

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents Background of The Research, Statement of The Problem, Objective of The Research, Purpose of the Research, Significance of The Research, Scope of The Research, and Operational of Definition.

1.1 Background of The Research

In Indonesia, English is a foreign language that has differences with Indonesian language. English vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation are quite different. According to Yates (2002) as cited in Gilakjani (2016) pronunciation is the production of sounds that is making meaning.

The different pronunciation or different sounds will cause different meanings. In learning English, non-native speaker tends to make errors (Sembiring & Ginting, 2016:40). As known, the sound of English vowels and consonants are so much different from Indonesian vowels and consonants. The sound of English vowel and combination vowels mostly cause different meanings. Such as when the speaker is actually meaning heat(n) /hi:t/ but ended up pronouncing hit(v) /hit/. The meaning is changed so the listener might misunderstand what the speaker is saying.

Adila and Refnaldi (2019) investigated the pronunciation errors made by senior high school students in speaking performance. Riyani (2013) has done a research of pronunciation errors made by Indonesian Singers in Malang in singing English song. She found that the errors occurred potentially because of the influence of the first language, which is Indonesian Language. However, the subjects of their researches were those who mostly not demanded to have a good mastery in English speaking.

In this study, the researcher investigated the fourth-semester students of English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus, who are demanded to have a good mastery in English speaking. The fourth-semester students have learned the subject of pronunciation in the first semester. The learning goals of the subject were making the students be able to pronounce the words, including the stress and intonation correctly. However, it was found that the students still made some errors.

In the fourth-semester, the students have a chance to show their speaking skills in the Academic Speaking course. The students were given a project to present a speech performance. The students record themselves performing their speech and upload the video they made to Facebook. Thus to see the pronunciation errors they made, the researcher plans

to conduct a research titled “Pronunciation Errors Made by The Fourth Semester Students of English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus in Speech Performance”.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher formulates the statement of the problems as follows:

1. What are the pronunciation errors made by the fourth-semester students of English Education Department 2019/2020 in speech performance?
2. What are the factors contributing to the pronunciation errors in speech performance made by the fourth-semester students of English Education Department 2019/2020?

1.3 Objective of The Research

Based on the statement of the research problem above, the researcher aims to find out:

1. The pronunciation errors made by the fourth-semester students of English Education Department 2019/2020 in speech performance.
2. The factors contributing to the pronunciation errors in speech performance made by the fourth-semester students of English Education Department 2019/2020.

1.4 Significance of The Research

The significance of this study is classified into:

1. The Students

The researcher hopes that the students recognize the pronunciation errors that most students made. So the students can find the best way to be careful in saying those words.

2. The Lecturers

The researcher hopes that the result of this research may help the lecturers to choose the best method to teach the students to avoid pronunciation errors.

3. The other researchers

This research is expected to be useful as a contribution and reference to conduct other researchers dealing with a similar problem.

1.5 Scope of The Research

The research took place at Universitas Muria Kudus, particularly in English Education Department from July to August 2020. This research emphasized the pronunciation errors made by the fourth-semester students of English Education Department in speech performance.

In this research, the pronunciation errors were analyzed based on the phonemes (consonants and vowels). The consonant sounds include voiced and unvoiced, and the vowel sounds include the single consist of short and long and also diphthong.

1.6 Operational Definition

To avoid misunderstanding, some terms are defined as follow:

1. Pronunciation Error

Pronunciation Error is the production of a sound system that done wrong or condition of being wrong in beliefs or conduct. It might interfere with communication either from the speakers' or the listeners' viewpoint.

2. Speech

Speech is a human activity that varies without an assignable limit as we pass from social group to social group because it is a purely historical heritage of the group, the product of long-continued social usage.

3. The Fourth-semester Students of English Education Department 2019/2020

The fourth-semester students of English Education Department 2019/2020 are the students who involved in this research. They are from EED A class involved in speech performance as their project in the Academic Speaking course.