

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains six subchapters of the study. They are background, problem statement, objectives, significance, scope and limitation, and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

In learning English, we are dealing with four competences, they are reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Those four competences are the aspects of English. Furthermore, the elements of English such as grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation are the indicators of achievement of a language. In the matter of speaking, it closely deals with pronunciation. Because speaking itself is delivery of language through the mouth. In speaking we create sounds using speech organs such as lungs, vocal tract, vocal cords, tongue, nasal cavity, teeth, and lips. Therefore, in order to build up an understandable oral communication, it needs an accurate pronunciation. Because, pronunciation is the process of articulate that create sound of language that contains meaning. It is clearly shows that speaking and pronunciation are closely connected. Both of them relate each other. They are dealing with sound. Someone who has a good pronunciation of course has an understandable speaking, on the other hand someone who has a bad pronunciation create misunderstanding in delivering message by speaking.

Jeremy Harmer (2007) stated that, if students want to be able to speak fluently in English, they need to be able to pronounce phoneme correctly, use

appropriate stress and intonation patterns, and speak in connected speech. This statement shows that, fluency is not the only concern but the accuracy of pronunciation also plays an important role in speaking. It is a determining factor whether a word or a sentence is understood or not. Learners with poor pronunciation will affect the meaning of a word and probably causes a miscomprehension or misunderstanding, while learners with good pronunciation will be easily understood.

In the other hand, learners with a perfect grammar and huge vocabulary are not the guarantee that the words or sentences they produce in speaking will be understood. Likewise, learners with a good skill in pronunciation without good grammar or huge vocabulary will be difficult in speaking. It means that, learners must learn English without disregard to another aspects and elements. Because every aspect and element of English support each other.

Teacher is a model in learning and teaching process, while, students are the imitator, where everything that a teacher teaches will be imitated by the students as a truth. There are some factors that influence students' pronunciation, one of the factors is teacher's pronunciation in teaching and learning process. In this case, when a teacher pronounces words irresponsibly, it will affect students' abilities in pronouncing the target language. The learners will repeat their teacher's pronunciation after their teacher says certain utterances or certain words or sentences in the target language. Imitation of the teacher is essential striving for an acceptable pronunciation of a foreign language. Therefore, teachers must assure to pronounce every word correctly.

Based on the writer experience as a teacher trainee in SMA Negeri 5 Kupang, the writer experienced by himself when the students were asked to read a short text from their handbook, they pronounce *all right* /ɔ:lraɪt/ in that text as /olrit/ and some of the students pronounce the same word as /Alrigh/. The other facts when they were asked to pronounce the word “thank you” / θæŋkju /, most of them pronounce this word as /tengkju/. Based on this problem, the writer would like to conduct a research entitled: **“A Study on English Words Pronunciation of The Tenth Grade Students’ of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang in the School Year 2015/2016”**.

1.2 Problem Statements

Problem Statement is actually the specification of the problem or a topic of a thesis or a research. It can be formulated in questions supposed to be answered in the data analysis. Based on the background above there are two problem statements in this study which are used to investigate and analyze the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMAN 5 Kupang in the school year 2014-2015 in English word pronunciation.

1. What is the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMA NEGERI 5 Kupang in English words pronunciation?
2. What are the difficulties faced by the tenth grade students of SMA NEGERI 5 Kupang in English words pronunciation?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

There are two objectives that achieved in conducting this research.

They are presented in detail in the following:

1. To identify the ability level of tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang in English words pronunciation.
2. To identify the difficulties which were faced by the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang in English words pronunciation.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study will be useful for those who have a great concern in the language learning and teaching particularly the English teachers, the students, the readers, and the writer himself. The significance of the study are as follows:

1. For the English Teacher
 1. To open and broaden teacher's insight about English words pronunciation including vowels, diphthongs, and consonants.
 2. Through the result of the study, it is expected that the English teacher may know the students' ability in pronouncing English words.
2. For the Students
 1. To help the students in learning English words pronunciation.
 2. To enrich students' knowledge about English words pronunciation including vowels, diphthongs, and consonants especially at tenth grade students of SMA NEGERI 5 Kupang.

3. For the Writer

1. To expand the writer's insights regarding English words pronunciation.
2. To supply the writer with a valuable experience that is useful in doing better teaching in the future.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is about the ability in English pronunciation of tenth grade students of SMA NEGERI 5 Kupang. The writer limited his study in phonology especially in segmental aspects in this case vowels, diphthongs, and consonants.

1.6 Definition of Terms

Here are some definitions of terms used by the writer in this reserach. They are stated to help the readers easily understand the research report. They are stated as follow:

1. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is the way in which someone produces sound using his or her speech organs and delivers it into word forms which are spoken out correctly so it can be understood by other people. (*source: Oxford English Dictionary*)

2. Tenth Grade Students of SMA NEGERI 5 Kupang

Tenth grade students of SMA NEGERI 5 Kupang are the students who study at SMA NEGERI 5 Kupang at the tenth grade which lies in Jalan Thamrin 7 Kupang.

3. Ability

The quality of being able to do something, especially the physical, mental, financial, or legal power to accomplish something. While in this research, the writer focuses on the students' ability in pronouncing the English words in the classroom interaction of learning English as the second language. (*Source: Oxford Dictionary*)

4. SMA Negeri 5 Kupang

SMA Negeri 5 Kupang is one of the government schools in Kupang town. It is located in Jln. Thamrin No. 7, Fatululi, Kota Kupang – Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia.