

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Pronouncing vowel sounds in a language can be different from pronouncing vowel in other language. The different is caused by phonological system of a language. Different system can differentiate the pronunciation. In this research, the researcher focuses on phonological system of vowel sounds from Batak Toba language in pronouncing English vowel sounds. This is related to the interference of Batak Toba language in pronouncing vowel sounds that make their phonological systems are to be used in pronouncing vowel sounds.

English vowel sounds system can be classified into pure vowel (monophthong) as short vowel and long vowel. Monophthong (pure vowel) only has one vowel and divided into short vowel and long vowel. Short vowel consists of /ɪ/, /ʊ/, /ʌ/, /æ/, /e/, /ə/, /ɒ/ and long vowel such as /i:/, /u:/, /ɔ:/, /ɑ:/, /ɜ:/.

On the other hand, phonological system of Batak Toba vowel sounds have five vowels. They are only monophthong vowels that have only one vowel rather than has two or even three as English language phonological system has. Kozok (1999), states that Batak Toba language has five vowel sounds; /ɪ/, /e/, /ʌ/, /o/ and /ʊ/.

Based on this phonological system, Batak Toba students have difficulties in pronouncing of English vowel because of the interference. Interference is the automatic transfer, due to habit, of the surface structure of the first language onto the surface of the target language. This brings students tend to pronounce based on their first language/mother tongue and use inappropriate phonology, for example:

Student A: Where will you go next week for holiday?

Student B: I am very glad because we will go to Lake Toba.

Student A: That is good.

Student B: How about you?

Student A: We only stay in this town. Our family will come to our home.

Student B: Well! It is okay. Till we meet again. See you!

Student A : See you!

Students tend to pronounce vowel /ɪ:/ in word 'week' as /wik/ but it must be pronounced as /wi:k/, vowel /æ/ in word 'glad' as /gled/ but it must be pronounced as /glæd/ and vowel /ə/ in word 'about' as /ebaut/ but it must be pronounced as /əbaut/

Ellis said (1997: 51) interference as 'transfer', which he says is 'the influence that the learner's L1 exerts over the acquisition of an L2'. As we know that, Mother tongue refers to the speaker's first language and home language. This means that first language system can be happened in acquisition of other language/second language.

English language has become the foreign language for Indonesian people and also has been taught in school. Batak Toba students as the learners of this language have to be aware and comprehend the pronunciation of its language especially vowel sounds. The researcher point out, this problem is needed to be solved. In line with those, the researcher is interested to do a research about the interference of Batak Toba students to the English vowel sounds.

1.2 The Problems of Study

1. How do the Batak Toba students interfere the English Vowels?
2. Why does the interference *occur* among the Batak Toba students?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

1. To describe how the Batak Toba interfere the English Vowels.
2. To *explain* the reason why the interference occurs among the Batak Toba students.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

To simplify the study, the subject of this research is limited on the interference of Batak Toba students in pronouncing vowel sounds for the 2nd grade junior high school class “A” in the second semester 2018/2019. The researcher has provided 32 vowel sounds in a word that are respectively put into sentences. So, the subjects will read the 32 sentences which the vowel sounds have made to be the focus on this study.

1.5 The Significances of the Study

The research findings will be beneficial for the students, teachers and readers as follows:

1. For the students: Help the students to solve their pronunciation, particularly in pronouncing English vowel sounds.
2. For the teachers: This research will help the teachers in teaching learning process as the reference in using of the correct pronunciation.
3. For the readers: This research will help the readers in understanding deeply the interference that is made by the students and from that, the readers can also take the guidance from this research in order to the further research.

