

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the research background, research questions, research objectives, scope of the research, weight, and relevance.

1.1 Rationale

English is the international language used to communicate around the world. In Indonesia, English is a foreign language (EFL). In the world of education, both in Indonesia and elsewhere, the English language is an educational system taught from elementary school to university. In learning English, there are four aspects of the skills that must be mastered, namely, listening skill and reading skill, speaking skill, and writing skill.

Among the four areas of English skills, speech is a difficult challenge for many people who are learning English. Bueno et.al. (2006) stated that speaking skills are one of the most difficult skills that language learners have to face (Y. Lestari, 2021). Although students have been learning English for years, they find it difficult to speak in real situations when situations are demanding. By mastering English speaking skills, we will be able to communicate with people from different cultures and backgrounds around the world. It creates opportunities to expand social networks, gain new cultural insights, and deepen inter-cultural understanding. There are some elements in speech that should be taught to the pupil. One of the most important elements in speech is pronunciation.

Pronunciation is one of elements in speaking skill which is truly important to make the communication run well. In English communication, if our pronunciation is wrong or inappropriate then the consequence is miscommunication. Even, until the purpose of communication is not communicated in a conversation because the meaning of a word or sentence is not properly conveyed. That means pronunciation is one aspect of achieving successful oral

communication because pronunciation has a great influence towards meaning that will be conveyed.

The reason Indonesians have difficulty pronouncing English words correctly is because of the differences between their mother tongue and the English language. English has a very different pronunciation system from Indonesian. Common problems when learning English pronunciation are caused by the differences in the sound systems of the two languages. There are also some English vowels that do not appear in the Indonesian Indonesian language sound system such as [æ], [I:], [u:] and consonants, such as [ð], [θ], [ʒ]. It will be difficult for Indonesian people to pronounce them (Rahman & Tralala, 2021).

There are many varieties of medium for learning pronunciation, such as game, videos, films, songs, etc. One of the interesting media is song. According to Murphey (1992) songs help long-term and short-term memory because it's usually hard to remember everything during learning other languages, and only songs from each language are embedded in the student's brain (Kumar et.al., 2022). It means that the use of song can help the learners to remember the vocabulary and the way to pronounce the word.

Song is a musical composition performed by the human voice. Griffiee (1992) defines a song as a work that is produced vocally, meaningfully linguistically, and has a melody. Meanwhile, Richard says that the song is a relatively short musical composition for human voices, featuring words or lyrics. (Tilwani, Shouket et.al., 2022). In addition, it can be concluded that a song is a musical composition that contains the vocal part (lyrics) sung, usually accompanied by a musical instrument.

Nowadays, many Indonesians listen to English songs covered by Indonesian singers. Meanwhile, listening to covers of English songs, the listener may not focus on the lyrics used in the song. The listener may like the song because the music is very good to be listened or they may like the voice of the singer. However, it is very necessary for listeners to know good and correct English pronunciation because the

songs that listeners listen to may contain pronunciation errors. Therefore, it can make someone who is just learning English remember words that contain incorrect pronunciation considered as the correct pronunciation.

In this research, the research intends to find out types of pronunciation errors made by the singer, and the factors causing these errors. There are two reasons why researchers are interested in doing this research. The first reason is that pronunciation is one of the most important things in learning English to ensure good communication and can also prevent misunderstandings. Moreover, having good pronunciation can increase your confidence when speaking English. The second reason is because English songs can be a media for learners to improve their pronunciation skills. Songs can be effective in helping pronunciation because learners can immediately gain knowledge about how to pronounce the words from the songs they hear. Furthermore, learning using songs is also fun for learners and will make it easier for them to understand the lesson.

However, in this research, the researchers only focused on English songs sung by Indonesian singers. In this research, all supra-segmental features such as stress, tone, and intonation are excluded. Because these features are used in songs to make them more interesting or to emphasize the meaning of the lyrics. The researchers only focused on words related to English speech production. Psychological or emotional factors can also be ruled out because the subjects only sang the song. The researchers investigated the error by watching several English song covers sung by Indonesian singers on YouTube channels. The Researcher investigates this error by watching several covers of English songs sung by Indonesian singers on the YouTube channel. The subject is a female singers with around 2,4 million and 3 million subscribers

Based on the phenomena above, the researcher is very interested in conducting the research of Pronunciation Errors Made by Indonesian Singers. Here the researcher carries out the research entitled: " Pronunciation Errors Made by Indonesian Singers ".

1.2 Research Questions

This research is to investigate the pronunciation errors made by Indonesian singers while covering English songs in their YouTube channel. The researcher tries to formulate the problems as follows:

1. What are types of pronunciation errors made by Indonesian singers while covering English songs?
2. What are the causes of Indonesian singers making pronunciation errors while covering English songs?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions, the researcher has some research objectives, they are :

1. To find out the types of pronunciation errors made by Indonesian singers while covering English songs.
2. To find out the factors causing the errors in pronunciation made by Indonesian singers while covering English songs.

1.4 Scope of The Research

In this research entitled “Pronunciation Errors Made by Indonesian Singers“. The researchers is focused on analyzing pronunciation errors in vowel, consonant, diphthong, and describing the factors that cause pronunciation errors made by Indonesian singers while covering English songs on their YouTube channel called Indah Yastami and Via Vallen using Elsa Speak Application.

1.5 Weight and Relevance

1. Theoretically

This research aims to increase readers’ knowledge of pronunciation errors and to motivate and attract their interest in improving their

pronunciation skills. This research can also be a source for those who want to conduct similar research relate to pronunciation errors.

2. Practically

This research is expected to provide valuable information to readers about errors in the pronunciation of consonants, vowels and diphthongs as well as the cause of the pronunciation errors made by Indonesian singers while covering English songs. It is hoped that the result of this research will also be able to improve students' pronunciation skills when speaking English.