

CHAPTER I

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1.1. Background of the Study

Since English is an International language and is being more and more important in any field in the world, it is good to learn English as early as possible. In Surabaya, the Elementary Schools provide English in the fourth grade (the fact: some of them provide English in the first grade) as one of the subjects. The writer thinks it is a good start to provide English in Elementary school as Finocchiaro (1964:4) said that the childhood is the ideal period of learning a foreign language.

Moreover, The Indonesia Government provides “Kurikulum Pendidikan Dasar 1994” to raise the quality of the citizen. In the teaching program at the “Kurikulum Pendidikan Dasar 1994”, it is said that English becomes one of the subjects if English is needed in that area, and the subject can be given from the fourth grade.

As Surabaya is a big city which considers English as an important subject, English is being available to be learned at any schools. Since English is considered as an important subject, it should be prepared and taught well. In order that the teaching-learning activity can go smoothly, there is a factor that should be considered. The factor is pronunciation. The reason in choosing the factor is that

the factor is an important factor, which helps the students in gaining the English subject.

The writer realizes that the field of pronunciation is a very broad. Therefore, he only limits on Pronunciation problems encountered by the Javanese students in this research. The research aim is intended to help the Javanese students to overcome their difficulties in learning English pronunciation. There is a tendency in the first stage of their study to apply their mother tongue habits in producing utterances in English. The English sounds are completely different and unfamiliar in the motion of the lips, the tongue, and the other speech organs. So it is necessary for the Javanese students to begin by making conscious efforts to produce English sounds as closely as a native English speaker produces them.

Interested in seeing the importance of the factor in achieving the English ability for the students, the writer decided to make the qualitative research in the form of observational study to give a clearer picture about how English is presented at SD KATOLIK SANTA ANGELA SURABAYA belonging to the 2000/2001 school year.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Considering the background of this study, the main problem investigated by this study is "How far do Javanese students master English pronunciation? In order to answer this question the following questions are set up:

1. Do the students whose mother tongue is Javanese face difficulties in learning English pronunciation?

2. Which English pronunciation constitutes problems for the students of SD KATOLIK SANTA ANGELA SURABAYA whose mother tongue is Javanese?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the formulated questions above, the objective of the study intends to describe Pronunciation problems encountered by the Javanese students of SD KATOLIK SANTA ANGELA SURABAYA. Specifically, the study intends to describe:

1. Whether students whose mother tongue is Javanese face difficulties in learning English pronunciation.
2. What are the English pronunciation problems found among students of SD KATOLIK SANTA ANGELA SURABAYA whose mother tongue is Javanese.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The results of this study should give a useful contribution and give some advantages for English teachers as well as Javanese students learning English. It will help the English teachers to teach the English pronunciation in a proper and effective way. For the students, they will be able to differentiate the correct and wrong pronunciation. Furthermore, they will be able to produce English utterances as closely as a native English speaker does.

1.5. Assumptions

This study is based on the following assumption:

1. The teachers are qualified in these area.
2. The teachers take the important role in class. It means that usually the teacher dominates the class when teaching.
3. Pronunciation is very important for students to acquire the target language.

1.6 Scope and Limitation

Considering the limited time and expense available to do the research, the Pronunciation problems encountered by the Javanese students discussed in this study was done in the English classes of SD KATOLIK SANTA ANGELA SURABAYA.

The subjects used in this study were the fourth grade and the sixth grade students of the English class of SD KATOLIK SANTA ANGELA SURABAYA belonging to the school year of 2000/2001. English is given to the fourth grade and the sixth grade students in the school. The writer chose those grades to see the difference between the pronunciation in the lower class and the pronunciation in the upper class.

Variables such as the students' aptitude, intelligence, home environment, and motivation are beyond the scope of this study.

1.7. Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, it is necessary to explain the key terms used throughout this study. The terms are Javanese students, learning, pronunciation.

a. Javanese students

Javanese students are all students whose mother tongue is Javanese and they talk and communicate by using Javanese daily.

b. Learning

Learning is the process of acquisition and extinction of modifications in existing knowledge, skills, habits, or action tendencies in motivated organism through experience, practice, or exercise (Webster, New International Dictionary).

c. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is the way or ways in which a unit of language is usually spoken or on the basis of analogy probably would be spoken by person qualified by education or otherwise to be speakers worthy of imitation. (Webster' New International Dictionary).

1.8. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I (one) presents an introduction, which consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, assumptions, scope and limitation, definition of the key terms, and organization of the study. Chapter II

deals with review of the related literature. It consists of the description of English and Javanese phonemes, and contrastive chart of English and Javanese phonemes. Chapter III discusses a methodology, which consists of the research design, the subject of the study, the data of the study, the instrument of the study, procedures of data collection, and procedures of data analysis. Chapter IV presents the findings. And chapter V, the writer presents the conclusion.