

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is an important part of human life. Having good skill in communication determines that the person has a good comprehension about the spoken language. Communication can be defined as the process of transmitting information and common understanding from one person to another (Keyton, 2011). Thus, in delivering information someone should pay more attention in many aspects such as the choosing words, structure, pronunciation, and most importantly is the language itself.

There are many languages in this world, some languages are phonetics, some are tonal and some are nasals (Camille, 1991). English is one of foreign language that is commonly studied by Indonesian students in the university. The language itself can be categorized as a difficult language in Indonesia, considering the grammar, tenses, vocabularies, pronunciation, and so on.

Nevertheless, concerning the pronunciation, English is a unique language because of the orthography (the spelling system) is irregular and doesn't represent sounds in a completely consistent way. Some sounds just aren't given their own symbol at all. Additionally, Lanteigne (2006) confirms that difficulties in learning English occur since some English sounds do not exist in the mother tongue of the learners. This statement can be related with the fact that practically, many advanced English learners in Indonesia who have been

studying English for several years are still struggling to get rid of the barrier that hinder them in obtaining the fluency in speaking English.

Indonesian students who want to study English have to do more effort in managing their pronunciation. This is because between Indonesian and English there are some different sounds, such as in the vowel and consonants sounds. To ease the learning process normally English students in Indonesia have to learn IPA (international Phonetics Association), it is system of phonetic transcription in which each sound represents one symbol and each symbol represents just one sound. The aim is the students will be able to read every word in English correctly.

Besides studying IPA, students are supposed to study the voicing, the place of articulation, manner of articulation, etc. Along with voicing and place of articulation, manner of articulation is commonly used to classify consonants. Manner of articulation explains about how the sound is produced. In a sense, manner of articulation has a correlation to the acoustic properties of speech sounds such as obstruents, sonorants, approximants, stops, fricatives, affricates, stridents, sibilants, nasals, laterals, liquids, and glides.

Among this manner of articulation, the researcher noticed that many Indonesian students got difficulty in handling the fricatives and affricates. This reason triggers the researcher to conduct the research in his faculty.

This research investigates English pronunciation problems encountered by the final students of the English Department of producing fricatives and affricates sounds produced by eighth semester English department students of Stikubank

University. According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, Pronunciation is defined as a particular person's way of pronouncing a word or the words of a language. Then, the study to find out pronunciation problems becomes necessary since it is one of the problems in speaking practice. Someone with inaccurate pronunciations might jumble sounds. As known that sound or combination of sounds is causing different meanings (Dardjowidjojo, 2009), it will, thus, lead the hearers to misunderstand what is being tried to deliver.

It is necessary to investigate the mispronunciation problem in English department students of Stikubank University, precisely for eighth-semester students. Even though the subject of Introduction to the English phonology had been taken on the third semester, nevertheless, mispronouncing particularly the fricative and affricates English sound, is frequently produced by many advanced English learners.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

This study attempts to answer these following research questions:

1. How are the English fricatives and affricates produced in contrast to Indonesian counterparts?
2. Which fricatives and affricatives do the students find it difficult to pronounce?

### 1.3 Objective of the study

Derived from the research questions, this study aims:

1. To find out the ways of producing the English fricatives and affricates in contrast to the Indonesian counterparts.
2. To find out the fricatives and affricates that students encounter difficult to pronounce.

### 1.4 Scope of the study

The researcher focused on analyzing the mispronunciation of producing fricative and affricate sounds produced by eighth semester English department students of Stikubank University. The students who became the objective of the research were the students in the regular class from A class and B class that consist of twenty people. This research covered some English fricative counterparts sounds such as [f], [v], [θ], [ð], [s], [z], [ʃ], [ʒ], [h] and some English affricates sounds such as [tʃ] and [dʒ].

These data were analyzed to find out the causes of some English phonemes which are containing consonants become the pronunciation problem of pronunciation by final semester students. The research focuses on investigating the pronunciation issues due to the limitation of time and access to the students in final semester students with the analysis of the segmental phonological characteristics of English fricative and affricate sounds.

The investigation of this research was only conducted during the students were in their eighth semester. This study then might not cover the whole possible

pronunciation problems among the Stikubank university students. Finally, this study concerns only about the Indonesian students, whose Indonesian is considered as their lingua franca or national language.

### **1.5 Significance of the study**

It is hoped that this research may give meaningful information to:

1. The researcher, this research may enrich the knowledge about English consonants and give the contribution in understanding
2. The students, this research may give information about how the fricative and affricate sounds should be produced according to American standard pronunciation.
3. The reader, this research may help English learners in general to know common types of errors in pronouncing English consonants and how to cope with it.
4. Other researchers, this research may be expected to be able to help other researchers in conducting the research in the same field and be able to be th reference.

### **1.6 Organization of the paper**

This research report consists of several chapters. It explained as follows:

Chapter I: Introduction covers the background to the study, research question, research objective, significance of the study, and research report organization.

Chapter II: Review of related literature covers the previous studies, the theory and the theoretical framework that was needed by the researcher to support the researcher to analyze the data and construing the result of the research.

Chapter III: Research method covers research design, research method, unit of analysis, method of data collection, and method of data analysis.

Chapter IV: Findings and Discussion discusses the findings of the data.

Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestion covers the conclusion of the research report and suggestion for further research.