

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, research questions, purpose of the research, significance of the research and definition of the key terms.

### 1.1 Background of the Problem

Communication is a process between two or more people to exchange information, giving ideas and opinion, and giving instructions. Generally, there are two types of communication. They are verbal and non verbal. **Verbal communication** is a form of communication which uses words to change the information with other people either in the form of speech or writing. Nonverbal communication does not use words for communicating, but some other modes are used, where communication happens by unspoken or unwritten messages such as body language, facial expressions, etc. If there is no verbal language that can be understood by both, communication can still be done by using body movements, such as smiling, shaking your head. Communication has close relation with English. English is one of the languages that is widely used by all people in the world. So, people who master English will be easier to communicate with others.

Pronunciation is very essential for communicating. According to Tuhafi (2011), pronunciation is a significant section in English language for communicating and contacting with people by using words. A good pronunciation is one of the key aspects to understand and make ourselves understood. Many of students will need to speak and understand English in real life to communicate with native speakers. Their communication will fail if their pronunciation is not good even if their grammar and vocabulary are strong. Words should be pronounced correctly. With good pronunciation, other people will easily understand and

communication will be clear. That is why pronunciation is an important aspect in learning English.

As a country that the main language is not English, many students have difficulty to pronounce a word correctly. In learning process, errors in pronunciation are a common mistake to find. The students have problem with pronunciation. Learning pronunciation is quite difficult for students since they have used to speak their mother tongue since childhood. Moreover, English is greatly different from Indonesian language in its pronunciation system. The common problem of learning English pronunciation is caused by the differences between the sound systems of the two languages. There are some sounds in English which do not exist in Indonesian. The vowels, such as [æ], [ɪ:], [u:] and consonants, such as [ð], [θ], [ʒ], do not exist in Indonesian. It will be difficult for Indonesian students to pronounce them. For instance, the word *leave* contains the sounds [l], [i:] and [v]. When the sound [i:] is pronounced [ɪ] that finally results in /lɪv/ will be interpreted as the word *live*. The hearers will misunderstand the speech because the speaker is unintentionally misleading the speech by performing mispronunciation.

Many learners even English Department students of Bung Hatta University face some difficulties in pronouncing words. Based on my interview on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with some second year students, I found that the student had difficulties to pronounce word. Most of students had error in pronouncing word especially in past form such as *walked*, *worked*, *listened*. *walked* should be pronounced /wɔ:kt/ but some students pronounced it /wɔ:k/ , *worked* should be pronounced /wɔ:kt/ , *listened* should be pronounced /lɪsənd/ but some students pronounced it /lɪsən/.

From the description above, the researcher wanted to conduct a research about the second year students' error in pronouncing ed-ending words at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.

## **1.2 The Identification of the Problem**

There are some problems relating to pronunciation. The first is diphthongs. According to Donal (2016), students tend to have difficulties in pronouncing diphthongs [av] and rather easier in pronouncing diphthong [ɔɪ].

The second problem in pronunciation is vowel. Some students had error in pronouncing long vowel /i:/, pronouncing long vowel /ɜ:/, pronouncing long vowel /ɑ:/, pronouncing long vowel /u:/, and pronouncing long vowel /ɔ:/.

The third problem in pronunciation is consonant. The students made error in the consonant /θ/ sound of the word /bəʊθ/ because of their lack of understanding in the way how to write the correct phonetic transcription and lack of drill to pronounce the words correctly. There are some sounds in English which do not exist in Indonesian. The consonants, such as [ð], [θ], [ʒ], do not exist in Indonesian. It will be difficult for Indonesian students to pronounce them.

The fourth problem is consonant cluster. There are initial cluster like “fr” in “frog” and final cluster like “lpt” in “helped”. Indonesian language may have some initial cluster, like “tr” in “tragis” but does not have final cluster as English has. Many students face some difficulties in pronouncing final clusters, especially those with –ed ending covering /id/, /d/, and /t/ sounds. Basically, the students may know the rules of pronouncing –ed ending but they seem to find difficult to pronounce it orally.

## **1.3 The Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification above, the researcher limited her study on the error of the second year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University to pronounce the ed-ending word. Furtherly, this study focused on the production of some final ed-ending sound.

## **1.4 The Formulation of the problem**

The researcher formulated the problem of this research in the following question : “What errors do the second year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University have in pronouncing ed- ending word? ”

### **1.5 Research Questions**

In accordance with the limitation and the formulation of the problem, the research questions of this research were the following :

- 1) Do the second year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University make error in pronouncing ed-ending word sounds /id/ ?
- 2) Do the second year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University make error in pronouncing ed-ending word sounds /d/ ?
- 3) Do the second year studentsof English Department at Bung Hatta make error in pronouncing ed-ending word sounds /t/ ?

### **1.6 Purposes of the Study**

In general, the purpose of this research was to find out the second year students’ error in pronouncing word in English. In more spesific, the purposes of this study were as follows :

- 1) To find out whether the second year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University make error in pronouncing /id/
- 2) To find out whether the second year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University make error in pronouncing /d/
- 3) To find out whether the second year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University make error in pronouncing /t/

### **1.7 Significance of the Research**

The researcher expects that the result of this research is useful for English lecturer, students, and next researcher of English especially in English pronunciation class. The

researcher hopes the lecturers get some useful information about students' ability in pronouncing word especially pronouncing ed-ending. In addition, they can help students who have pronounced word correctly. For students, they know their errors in pronouncing ed-ending words. By having know the result, they eliminate their errors so they can improve their ability to pronounce English word. For the next researcher, this research could be references.

### **1.8 Definition of key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding about the key terms used in this study, the researcher will provide their definition as follows :

- 1) Error is a systematic deviation made by the students in pronouncing final ed-ending.
- 2) ed-ending word refers to the word that is used in past form.
- 3) Pronunciation is someone's competence in how to pronounce word.
- 4) Pronunciation ability is an ability of someone in pronouncing word correctly.