

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Pronunciation is indispensable when learning foreign languages. Incorrect pronunciation is also inevitable when learning them, especially when there are a lot of differences between the sound system of the first language and that of the target one.

Analyzing the sound systems of Indonesia and English, one can realize how great the differences between them. It can be said that the greater the differences are, the more difficult pronouncing the sounds of a foreign language becomes. That is why non-native learners of English as a foreign language suffer many difficulties when trying to pronounce some English sounds and they, therefore, pronounce them incorrectly. Such incorrect pronunciation can be referred to as mispronunciation.

This mispronouncing phenomenon does not only happen to beginners even some of the learners who already take courses for about years still make errors. In learning English as foreign language, learners keep doing similar mistakes of pronouncing and writing as Vernick and Nesgoda (1980) stated that language learners may find difficulties in learning to speak English well because several spelling may be represented by a single sound. "There are so many factors that learners made errors, one of them is because of their lack of knowledge" (Khodijah, 2006: 8). When they do not even know how to pronounce words, they will keep doing the errors.

These kinds of mispronounce and mistyping phenomena mostly happens in countries that learn English, one of them is Indonesia. In Indonesia, since English

acts more like a foreign language than a second language for the users, there is no reason for the society to learn English more than just as a study. The fact can be seen from Dardjowidjojo (2003:44), stated that “the reason for adopting English as the first foreign language is because science and technology are the world culture and the means to acquire and keep up with the development of science and technology in Indonesia is English”. Therefore, this kind of reason also makes the learners of English language keep doing the same errors, both in pronunciations and writing. In addition, Dardjowidjojo (2009: 45) also states,

It will, thus, lead the learner to misunderstand what is being tried to deliver. For instance, the word leave contain the sound [l], [i:] and [v] when the sound [i:] is pronounced that finally result in //liv/ the meaning is change because //liv/ will be interpreted as the word live. Then the hearers will misunderstand the speech because the speaker is unintentionally misleading the speech by performing mispronunciation.

In that case, the writer considers that mispronunciation is quite an important matter since when people mispronounce diction or word; it will produce different meaning or leading. Moreover, if the learners are able to fix their errors, it means that they are improving their ability in speaking. In speaking, the speakers cannot take back what they have said even if it is in the correct or wrong pronunciation. Therefore, in this research, the writer is more intended in analyzing the errors of pronunciation made by sixth semester students of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia.

In doing the analysis, the writer analyzes the way of the learners' pronouncing words in speaking six's class and this class has been chosen by the writer since the writer considers the ability of the students that have already taken phonology class and passed five previous speaking classes. In some points, these students have

experience and knowledge in speaking and pronouncing correct words, sentences and diction.

Further, the writer wants to find out the consonant words that are mispronounced by the learners and try to find out the matters of why they are still doing mistakes or errors even they have experiences in speaking. In addition, the writer is interested in discussing mispronunciation of consonant words since the number of consonant words in English is more than consonant in Indonesia so that the writer considers that the errors mostly happened in consonants.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Based on the background of study, the writer formulates the following problem:

1. What kind of consonant sounds error can be found in the presentation of the sixth semester students of English Major of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia?
2. What makes the sixth semester students of English Major of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia do the errors?

## **1.3 Objectives of the study**

Regarding to the research question, the objectives of this study can be stated as follows:

1. This research is conducted to investigate the errors in pronouncing consonant sound which are found in sixth semester students of English major of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia.
2. To find out what makes the sixth semester students of English Major of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia do the errors.

## **1.4 Uses of Research**

### **1.4.1 Theoretical Uses**

This research hopefully can give contributions for the next researchers as one of references who learn linguistics study. Also can give important information for the readers who want to know about mispronounce in English especially in the context of Indonesian learners.

### **1.4.2 Practical Uses**

The writer hopes that this research practically can show the readers and other researchers about mispronounce or pronounce errors. Also, in knowing the error that commonly happens, hopefully they can avoid such mistakes and able to pronounce words in English properly.

## **1.5 Scope of Research**

This research focuses on English consonants sounds that are produced by sixth semester students of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia who are classified as the 3 best presenters from the speaking 6 class based on their last presentation score in presenting fiction or non-fiction books. The writer further described the analysis through the theories proposed by Yule (2006) that focus on the voicing, the manner of articulation, the place of articulation. The researcher uses oxford dictionaries as the standard of phonetic transcription and as the guidance of English consonant.