

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

Indonesians have taken a special attention to English as a Foreign Language (EFL) due to the fact that people's awareness on the important of English has increased in the globalization era (Astuti et al, 2014). No wonder Indonesians are eager to learn English more than any other languages even though it is not an official language in Indonesia. In addition, the ultimate point of learning English as the foreign language is to make Indonesians able to communicate with English language users without any problem (Kayyis & Sari, 2017). Therefore, for English Literature students, to be proficient in English is a necessity.

Based on Hakim (2012) there are four skills that should be learned by students in learning English, which are: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It is no doubt that good comprehension in reading, writing, and listening will result in good speaking as well. On the other hand, speaking as the common way of communication is not only about vocabularies and good grammar that would make the idea of the speaker received correctly by the listener, but it is also about pronunciation.

Hakim (2012) claimed that it is true that pronunciation has important role in oral communication, if someone speaks with inappropriate pronunciation, it will result in the lack of listeners understanding, and the idea that the speaker wants to convey may not be received well by the listeners, and it may also disturb others' understanding. It is in relation to Kartiyastuti (2017) statement that one of the

most important part that should be concerned in communicating by using foreign language is pronunciation. Hence, with good pronunciation, communication in English can be more clearly and easily to be understood.

However, there are still growing concerns on the mastery of English among Indonesians. According to Haidara in Dosia & Rido (2017), Indonesians think that English language is complicated so that they do not make much effort to learn it. Learning English as well as its pronunciation is considered difficult by Indonesian. The difficulties are caused by the fact that irregular spelling of the language offers poor guidance to its pronunciation (Syafei in Kartyastusi, 2017). Moreover, the vowel sound in English have some glides that do not exist in Indonesian vowel sound system, consequently this causes Indonesian having additional difficulty in pronouncing English.

Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting a research about English pronunciation error of vowel produced by students in Indonesian context. Especially for students that study in the major of English Literature, in order to increase students' competence in pronunciation. Hopefully, the result of this study can be used as reflection and evaluation for students in learning English. Based on the consideration above, the researcher carries out a research on "Pronunciation Error Analysis of English Vowel Produced by EFL Students".

## **1. 2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the discussion above, the researcher identified the problem as what are the vowel production problems faced by EFL students of English Literature?

## **1. 3 Object of the Study**

Based on the problem statement, the objective is to identify the sounds that are mispronounced in pronouncing English vowels by the second semester students of English Literature and to draw the pattern of pronunciation error occurred.

## **1.4 Benefits of the Study**

By conducting this research, it is expected that it can give advantages in:

### **1.4.1 Theoretical Use**

This study is expected to enrich reader's knowledge, generally related to pronunciation production in English by Indonesian speakers. Therefore, this study will give scientific benefits for future researchers as a reference to analyze pronunciation error of by other language speakers all over the world, especially related to vowel sounds.

### **1.4.2 Practical Use**

By reading this research, the reader expected to get practical benefits in pedagogical activities due to this study reveals pronunciation errors of vowel sounds and reading this study will make the reader realizes their mistakes in

English pronunciation. Thus, the results of this study can be applied for those who want to improve their pronunciation and to pronounce English properly.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

This study focuses on the vowel error produced by students in pronouncing English words. General American English is used as the standard of the pronunciation, it is due to the influence of this accent is higher than other English accent. Therefore, imitating General American English accent is easier for EFL students in Indonesia. The collected data are analyzed with the guidance of phonetic transcription in Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online, it is used in determining whether the pronounced words are error or correct, and the vocabulary used are the words which contains various vowel types such as pure vowels or monophthongs, diphthongs, and triphthongs. The pronunciation of English words is considered as error when mispronounced of some sound and pronunciation shift occur, and they might lead to misinterpretation of the meaning. The subjects for this research are the first year students of English Literature in University of Teknokrat Indonesia who never took phonetics class.