

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Pronunciation is a very important thing when speaking. Pronunciation refers to how a language is spoken, encompassing the articulation of sounds, stress patterns, intonation, and rhythm. It plays a crucial role in effective communication, as clear and accurate pronunciation enhances comprehension and facilitates successful language interaction. With pronunciation, we can know how to communicate well. Clear pronunciation helps listeners comprehend the intended message without confusion. Accurate pronunciation ensures that words and ideas are conveyed with precision, reducing the likelihood of misunderstandings.

Mispronunciation can also occur in communication. Mispronunciation is articulating words or sounds in a way that deviates from the accepted or standard pronunciation in a given language. It is a common linguistic phenomenon that can occur for various reasons, leading to potential misunderstandings, communication barriers, and sometimes humor. As an English language learner, mispronunciation can also occur for various reasons, such as non-native speakers, lack of knowledge about the language they learn, cultural backgrounds, regional and vernacular variations, etc. This phenomenon can also be called a pronunciation error. (Purwanto, 2019) stated that secondary school students tend to use dialect speech patterns or styles when speaking English. Some of them are unwilling to speak for fear of making mistakes and embarrassed to express their own ideas in English.

In this modern, technological era, children or young people tend to find it easier to learn or get to know something through social media, such as YouTube videos, films, Instagram, TikTok, TV series, etc. Many English films or series are on YouTube or other social media. This can also be a learning medium to improve our English skills. Ambiguity often occurs in various forms of communication, both oral and written. In this context, ambiguity refers to unclear sentences or may have multiple interpretations (Ihsan & Kepirianto, 2021). As a result, listeners or readers

may not fully understand the intended meaning. According to David Crystal, ambiguity is the reference to a word or sentence that expresses more than one meaning, and this reference has to do with linguistics. Some speakers intentionally use ambiguity to make their speeches more interesting and to captivate the audience further into the discussed topic.

The TV series entitled "*Mind Your Language*" is a British sitcom that premiered on ITV in 1977. It was produced by London Weekend Television and directed by Stuart Allen. The series shows people from different countries with different social, religious, and linguistic backgrounds who are in the same class learning English as a Foreign Language (EFL). The series was known for its comedic portrayal of an English as a Second Language (ESL) class and the ensuing cultural clashes and linguistic challenges. The show was set in an adult education college in London and focused on the interactions among the students and their teachers.

To understand the comedy concept, one must identify the broad domain of humor. (Fayadh & Mohammed, 2019) stated that in the same piece of writing, comedy could cross or fail to cross-cultural and social boundaries. Much of the humour in the series was derived from language-related misunderstandings, puns, and cultural differences. The teacher, Mr. Jeremy Brown, played by Barry Evans, often found himself trying to navigate the complexities of teaching English to students who spoke various native languages.

Pronunciation errors or mispronunciations can also occur in the language learning process, for example, in this movie. This is not a failure in the learning process but rather feedback or information on how to learn the language and formulate methods or strategies for learning. Errors help learners to be more aware of the mistakes they have made professionally. Rod Ellis states errors are studied using Error Analysis (EA). Error analysis is a type of linguistic analysis that focuses on the errors made by learners. This analysis compares the errors made in the target language and the target language itself.

Mistake and error are technically two different phenomena. Error refers to a performance mistake that is a random guess or "slip", in this case it is a failure to use a known system correctly. Often, students commit errors in the second language

or events in the native language due to imperfections in the process of producing speech, but such errors can be self-corrected by students. While second language learner errors, peculiarities in the learner's language that are a direct manifestation of the system in which the learner is operating at the time. (Na & Hipertensiva, 2019)

There are several types of errors. Corder classifies errors into two types. The first is competence. Competence errors occur when students apply rules that do not belong to the target language, which is caused by student's lack of knowledge of the target language. The second one is performance. In contrast, performance errors are caused by mistakes at the start or could be due to tongue twisters. This can happen if the students are confused, anxious, stressed, tired, etc.

(Pratiwi & Indrayani, 2021) stated that errors in language use can occur due to improper pronunciation, which creates a shift in meaning. In this case, the accuracy of pronunciation is important so that the intent of the conversation can be understood properly by the listener. The influence of regional language can change the form of intonation and human pronunciation. As we all know, there are many types of regional languages in this country that create diverse accents and pronunciations among people. In this case, the pronunciation mistakes made by Indonesian speakers learning English are considered natural and acceptable. This is natural and acceptable because the status of English in Indonesia is as a foreign language, neither a first nor a second language. Therefore, when Indonesians speak English, regional accents or pronunciations are still attached to them.

Many studies analyze errors, but the researcher only takes three previous studies. The first previous research was conducted by Arbi, Anggun Purnomo, *"Pronunciation Error Produced by the Third Semester Students of STKIP PGRI Sidoarjo."* The second previous research was conducted by Aldinata, Dyansyah, Hilman, and Evert Haryanto, *"Error Analysis Of English to Indonesia Subtitle in the Way Way Back Movie."* The last previous research was conducted by Mertosono, Sudarkam R., and Erniwati, *"Error Analysis: Types and Causes of EFL Learners' Errors in Writing Analytical Exposition Text."*

The researcher see that many English learners make mistakes. For example, in terms of word pronunciation. One of many factors, pronunciation is a fundamental thing that must be improved. This is because with correct pronunciation, we can know the meaning of the context of the conversation and the message can be conveyed clearly. In addition, communication also becomes more effective.

Based on that background, the researcher is interested in investigating pronunciation errors by Error Analysis (EA) of the main characters in the British comedy TV series "*Mind Your Language*."

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background, this research is formulated into several questions, as follows:

1. What are the types of errors by the main characters in the "Mind Your Language" British comedy TV series?
2. What factors influence pronunciation errors by the main characters in the "Mind Your Language" British comedy TV series?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

The purpose of this research:

1. To find out the types of Error Analysis by the main characters in the "Mind Your Language" British comedy TV series
2. To find out the factors that influence pronunciation errors by the main characters in the "Mind Your Language" British comedy TV series

## **1.4 Significance of the Research**

By doing this research hopefully, the result of the research will benefit the readers theoretically and practically, as follows:

1. Theoretically

This research provides information and knowledge so that readers may master English speaking skills, especially the right pronunciation of words in English, by knowing the mispronounced words in this TV series and the correct ones.

## 2. Practically

The researcher hopes this research will benefit the students and teachers. For the students, the researcher hopes it will give more vocabulary and the correct pronunciation of some difficult words in English as a foreign language. By learning the correct pronunciation of mispronounced English words mentioned in the “Mind Your Language” British comedy TV series, the researcher hopes the students can learn the correct pronunciation. This research is expected for teachers to inspire, motivate, and solve problems that may arise when teaching English speaking skills.

### 1.5 Scope of the Research

Because of the width of this research, the researcher only focuses on identifying mispronounced words by ten main characters found in the “Mind Your Language” British comedy TV series Season 1 by Stuart Allen, and all data collections are from the main characters in this TV series.

### 1.6 Operational Definition

To support the following data source, there are some references:

#### 1. Pronunciation

2. Pronunciation refers to how a word or a language is spoken, including the articulation of sounds, stress patterns, intonation, and the overall manner in which words are vocalized. It involves the correct and accepted way of uttering words to convey meaning accurately in a particular language.

#### 3. Error Analysis

Error analysis is a systematic investigation into language learners' errors to understand the underlying causes and improve the learning process. It involves identifying, categorizing, and analyzing written or spoken language errors to gain insights into the learners' language development and challenges.

#### 4. “Mind Your Language” TV series

The TV series entitled "Mind Your Language" is a British sitcom that premiered on ITV in 1977. It was produced by London Weekend Television and directed by Stuart Allen.

