

Chapter 1

Introduction

Basic Consideration

In language system, there are varieties of oral and written system. Oral system is the language that generated by the vocal organs with the phoneme as a basic element, whereas written is a language variety that is generated by using the letter as a basic element. When people use oral or spoken language in English, they must pay attention to the pronunciation because an uncorrected pronunciation guiding listener does not understand to the speaker and also lead to the difference meaning.

Pronunciation according on the Oxford English dictionary refers to the way a word or a language spoken, or the manner in which someone utters a word. In English sound system, there are many styles of speech for each individual that is influenced by a variety of causes such as locality, early influences and social surroundings (Arini, 2009). It can be said that pronunciation of English involves to the production of individual or isolated sounds and utterance of words, phrases, and sentences with correct spelling and stressing or rhythm intonation.

The complex of English sound system have been a serious issue for almost English learners because they find difficulty to transfer phonological aspect from their first language to English and also learners of English confuse to produce sequence of sounds perfectly because it's too complicated. Sometimes, when speech or speaking happens, some people have different way to pronounce

because the problems faced by the Indonesians' English learners are concerned with the ear, the matter of making foreign sounds, the distribution of the sounds, certain attributes about sounds, fluency, and the relation between pronunciation and conventional spelling (Arini, 2009).

Some of consonants in English do not exist in Indonesian language system such as /ð/ and /θ/ sounds or called as voiced and voiceless consonant. Also, almost all the consonants in Indonesian pronounce as same as with the written, example: the word "cek" Indonesian make the sound being plosive consonant /č/, while in English the sound of /c/ should be voiceless palatal affricative. In addition, most of English learners in Indonesia are even belonging to use some of English terms such as cluster, voicing, and aspirated sound in incorrectly way.

In English department of Universitas Negeri Gorontalo students have learned about speaking since they were in first semester. They have done with many speaking activities in the classroom such as practicing a dialog, answering question orally, and pronouncing some words. Pronouncing is one of speaking activities that interest to observed, because based on researcher experience when researcher was in sixth semester, we learned about pronunciation, even it is seem so easy but many of us still made errors.

The errors likes we cannot differentiating the pronunciation of words that have similar sound such as: "back" in Indonesian 'belakang' and "bag" in Indonesian as 'tas'. 'batman' and 'bad man', 'heard' and 'heart', 'bed' and 'bet'. It is happen because we just know how the sound that have been told by the

lecturer without phonological transcription. Even, in English phonetics and phonology subject, we just learn the rules but we don't understand how many words that should be release or not, especially in voiced and voiceless. Beside it, in speaking 3 the main point just about, how lecturer can get our information without randomly correcting our pronunciation at that time.

Confusing to pronounce English correctly for Indonesian learners is also happen for the students in the 7th semester of English education program. As a fact, many of students can't pronounce voiced and voiceless correctly. Almost of them are unaware or even unknowing about it. The problem comes when they make conversation with the others. They repeated all the words everyday but still in incorrect ways. That is the kind of errors because they doing it every day when they having a conversation in English. Ellis (2007, p. 17) explains that error is reflect gap in a learners' knowledge that they occur because the learners does not know what is correct.

Through from this problem, it is really attracted doing a research about "students' error in pronouncing voiced and voiceless consonant" because of many students in English department can't pronounce voiced and voiceless consonant well. It is investigated on students in English department that have enrolled speaking 3 and phonetics & phonology subjects, they are 7th semester of English Department. Descriptive Qualitative methods with error analysis approach used in this study, as reveals by Sugiyono in (2011, p. 3) that a qualitative method to obtain a depth data, and meaning of the data. Also, Ellis (2007, p. 15-18), "*Error*

analysis is a procedure used by researcher and teacher. It involves identifying errors, explaining the errors and error evaluation”.

Research question

The problem statements of this research are:

1. What are the errors that students make in pronouncing voiced and voiceless consonants?
2. What are causes of errors in pronouncing voiced and voiceless consonant?

Research Objective

Researcher maintains the purpose of this study as follows:

1. To find out the errors in pronouncing voiced and voiceless consonants are.
2. To know the causes of students' error in pronouncing voiced and voiceless consonant are.

Significances

The significances of this research are varieties. Theoretically, the result of this research may give an access to understand the process of English learners' producing sound in voiced and voiceless. Practically, the result of this research will be useful:

1. For students: It is expected to help students identify and decrease errors in producing voiced and voiceless. Also, as the basic knowledge for the next educators, it is students of English department.

2. For lecturer/teachers: It is expected that the findings of this research can be a guideline for further lecturer to identify of voiced and voiceless consonant pronouncing. So, lectures will guide students more intensive.
3. For other studies: This study is expected the finding of this research can be a guideline further researcher to conduct the same cases.

Delimitation of study

Delimitation of this study is dealing to students' errors in pronouncing English words. In analyzing those errors, this study also focus on voiced and voiceless consonant sounds such as: /θ/, /ð/, /f/, /tʃ/, /t/, and /d/. In this case, to know about how their pronunciation and why those errors happen which is containing this study.