feet, father, fool, fail, photo

word-medial: affair, defend, offer, tougher, loafer

word-final: leaf, laugh, cough, stuff, roof

[v]-word-initial: veal, vat, vain, vice, voice

word-medial: ever, navy, over, silver, cover

word-final: leave, give, have, move, dove

٢) Dental Fricatives

The fricatives [θ ð] can be made with the tongue blade attaches the upper teeth. In other varieties, the friction is generated against the back of the teeth and the tongue is held relatively flat so that the air escapes through quite a wide channel. This wide channel is what makes the fricatives [θ ð] so quiet in comparison with [s z]. In the case of dental fricatives, this is a wide area at the front of the tongue.

Examples:

[θ] word-initial: thief, thick, thatch, thong, thought

word-medial: ether, ethics, method, author, anthem

word final: heath, smith, breath, path, cloth

[ð] word-initial: there, this, then, though, they

word-medial: breathing, leather, gather, father, mother

word-final: seethe, with, soothe, lathe, writhe

٣) Alveolar Fricatives

In English, for instance, the letter “s” is articulated as [z] when it comes out after the letter having the voiced sound, especially in the final position such as: “peas” [pi:z], “knicker” [nikəz], “mews” [mju:z], “news” [nju:z], “nowadays” [nauədeiz]. The alveolar fricatives [s z] are made with a groove in the center of the tongue. This sound is made through with the center of the tongue attach the hard palate. The jaw is fairly close, so that the upper and lower teeth are close together.

Examples:

[s]-word-initial: sat, sample, soon, soap, sign

word-medial: pieces, losses, essay, axes, concert

word-final-s: farce, famous, dose, ice, fierce

[z]-word-initial: zeal, zest, zoo, zone, zero

word-medial: easy, hesitate, bazaar, bosom, thousand

in word-final clusters: ribs [bz], heads [dz], legs [gz], limbs [mz],

٤) Post Alveolar Fricatives

The post alveolar fricatives [ʃ ʒ] are made with a constriction that is further back than [s z]. Their place of articulation is described as palate-

alveolar or post alveolar. The tongue has a wider channel than for [s z], and it is convex behind the groove, rather than concave as for [s z]. Like [s z], [ʃ ʒ] can be produced with the tongue tip either up or down.

Gimson (١٩٨٠: ٧٧) states that the phoneme [ʒ] in English rarely appears in the word initial and final positions. The phoneme [ʒ] occurs only in loan words, for instance in the word initial: gigolo [ʒigəloʊ], gigue [ʒig], genre [ʒenrə], jalousie [ʒæluzi], and in the word final as in: prestige [prɛstɪʒ], barrage [bæraʒ], rouge [ruʒ].

Examples

[ʃ] word-initial: sheet, shed, shop, sugar, shout

word-medial: Asia, ashore, bushel, cushion, rashly

word final: dish, cash, wash, push, finish

[ʒ]-word-initial-(in French loan words) :gigolo, gigue, jabot, genre

word-medial: pleasure, leisure, usual, confusion, decision

word-final-: barrage, rouge, beige