CHINESE CONSONANTS INTERFERENCE IN ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION AS DEMONSTRATED BY A NATIVE CHINESE STUDENT STUDYING IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF WIDYA MANDALA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for The Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching Faculty



By

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APPROVAL SHEET

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Pronunciation as Demonstrated by a Native Chinese Student Studying in the English

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ABSTRACT

Kartadinata, Hana S. 2011. Chinese Consonants Interference in English Pronunciation as Demonstrated by a Native Chinese Student Studying in the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University (a Second Language Acquisition Study). Thesis, Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan. Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala, Surabaya. Advisor: Drs. M.P. Soetrisno, M.A.

Keywords: Interference, Pronunciation, L2, Mother Tongue

Pronunciation is one of the most important components in language study, especially in learning the target language. As the language learners we need to learn the L2 pronunciation well to be standard L2 speakers. Moreover as an English teacher to be, we need to acquire the English pronunciation as well as possible.

Learning the L2 pronunciation is not an easy job because in acquiring the L2 pronunciation, there will be some negative influences of the mother tongue. For example when an Indonesian learns Chinese, there will be some difficulties in pronouncing some Chinese words because of the different language system between Indonesia and Chinese.

Nowadays, Chinese language is becoming an important language to be learned. That is why the subject is interested to observe the negative influences of the Chinese language to the L2. Here because the writer is studying in the English Department, she decided to observe the negative influences of Chinese to the English pronunciation. To scope the field she takes, the writer decided to observe the Chinese consonant's interference to the English pronunciation. Because there is limited number of Chinese, the writer chose just one subject, her name is Sophia.

To take the data, the writer asked the subject to read two short English texts and recorded her voice. After that, the writer made the transcriptions of the texts based on the recording, then to analyze the errors the writer marked and grouped the errors she found in the recording. Here the writer found many errors which can be classified into four types of errors, addition (3,19%), misformation (86,11%), misordering (1,06%), and mixed type of errors (9,57%). The biggest number of error was misformation.

Those problems happened because of the unfamiliarity of the subject to some sounds in English because there are some consonants in English which are not available in Chinese. For example the sound $/\theta/$, /d/, /g/, or /b/. In pronouncing the unfamiliar English consonants, the subject adds, substitutes, or reorders the sounds.

This study gives us one important point that learning L2 pronunciation needs hard practices because of the interference of L1 to the L2. The writer suggested that learning L2 pronunciation needs more listening and imitating the recording of the English texts. She also suggested that further studies should be made by using more complete library resources and more respondents. Then the next researcher should

have better knowledge about Chinese sound system and phonology. The writer hoped this study can give contribution to the English Department in teaching pronunciation to the Chinese students studying in the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University.

