

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Language is a very important means of communication in daily human life. Language is used by humans to express themselves in both written and spoken ways. It is explicitly stated by Narey that “language is a system of communication structured by its rules of signification, or meaning-making.”<sup>1</sup> Language can be constructed in a variety of sensory or representational modalities, not limited to human speech and writing.” Based on statement, language is a structure which is changing anytime and used by people to communicate.

The four language components taught in English lessons are structure, vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling. However, at the elementary school level, only 2 of these 4 components that must be mastered, namely pronunciation and vocabulary components. To support students in developing their language learning skills, such components are used. It is indeed important to remember that pronunciation is considered a complicated aspect type that can be used to learn it. Pronunciation is an important role in daily communication. People use pronunciation from simple activity to complex activity. It is also one of the most important skills that can increase students’ achievement in learning foreign language. Therefore, pronunciation is not easy as some people think. Pronunciation is a crucial component for the learning of oral skills in

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<sup>1</sup> Marilyn Narey, *Making Meaning Constructing Multimodal Perspectives of Language, Literacy, And Learning Through Art-Based Early Childhood Education*, (New York: Springer Publisher, 2009), 2.

a second or foreign language.<sup>2</sup> It means that pronunciation is one of the most important skills to master for people who want to communicate in English as a foreign language.

Based on the result interview with one of English Teacher SDIT Bina Insan Kragilan, most of students there had a big problem in pronunciation, especially in English long and short vowels. There are only five vowel letters, but there are many more vowels sound. The most common pronunciation are the long vowels and the short vowels. They had difficulty learning pronunciation. In English pronunciation, each vowel letter can be pronounced with different sound. There are some factors the students might think that pronunciation is difficult. 1) The students have low established pronunciation in English speaking; 2) The student do not understand pronunciation; 3) The students have limited learning media in pronunciation; and 4) The teacher does not motivate the students.

Based on the above factors, researchers assume that the ability to pronounce a student is low. After researchers observed the case, researchers learned that English teachers tended to use traditional methods. In this case, the teacher must develop a teaching strategy or learning media that is suitable and reasonable to the students, because the teacher only uses textbooks and student worksheets, this has an effect on student learning outcomes, especially cognitive and psychological. Traditional methods of teaching English as a foreign language, such as simple explaining and drilling, are unattractive to students and can be particularly monotonous. When learning becomes too monotonous, students will lose interest in the subject.

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<sup>2</sup> Ila Amalia, "Integrated Lesson in Teaching Oral Skill", *Loquen: English Studies Journal*, Vol.12, No. 1, (Juni 2019), 1.

According to explanation above, teachers play an important role in helping students with their pronunciation problems. Teachers should use new learning media to help students improve their pronunciation skills, making their learning more fun and meaningful for them. One of learning media which is suitable in teaching pronunciation is Alphabet book. Alphabet books are currently seeing a rise in popularity in children's literature. Some alphabet books are pieces of art that share a common theme. Others are designed with the older child in mind, and are full of imaginative play and skills to guide or inspire learning.<sup>3</sup> The alphabet book is an interesting and great medium to help students learn English. And students can use it in their spare time. I chose this book as a learning medium in teaching English pronunciation. Because this alphabet books is equipped with phonetic symbols, and a QR code for how to read the words on the pages in the book. So that it has a big impact on student pronunciation. Eny Novalia argues that the use of alphabet book in learning English will be very helpful for students in pronouncing words, so they can learn and remember words easily. By using the alphabet book media students can feel comfortable and relaxed while learning English pronunciation.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, based on the background, the writer draws the conclusion that alphabet book is one of the interesting media in learning English. The writer decided to conduct a study entitled **“The Implementation of Alphabet Book to Improve Students’ English Pronunciation”** (A Classroom Action Research at The Fifth Grade of SDIT Bina Insan Kragilan).

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<sup>3</sup> Russell Bertrand, *The ABC of Relativity* (London: Routledge, 2001), 3.

<sup>4</sup> Eny Novalia, *Designing Alphabet Book in Developing English Pronunciation (Development Research of Fifth graders in SD YPWKS Cilegon)*, (Universitas Islam Negeri SMH Banten, 2020), 5.

## **B. Identification of The Problem**

The writer draws the identifications of the problem as follows:

1. Students have difficulty learning to pronounce words because they do not understand vowels.
2. The students need up to date media in learning English.

## **C. The Limitation of The Problem**

The writer limites of the problem focusing on the implementation of alphabet book to improve students' pronunciation at fifth grade of SDIT Bina Insan Kragilan. In this study, the limitation of the research focused on the students' English long vowels and English short vowels.

## **D. Research Questions**

Based on the background of study, the researcher formulated the problem as follow:

1. How is the teacher's activity in the implementation of Alphabet Book to improve students' English pronunciation?
2. How are students' activities in the implementation of Alphabet Book to improve students' English pronunciation?
3. How is the improvement students' English pronunciation of English long and short vowels using Alphabet Book?

## **E. Objective of the research**

According to the research question above, the objective of this study as follow:

1. To find out the activities of teachers in learning using Alphabet Book to improve students' English pronunciation.

2. To find out student activities in learning through the use Alphabet Book to improve students' English pronunciation.
3. To find out the improvement students' pronunciation of English long and short vowels using Alphabet Book.

## **F. Significance of The Research**

The significant of the study as follows:

1. For Students

As a learning media that can help students both improve learning outcomes and find answers to problems.

2. For English Teacher

Teachers can be use the Alphabet Book as learning media for reference when they want to improve students' pronunciation.

3. For Schools

This can benefit schools, specifically SDIT Bina Insan Kragilan, where new learning media can be used for student learning progress and processes.

4. For Further Researcher

The writer will use this learning media to develop his or her English skills and speak English fluently without making any mistakes.

## **G. Organization of Writing**

This research the researcher organize this paper consist of three chapter there are:

**Chapter I** is introduction which consists of the background of the problem, the limitation of the problem, research questions,

objective of the research, significance of the research, and organization of writing.

**Chapter 2** is theoretical framework which consist of the pronunciation and alphabet book.

**Chapter 3** is methodology of research whisch consist of the research design, research site, subject of the research, technique of data collection, the technique of data analyzing, and research procedure.

**Chapter 4** is description of the data and analysis data that also counts and finds out the result of the research.

**Chapter 5** is conclusions and suggestions.