CHAPTER I

In this chapter, the researcher presents the topics related to the study such as the background of study, statement of the research problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and the definition of the key terms. The researcher will discuss these topics below:

A. Background of Study

Language was a significant aspect in the life to communicate each other wether by oral or writing. Soejono (1983:01) said that language is a means of spiritual communication and has an important role to life together. Language is the system of arbitraty sound symbol that used by a society in a group to work, communicate, and give self identification. Santoso (1990:1) also explains that language is kind of form and not a state or something that the arbitrary sounds, and conventional that used as the means to communicate a social group for birth giving, such feeling and thoughts. Therefore, the main role fo language is to communicate each other and socializing.

Indonesia has the several native languages for all of its region. The different of languages will give some difficulty when people in the region has an interaction to communicate each other in the other region. From this problem, it can be solved by using the national language. Then, to solve the problem problem from the differences of language in the country of the world is by using English. Thus, for in the country context, Indonesians speak Indonesian but for inter country context some Indonesians speak English.

Lauder (2008) also explains that the increasing of the role in English as an additional language Indonesian generation for nowadays.

English, which role as International language, is used by people all around the world as their mother language or second language like in Indonesia. So, the teaching in that country start from the early learner like in elementary school, and the institution before it as the material ind the learning process. Berns (1990) gives the definition about foreign language learning as a target of language in a country which not using the language as a speech group. The learner has to use English in the classroom. English lesson has done be teached in the basic level of education even in the playgroup. When the students enter the higher institution of education, they have an internal motivation about it. That will give the reason that English is used to speak globally in the world for communication such as formal and informal situations.

Meanwhile, English is one of the requirements for Indonesian language learners who will get a job in a company. Companies that do business internationally tend to communicate using English with each other on daily basis so the speaking ability of first and second English speaker in the workplace is substantial. However, students must practice to speak actively in order to apply English in communication. Thus, they can speak and listen very well. On the other hand, some Indonesians learn English to get jobs in other countries. Others must speak and listen well, they must master reading and writing. Thus, students must master four skills in English.

English as an international language has four skills, namely speaking, listening, writing, and reading. All of these skills must be understood and even mastered by the community, especially for teachers and students with educational backgrounds. From this explaining phenomenon, the most difficult skill to master is listening because it requires a lot more attention and concentration in order to understand the listening material. As defined by Oxford (1993: 206), listening is a complex problem-solving skill and is more than just the perception of sound. In addition, listening is a very important oral communication for humans.

Besides that, another aspect that is difficult to master is speaking. Speaking is an oral language ability that involves the knowledge of the speaker as well as cultural knowledge, pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar (Nurhayati, 2016). According to Ur (1996) one of the most important skills is speaking. There are other skills required for people to mastering speaking skill such as grammatical competency, listening ability, mastering vocabulary and good pronunciation. People will be able to communicate effectively if their pronunciation is good. Therefore, they should practice more pronunciation.

Based on the four language skills, learning to speak related to pronunciation has not been successful. In order to mastering speaking English well, students ability to pronunciation is one of the most important aspects. Good pronunciation will form the basis for learning English. Usually listeners are judging the speakers by how the way they speak which result shows that

students with poor pronunciation can be considered as incompetent, uneducated or lacking in knowledge. However, many adult learners also find pronunciation of English language as one of the most difficult aspects to learn, and require explicit teacher assistance (Morley: 1994; Fraser 2000). Therefore, learners must get guidance from an early age because if students mispronounce the pronunciation, they will use it in daily communication which causes misunderstandings when communicating with others.

A way of producing the sound of words is called pronunciation. For listeners, good pronunciation will also make a good impression. According to Hornby (1974), pronunciation is a way of pronouncing a language or how to pronounce a word. A similar definition is put forward by Shaw (1970: 355) in Triyani (2000) which states that pronunciation is the way a word is heard when it is pronounced. Good pronunciation facilitates communication with people because the speaker can speak clearly and is more clearly understood.

Pronunciations need to be trained between teachers and students in the teaching learning process inside the classroom. The teacher practices first, then the students repeat after the teacher. But nowadays, learning pronunciation can be done with a smartphone. This makes the classroom atmosphere more enjoyable and the teaching and learning process more interesting. Thus, Using a Smartphone is the best media choice for learning pronunciation. Media is a tool used to present information or data. In the current learning process, students are asked to bring smartphones to school as

a learning device that can be used to improve learning in class because it is a learning process tool.

Smartphones are devices that are almost always with everyone which means learners can take learning anywhere. The mobile phone is being integrated in the following subject areas such as algebra (calculator), science (graphing for lab results) and language arts (vocabulary and spelling). There are several language learning applications for language arts learning in the world that can be downloaded via smartphones as a source or medium to teach students what they need to know. In this research, the researcher used the U Dictionary application as a medium for learning pronunciation. Reiser & Gagne (19835) states that the media are selected based on their ability to present instructional events and to facilitate the achievement of stated goals (Gerlach and Ely, 1980, p. 20). The U-Dictionary application aims to help students find out something they did not previously know.

U-Dictionary application is one of the offline English dictionaries supported by 44 languages in the world. This app has been categorized as one of the best apps in the dictionary category on Google Playstore. This includes English articles, games, questions and answers to improve the level of English. This app can be used to translate many other languages and not only focused as an English dictionary. Since the context of activities in life is various, this app is able to interpret the translation according to the activity such as studying, working, and traveling. It can be used as an effective learning medium for learning pronunciation. This app includes a voice

translation feature that can spell out a word and several sentences, making it easier to practice pronunciation.

The previous studies was done Aprilia and Ahmad (2020) by the topic about the use of U-Dictionary application in learning pronunciation components to the high-level student in intelligibility principles in order to get an understandable conversation in speaking practice. The finding of this research showed that the application can assist the researcher in learning pronunciation components especially for segmental features such as vowel and consonant and supra-segmental ones in intonation. The point is that the U-Dictionary Application can be used for students to improve their pronunciation skill even for supra-segmental features only one aspect existed. But this research done in high level student, while the researcher in this study do the research at student in middle school level.

The other study was done by Wulandari and Handayani (2019) by the title "*The Use U-Dictionary as a learning media to Increase the Students' Vocabulary in teaching speaking*". This research determined to increase the student vocabulary while the researcher used the U-Dictionary towards English Pronounciation. Rahayuningtyas also wrote a thesis with the title "*The Effectiveness of Using Online Dictionaries on the Tenth Grade Students' Pronunciation Achievement at SMAN1 Ngunut*". In this thesis the using of online dictionaries was in general while the researcher used a specific dictionary application that is U-Dictionary application at the playstore for Android. Then, Sumantri also write a study about pronounciation by the title

"Improving Students Pronunciation by Using English Song". The English song used to improve the pronunciation of student, while the researcher used the U-Dictionary application as a learning media.

Therefore, the writer wanted to see how the effectiveness of the U Dictionary application if applied by the teacher to students in one of the classrooms of SMK Islam 1 Durenan. This will show the results whether or not this app can help the students to improve their pronunciation achievement. Based on this description, the researcher is interested in conducting a research entitled **"The Effectiveness of U-Dictionary Application Teaching Media towards English Pronunciation of The Eleventh Grade Students at SMK Islam 1 Durenan***".*

B. Statement of Research Problem

Based on the background study, the research problems are formulated as follows:

Is there any significant difference in scores of the students that taught English pronunciation by using U-Dictionary and those students who was taught by using conventional method of the eleventh grade students at SMK Islam 1 Durenan?

C. Objective of the Research

Based on the research problems formulation, the aims of the research are stated as follow:

To investigate any significant difference in scores of the students that taught English pronunciation by using U-Dictionary and those students who

were taught by using conventional method of the eleventh grade students at SMK Islam 1 Durenan.

D. Significance of the Research

For students, teachers and the future researchers, this research is expected to be useful. First, this research gives the advantages for the students in pronunciation achievement by using U-Dictionary application. Second, this research is expected to be useful for teacher to use U-Dictionary as media in teaching pronunciation. Lastly, this research is expected to be useful for the future researchers who conduct the similar research to get any information and as one of the references.

E. Research Hypothesis

Based on the research problem statement, hypothesis are divided into two:

1. Null Hypothesis (Ho)

The score differences on English pronunciation between students taught with and without using U-Dictionary application at eleventh grade students at SMK Islam 1 Durenan is not significant?

2. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha)

The score differences on English pronunciation between students who taught by using and using U-Dictionary application at the eleventh grade students at SMK Islam 1 Durenan is significant?

F. Scope and Limitation of the Research

1. Scope

The researcher of this research focused on the students' English pronunciation by using U-Dictionary application. This study is only conducted on students of eleventh grade at SMK Islam 1 Durenan.

2. Limitation

This research has two limitations. The first limitation is called the text in the instrument which is from English book, because the teacher conducted the English learning by using English book for the eleventh grade students and the text is not enough to measure the group of consonant, they are vocal cords, place of articulation and manner of articulation. The second limitation is the condition and situation when the students listen to the sound of word from U-Dictionary application in each their smartphone because the condition of their smartphone's speaker is different so that when the students practice pronunciation, there is not appropriate with the pronunciation in application. It will be better if the smartphone has the loudly speaker or the smartphone can connect in the Bluetooth speaker. So, the student will be better if they bring the Bluetooth speaker. In conclusion, those limitations can influence in the validity and reliability in this research finding.

G. Definition of the Key Terms

1. Pronunciation

How words or language is spoken is determined by how the way it is pronounced. According to Lado (1964:70) pronunciation is the use of a sound system in speaking and listening. This included creating correct vowel and consonant sounds using the muscles of the mouth, tongue and lips. There are other important aspects of pronunciation, including: word stress, sentence stress, linking and intonation.

2. Media

Media is tools used to present the information or data. Based on the Reiser & Gagne (19835) media are selected on their ability to present the events of instructions and to facilitate the achievement of stated objectives (Gerlach and Ely, 1980, p.20).

3. U-Dictionary application

U-Dictionary application is one of offline English dictionary that can be accessed by everyone from smartphone or PC which supported by 44 languages in the world. According to Perky LIU, Vice President from Netease Youdao stated that he is going to continue to make rapid developments to improve the user experience and cultivate their vision to eliminate language barriers. The application include a voice translate feature which can spell a word and some sentences, so it more easily to practice a pronunciation. Pronunciations are also available in English (US) and English (UK) accents.