

**PHONOLOGICAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY  
THE SIXTH SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH  
DEPARTMENT OF WIDYA MANDALA CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY SURABAYA**

**A THESIS**

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for  
the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in  
English Language Teaching



By :

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## APPROVAL SHEET

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This thesis entitled PHONOLOGICAL PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED BY SIXTH-SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF WIDYA MANDALA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY SURABAYA, prepared and submitted by Tuti Handayani Gunawan has been approved and accepted as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the sarjana pendidikan degree in the Teacher-Training Faculty by the following advisor:

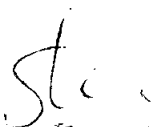
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wahab', is written over a large, loopy, handwritten 'M' or 'W' that spans across the signature line.

Dr. Abdul Wahab, M.A.  
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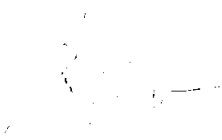
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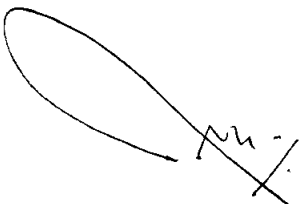
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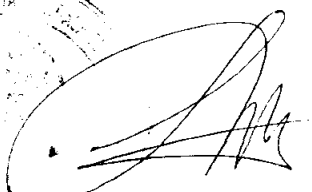


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The Writer

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## ABSTRACT

Nelson Francis (1958:13) states, "language is an arbitrary system of articulated sounds made use by a group of human as a means of carrying on the affairs of the society." It can be said that language is a very important means to communicate with others. A different phonological system in a language may cause problems for the learners. In this case, the writer would like to know about the phonological problems faced by the sixth-semester students of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya. There is a symptom that even they are in the last semester, they still make many errors in pronouncing the English words. Because of that, there are important elements to be discussed. First, what phonological problems most of the sixth-semester students of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya have in pronouncing English words and what phonological problems in terms of consonants, vowels, diphthongs, and clusters that they have.

This is a qualitative study that concerns with a certain case. Therefore, it can be classified as a case study. In this study, the writer used some instruments to get the data to support the validity of this study. The instruments comprise the writer herself and the recording. The data is the recording of the presentations of a seminar in the Speaking V class.

The findings concerning the most frequent errors made by the students are the mispronunciation of the central mid lax unround vowel. It is because of the lack of knowledge of the voice-pitch. The second is the aspirated phonemes. In Indonesian Orthographical System (henceforth abbreviated into IOS), there are no aspirated phonemes. Therefore, the students have difficulties in pronouncing the aspirated ones, such as the phoneme [p]. The other frequent errors are the front high tense unround vowel. This error occurs because there are no long vowels in IOS. Not surprising if the students pronounce the back high and mid tense round vowels incorrectly, even the amount of them is small. Dental fricative and palato-alveolar affricate are the consonants that are often mispronounced by the students because they do not exist in IOS. Sometimes, the students missed in pronouncing the diphthongs because of the influence of the characteristic of IOS—one symbol represents one sound. Clusters are often broken up with a weak vowel in between or to neglect to pronounce the last consonant.

In conclusion, from what the writer has done in her study about the Phonological Problems Encountered by Most of the Sixth-Semester Students of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya, the writer can conclude that in learning English as the foreign language, the students often face some problems that can lead to the phonological errors. Most of the errors are caused by the differences in the pronunciation of words that Indonesian words are spellingwised, while English is not; most Indonesian Orthographical System is

phonemic that is every symbol represents one sound, while English language system is not consistent; there are no voice-pitch and aspirated phonemes in Indonesian language; and the last is Indonesian language has few combination of clusters.