CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter particularly discusses background of the problem, research question, objectives of the study, theoretical framework, significance of the study, assumption, limitation and scope, definition of key terms, and organisational of the study.

1.1 Background to the problem

English has been widely used and spoken as a means of communication worldwide. lending a term by David Crystal (2003), English is a global language. In narrating why English becomes a global language, Crystal furthermore mentions number of interlocking reasons for the popularity of English being used worldwide. Politically, this cannot be separated from the fact that U.S.A. whose people speak English, has become a super power country as the winner of the Second World War. Economically, the use of U.S. dollar as the exchange currency in international trade has strengthened its international position. The last but not least is its cultural power in which U.S. movies and songs become the most popular language of artistic works in the world. Despite the fact that Spanish and Chinese are spoken by more people, English becomes the most important international language. This is in line with what Crystal argues "Why a language becomes a global language has little to do with the number of people who speak it. It is much more to do with who those speakers are" (p. 7)**.**

As English is the most important global language, English has become a *lingua franca* for the world. A business communication between a Japanese and an Indonesian uses English as a means of communication. According to (Ostler 2005),

a *lingua franca* can be defined as a language widely adopted for communication between two speakers whose native languages are different from each other's and where one or both speakers are using it as a 'second' language. As it name implies, it comes from two words: lingua or language and franca. Actually franca refers to Germanic Franks who moved into Gaul (now France) in the 5th century and adopted the local language, which became known as the language of the Franks. During the crusade, the word gives Arabic its word for foreigner, *feringi*, of which there are many variants in other languages. That is why by nature lingua franca consists of many varieties.

English that is used as a *lingua franca* might have several different linguistic features. Pronunciation is one aspect of language which has a wide range of linguistic features within lingua franca English. The second is the use of vocabulary. When we talk about pronunciation and vocabulary, it can't be separated from speaking. Speaking is not only about expressing someone's thoughts and feelings in spoken language but also related to the pronunciation as well. We cannot underestimate mispronunciation because it might lead to the misunderstanding of conversation. People might get the wrong idea if the English spoken is not clear in the pronunciation. Before pronouncing the word(s), we should know the sounds of English alphabet. It is divided into two parts; vowels and consonants. There are 24 consonant sounds and 20 vowel sounds. The vowel sounds are more complicated than the consonant sounds. For example, the letter "A" can be sounded as "æ" in "black", the letter O can be sounded as "aʊ" in "out". The sounds of "æ" and "aʊ" being mentioned on the previous sentence are usually called as diphthongs. (Kelly,

2000 : Desri, 2009) points out some typical difficulties of English learners in producing vowels and diphthongs. Diphthongs (centring and closing) seem to be the most difficult ones to be produced by many speakers of other languages. For Indonesian speakers, AGPS (1986) mentions that there are possibilities for the learners to have problems in diphthongs which are not found in Bahasa Indonesia: /ɪə/, /ʊə/, /eɪ/, /eə/, and /oʊ/.

The study of pronunciation used to focus the ideal production of sounds as prescribed by the native speaker. However, The new approach departs from the prescriptive to descriptive linguistics due to the better acceptance of "World Englishes" (Kachru, 1990). This approach does not focus the analysis on errors produced by L2 learners, but on the intelligibility of the language varieties to be comprehended. In other words, the errors are simply seen as deviations of the correctness of sound production, but as varieties within the language.. Furthermore, in the context of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations), Kirkpatrick (2011) has identified some typical English varieties in the region, including some sounds which are challenging for Indonesian speakers.

As English is a lingua franca in ASEAN (Kirkpatrick, 2008), most leaders in this region, both politicians and business people use English as a means of communication among them, including Mr. Joko Widodo, well-known as Jokowi, a business person turning into the president of Indonesia, the biggest country in ASEAN in term of population. Mr. Jokowi was a successful business person exporting furniture to an international market which presumably uses English as a means of communication. His present position as the President of Indonesia

exposes his speaking competence more to the public in the forms of speeches and conversation, some of which are in English. Some of Mr. Jokowi's speeches in English are available in *Youtube* so that they can become public scrutiny. As Mr. Jokowi is a successful businessman and an honorable person as being cited as Asian Man of the Year 2019 by The Straits Times and rank 12 of Most Influential Muslim Figures of the year 2020, an investigation to his language varieties are worth studying. Since are many aspects of language varieties, this study only focuses on President Jokowi's pronunciation.

1.2 Research Question

As it is explored in the background, this study focuses on pronunciation aspects of Mr. Jokowi's speeches. This study aims to answer the following main research question:

- What language variations in terms of pronunciation are found in Mr. Jokowi's speeches?

In order to describe the language variations in term of pronunciation aspects, the following sub questions are proposed:

- What are the typical diphthong sounds produced by Mr. Jokowi?

1.3 Objectives of the study

In line with the research questions, this study will be conducted to answer the above questions. This study aims to describe Mr. Jokowi's the language variations in term of pronunciation. This investigation will focus on segmental aspects of

pronunciation which aims to describe his sound productions in vowel, consonant and , and diphthongs.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

This study is concerned about the pronunciation aspects in President Jokowi's speeches. The president's pronunciation aspects are seen from language varieties (Mesthrie & Bhatt, 2008). This theory focuses on intelligibility of language varieties rather than seeing them as errors produced. The fact that President Jokowi's acceptance as a successful international trader and the president of one of G-7 countries, the emerging market countries of the world, has been seenas the evidence of the intelligibility. Although Pennington and Richards' (1986) on revisiting pronunciation argue that pronunciation is not only about phonemic aspect,but also discursive level, this study focuses on segmental aspects of President Jokowi's pronunciation.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to be able to give contribution to some elements as follows:

1. Teacher

   The researcher expects that through this research, it can give contribution firstly for the teachers so that they would be able to know different types of language varieties. It might be beneficial for teachers to avoid unintelligibility in pronouncing the words during the teaching learning

activity.

2.   Students

The researcher expects that through this research, it can make the students be more motivated in using English within their daily lives. It is expected that students would also feel more comfortable in using some language varieties as far as they are intelligible.

3.   Other researchers

The researcher expects that through this research, it can contribute much for a better future. This research is expected to give more knowledge about language varieties to reach the intelligibility of sound productions.

1.6   Assumption

The writer assumes that every non-native speaker, including President Jokowi, finds it quite difficult to pronounce the English words correctly when the measurement is the American or British standard. However, the focus is not to find errors but to describe typical diphthong varieties produced by Mr. Jokowi in his public speech.

1.7   Limitation and Scope

This study is concerned about the problems faced by some people when they communicate in English. One of the problems deals with the correct pronunciation. In line with this, the writer limits the research problem along with the subject of the study. This study focuses only on the language varieties made by Jokowi during his

speeches. The writer gets the speeches from YouTube.

1.8   Definition of Key Terms

This sub-chapter deals with the definition of key terms. They will be as follows:

1.   Speaking

According to Oxford dictionary, speaking is described as being able to use a language. Webster describes speaking as to say words in order to express one's thoughts, feelings, opinions, etc., to someone : to talk to someone. The other descriptions are to talk about a particular subject or person and to say words to express yourself in a particular way.

2.   Language varieties

Wardhaugh (1986) defines language variety as "a specific set of linguistic items" or "human speech patterns (sounds, words, grammatical features) which can be associated with some external factor (geographical area or a social group) (p. 22). Even in a country where English is spoken as L1, there are many varieties. However, with the dramatic spread of English in the world, the varieties become more diverse, so that Kachru calls "Englished", not only English.

3.   Pronunciation: Pronunciation in general means the way a language is spoken.

Penningtonand Richards (1986) shows two views of pronunciation: traditional view which individual sounds are the core for meaning and more

recent views which connects those individual sounds to the dynamics of communication. In this thesis, both views are correlated.

4. Lingua Franca English: a variety of English spoken by people out of English speaking countries as a means of communication. (Canagarajah, 2007).

5. Speech: a formal talk given usually to a large number of people on aspecial occasion (Cambridge Dictionary).

1.9 Organizational of the Study

The writer divides this study into five chapters. The systematic content of thestudy will be as follows:

The first chapter discusses the introduction. Here, the writer talks about the background of the problem, research questions, objectives of the study, theoretical framework, significance of the study, assumption, limitation and scope, definition of key terms, and organizational of the study.

The second chapter discusses review of literature. It is divided into two. It contains reviews of related literature and previous studies.

The third chapter discusses research methodology. It is divided into research design, research subjects, research data, research instrument, data collection procedure, and data analysis procedure.