

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Communication is an activity between two or more people in making interaction to exchange information, giving opinion or transfer ideas, giving instruction etc. Furthermore, there are two ways to communicate. They are speaking and writing. Communication has close relation to language. English is one of language in the world called international language, because many people from different countries use it. This language comes from an agreement in society which has own structures, rules, sound symbols, pronunciations and dialect that differ which one another.

The different pronunciations or different sounds will cause different meanings. Speaking without considering the pronunciation will disturb and cause misunderstanding in the meaning of the words spoken. Pronunciation is one of the most important parts of languages to speak with other people. Pronunciation is the way a certain sounds or sounds are produced to make pronunciation correctly (Richards, 2010:469). It is important to teach and analyse the students' pronunciation to avoid the misunderstanding with other when we are speaking. As stated by Harmer (2000:183) that for all people, being made aware of pronunciation issues will be of immense benefit not only to their own pronunciation but also their understanding of spoken English. Therefore, learning English in speaking is not only knowing the meaning of words and the structures

but the students have to know how to pronounce the words correctly in order can communicate fluently with others.

Indonesia is one of country which learns and uses English as compulsory subject for junior and senior high school level. Hopefully, students can understand or share information with other people who come from different nation without awkward. In senior high school level, English taught as an adaptive subject that aimed to prepare the student to be able to communicate in English.

The goals of English subject in the senior high school is to communicate by using intermediate level of English. In syllabus of curriculum 2013 for senior high school, English has three level of Competency Standards— to communicate by using novice level of English, to communicate by using elementary level of English and to communicate by using intermediate level of English.— which are divided based on the grades. In the other words, English subject in senior high school aims to develop students' abilities in communication by using the target language, both in oral and written.

Based on the writer's preliminary observation at SMA Negeri 20 Medan, the writer has found that students' speaking skill was still low. Most of students were confused about what they pronounce. This is the short dialogue that the writer gave to the students:

The dialogue

Speaker 1 : I found a new recipe on making pizza. It is called fruit pizza

Speaker 2 : Really? I never really heard of it

*Speaker 1 : So, I'd like to **invite** you to make the fruit pizza together*

Speaker 2 : That sounds nice. Will it be convenient if I come tomorrow at 5 pm?

Speaker 1 : Sorry, I don't think so. How about 7 pm?

Speaker 2 : Okay, that will be fine.

From the dialogue, the dominant error that the students made is the word **invite**. In this case, the word **invite** should be pronounced as /**ɪn**'**v**aɪt/, but most students pronounced as /**ɪn**'**f**ɪt/. Therefore, students often made errors in pronouncing the words, It is important to be understood how to pronounce the words because pronunciation deal with how to produce speech sounds in English correctly that related with the meaning and create misunderstandings between people who speak and those who listen.

In learning English, non-native speakers tend to make errors. Error analysis is an invaluable source of information to teachers. It provides information on students' errors which in turn helps teachers to correct students' errors and also improves the effectiveness of their teaching. However, the students feel upset, and makes a distinction between them and their teacher in dealing with errors and understanding of error correction (Fang and Mei, 2007). Indonesian learners make error in producing English sounds as Djajaningrat (2011) states that as consequence of all the difficulties provided by the English pronunciation, many English language learners as well as the Indonesian learners tend to generate errors in the articulation of the sounds. Many aspects that can cause the students of English as a foreign language make errors, for example, the learners' mother tongue and the lack of teacher's correction.

The students often find difficulties in their speaking, either grammatical errors or pronunciation errors. One of pronunciation errors is slip of the tongue. Paul (2013) defines that a slip of the tongue is a mistake made while speaking, and which can be revealing about the processes and representation used during

language production. The researcher agrees with Paul's ideas because actually when someone wants to say something, she or he has already planned what should be spoken. But when she or he speaks the intended utterance, it differs in way from the intended utterance. The teaching pronunciation for Indonesia students is quite difficult. So, Erdogan (2005) states that they always make error when they are speaking and it is inevitable that learners make mistakes in the process of foreign language learning. The difficulties are due to the fact that irregular spelling of the English offers poor guidance to its pronunciation, the another due to interference or negative transfer from the mother tongue of the students to the target language. Many factors influence English language pronunciation of non-native speakers when they try to make an excellent pronunciation.

Based on the explanation above, that pronunciation undoubtedly has important role in speaking. Students often do the mistakes when they pronounce the words on speaking performance, and their speaking performance is that the writer is going to analyze. The analysis of students' pronunciation errors is important in order to know students' needs then to know the solution of it. The researcher hopes that the findings in the analysis of students' pronunciation errors on speaking performance at SMA Negeri 20 Medan can be useful for education progress to improve the students' ability in pronunciation which is still low.

B. The Problems of the Study

Based on some reasons explained in the background of the study above, the problems of the study are formulated as follows:

1. What kinds of pronunciation errors are made by grade 11 students at SMA Negeri 20 Medan in speaking performance?
2. What are the causes of English pronunciation errors on vowel sounds made by grade 11 students at SMA Negeri 20 Medan when they do the speaking performance?

C. The Objectives of the Study

As mentioned in the problem of study, the objectives of this research are:

1. To identify kinds of pronunciation errors made by grade 11 students at SMA Negeri 20 Medan in speaking performance.
2. To find out the causes of students' errors in pronouncing English words when they do the speaking performance.

D. The Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is aimed to analyze kinds of pronunciation errors, specifically pronunciation errors on consonant sounds and vowel sounds made by the students in their speaking performance. This study discussed pronunciation errors on consonant sounds /p/, /b/, /d/, /t/, /k/, /g/, /f/, /v/, /θ/, /ð/, /s/, /ʃ/, /z/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /w/, /j/, /l/, /r/ and vowel sounds /i:/, /ɪ/, /e/, /æ/, /ɜ:/, /ə/, /ʌ/, /ɑ:/, /ɒ/, /ɔ:/, /ʊ/, /u:/ of grade 11 students at SMA Negeri 20 Medan. Identification

towards students' speaking showed the result of the finding of various errors. Surface strategy taxonomy highlights the ways surface structure are altered Dulay, Burt, Karshen (1982: 150). This taxonomy classified into four types: omission, addition, misformation, and misordering.

E. The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give valuable contributions theoretically and practically for the perspective of teachers and students.

1. Theoretically perspective

The analysis of this research is expected to look at the weakness and the strength of grade 11 students at SMA Negeri 20 Medan.

2. Practically perspective

a. For the teachers

This research may help the teachers to improve their teaching pronunciation by designing materials and teaching strategies, and moreover by knowing the students errors, they should take care of their students in order to the students will perform better in speaking performance.

b. For the students

The students are expected to recognize their pronunciation mistake often made, so they will be careful with those words. Besides, the students will realize their abilities or achievement in pronunciation, since they will be able to pronounce words properly and confidently.