

## CHAPTER 1

### A. Background of Study

Language is one of important things for everyone in this life. Language is used to communicate with others, share stories, knowledges, experiences, etc. Language as the system of human communication are usually not spoken in exactly the same way a language is spoken by different people are described in terms of regional and social variation (dialect, sociolect).<sup>1</sup> Someone starts using language from birth, babies use cry which is a sign language when they need something. Enter the age of toddlers, children start learning the mother tongue or first language in communicating with people around them. In line with the age, someone starts to learn other languages which is called a second language. Language is not only oral but can also be applied in the form of writing.

The development of English language in the world is acts as a lingua franca, a common language that enables people from diverse background and ethnicities to communicate on a more or less equitable basis. Furthermore, English is spoken by at least a quarter of the world's population, English is also used in education and technology.

In the world of education, Haldfield states English is taught all over the world, by all sorts of teachers to all sorts of learners.

Schools and classrooms vary enormously in their wealth and their provision of equipment.<sup>2</sup> English is entered as a lesson and every education institution expects that every student can understand English and furthermore be able to master it. Many efforts are made in improving the ability of students in English such as through listening, speaking, reading

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<sup>1</sup> Richards, J. C., & Schmidt, R. W. (2013). *Longman dictionary of language teaching and applied linguistics*. Routledge. p.311.

<sup>2</sup> Hadfield, J., Hadfield, C., & Hadfield, C. (2000). *Simple reading activities* (No. s 67, p. 40). Oxford University Press. p.1.

and writing. Besides, another important skill should be mastered by students is pronunciation.

It is known that pronunciation is the way a certain second sound or sounds are produced. Unlike articulation, which refers to actual production of speech sound in the mouth, pronunciation stresses more the way sounds are perceived by the hearer.<sup>3</sup> Good pronunciation can help in communicating to other because communication is the most basic activity for a human being to understand each other. Having a good pronunciation make the communication understandable for both speaker listener because a good pronunciation can make every word that is said clear and meaningful.

Learning English as foreign language is important today. One of the purposes to learn a foreign language is being able to speak the language. To achieve the purposes, the learner need to master pronunciation to make the spoken language meaningful and easy to understand. Fraser stated. "with good pronunciation, a speaker is intelligible despite others errors ; with poor pronunciation, understanding a speaker will be very difficult, despite accuracy in other areas"<sup>4</sup> this statement proves that with a good pronunciation, a speaker will be easily understood even though the speaker make some error. Meanwhile, even a speaker speak accurately, with a less good pronunciation the speech will be hard to be understood. Therefore, it can be stated that the essence of making the speaker and the listener understand each other is by having a good pronunciation skill.

However, it is difficult to learn English pronunciation especially for foreign language learners like Indonesian

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<sup>3</sup> Richards, J. C., & Schmidt, R. W. (2013) . *Longman dictionary of language teaching and applied linguistics*. Routledge. P.483.

<sup>4</sup> Fraser, H. (2000). *Coordinating improvements in pronunciation teaching for adult learners of English as a second language*. DETYA (ANTA Innovative project).

student, some of the Indonesian find it is difficult to pronounce some English words. It is common because English is not used as a daily language. The first language or mother tongue influences the student pronunciation and it is the common problem for the most Indonesian student pronunciation skill. Moreover Study of another language allows the individual to communicate effectively and creatively and to participate in real life situations through the language of the authentic culture itself. Learning another language provides access into a connection across content areas, and promotes an interdisciplinary perspective while gaining intercultural understandings.

In the teaching pronunciation there are some difficulties to understand are from pronounce some English word other than, from the mother tongue this is one of English pronunciation problem and also, fewer media in teaching pronunciation and teaching pronunciation need an affective and easy media to be used to teach and learn English pronunciation, so that the student English pronunciation skill can be improved. Therefore the researcher wants to conduct an Experimental Research with the title **“THE USE OF VIRTUAL ASSISTANT APPLICATION IN TEACHING PRONUNCIATION”**.

#### **B. Statement of Problem**

Based on the background, some problems can be identified:

1. How is the students' pronunciation at the second grade students of SMAN 2 Krakatau Steel Cilegon ?
2. How is virtual assistant applied in teaching pronunciation at the second grade students of SMAN 2 Krakatau Steel Cilegon ?
3. How is the influence of virtual assistant application in teaching pronunciation ?

#### **C. The Aims of the Study**

Based on the identification problems, the writer limits them as follows:

1. To know the students' pronunciation at the second grade students of SMAN 2 Krakatau Steel Cilegon
2. To know the virtual assistant applied in teaching pronunciation at the second grade students of SMAN 2 Krakatau Steel Cilegon
3. To know influence of virtual assistant application in teaching pronunciation

#### **D. Assumption and Hypothesis**

##### **1. Assumption**

The writer assumes there are significance differences between the result of using virtual assistant application in teaching pronunciation using application and without using application

##### **2. Hypothesis**

- The experimental hypothesis (Ha) : there is an improvement of using virtual assistant application in teaching pronunciation
- The null hypothesis (Ho) : there is no improvement of using virtual assistant application in teaching pronunciation

#### **E. Clarification of the Study**

The title of the research is using virtual assistant application in teaching pronunciation (an Experimental research at the second grade student of Sman 2 Krakatau Steel Cilegon )

- 1. Virtual assistant** : A virtual assistant application is an Automatic Speech Recognition which is able to recognize the speech and voice of a human. According to Joseph keshet and Sanny Bengio, the goal of automatic speech recognition is “to transcribe recorded speech utterance into its corresponding sequence of word”.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Keshet, J., & Bengio, S. (Eds.). (2009). *Automatic speech and speaker recognition: Large margin and kernel methods*. John Wiley & Sons. p.3.

**2. Pronunciation** : Pronunciation is the way a certain second sound or sounds are produced. Unlike articulation, which refers to actual production of speech sound in the mouth, pronunciation stresses more the way sounds are perceived by the hearer.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Richards, J, C., & Schmidt, R. W. (2013) . *Longman dictionary of language teaching and applied linguistics*. Routledge. P.483.