

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Language is one of the most important components in human life. However, human is a social creature which it's mean human can't life without another (Flynn, 2008). To build a social relationship between human there must be a communication which is using a certain tool named Language. That's why language is very important. According to Akmajian (2017) language is a tool used by humans through the world to interact with each other. Language as a communication tool means that language is a series of sounds that are systematic, in the form of symbols, are arbitrary, meaningful, conventional, unique, universal, productive, varied, dynamic, human, and a tool of social interaction that is used by individuals to express something or express themselves to their interlocutor (DS Patel, 2014). In everyday life, humans cannot be separated from the use of language, this happens because of interactions between humans. By language, humans can exchange information and knowledge, as well as express it ideas and thoughts.

There are many languages that have developed throughout the world, so the languages between countries or even between regions are different. Language is a tool for communicating with each other, but if there is an interaction without understanding each other then it can't be said they have used language as the tool of communication (Noermanzah, 2019). To overcome language differences between regions, each country determines its own national language, which means that this language is the official language of the country that can be used to communicate with all citizens of that country. Meanwhile, English is used as an international language to communicate with all people in the world (Sharifian, 2009).

English is an international language or called as lingua franca, which means the use of English as the tool of communication between global communities and can be understood by all users of different languages (Mauranen, 2003). That is why English is a very familiar language and is studied in almost all countries in the world.

Indonesia is one of the countries that is developing English language learning. Indonesian people learn English as a foreign language, it's mean that English is not used as an everyday language in society but as a means of communication for certain purposes. English is considered so important that it has become one of the materials of choice for educational curricula in schools and universities (Orton, 2009). Not only that, the importance of English has resulted in the establishment of many English language courses in Indonesia.

Learning English, it's means somebody have to learn the 4 skills that existed in English namely speaking, writing, reading, and listening (Powers, 2010). Listening and reading are passive skills or receptive skills, while speaking and writing are active skills Rao (2019). Listening and reading are considered as passive or receptive skills because in this skill students cannot show their proficiency. They just listen to the language or read it earning anything from themselves. Whereas with writing and speaking, students will produce their own sentences so they need a lot of practice and learn many things related to grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure and its use. Therefore, speaking and writing are considered active or productive skills.

Speaking skill is the most important skill to acquire foreign or second language learning. Among the four main language skills, speaking is considered as the most important skill in learning a foreign language Rao (2019). By speaking, student will be able to build an interaction with others. The skills of English Speaking can be the sign of someone's mastery of English. The Ability in mastering language can be seen from the speaking ability. A person can be said to have mastered a language if he is able to speak it language fluently, and if vice versa then his language ability is highly doubtful. Caukill (2011) states that a large percentage of the world's language learners study English in order to develop proficiency in speaking. This statement shows that the majority of English learners' study English with the aim of improving their English-speaking skill.

Speaking is the active use of language, not only in terms of movement but also mentally involved in finding and sharing meaning. Speaking a foreign language is not easy for Indonesian students. especially for English language students, some

difficulties they encounter in learning it are caused by the social conditions of students who are accustomed to use their local language, so that foreign languages are difficult to accept and communicate. Harmer (2001) states that speaking a foreign language to share understanding with others requires consideration of the details of the language. A speaker must find the most appropriate words and appropriate linguistic use to convey meaning appropriately and must organize the speech so that the audience can understand him.

As previously discussed, speaking is one way for human to communicate. Speaking should not be done carelessly but have to be meaningful, so that other people can understand it. To speak well, speakers should master several speaking components, such as comprehension, pronunciation, vocabulary, and fluency (Zare-Behtash, 2017). Pronunciation is one component of speaking skills which includes the procedure for pronouncing English words or sentences correctly. English pronunciation must be precise and correct so that it can be understood by the person you are speaking to, especially native speakers. It can be said that pronunciation is the most difficult component in learning English speaking because correct pronunciation requires integrated skills starting from mastery of vocabulary, spelling, listening to pronunciation habits. EFL learners need to know that the goal of pronunciation mastery is not requiring students to pronounce like native speakers but the understandable pronunciation should be the true goal (Gilakjani, 2012).

The main purpose of speaking is to communicate in order to convey thoughts, ideas, feelings and hopes effectively (Kerf, 1990). This goal can be achieved through students' ability to carry out conversations with their interlocutors. Conversation is an interaction that someone makes with another person to discuss something that is considered important or unimportant (Suparman, 2017). In this interaction someone conveys their thoughts and ideas through their language. It can be done by two or more people in a group or meeting. In studying a foreign language, students must study theoretically and practically. Theoretical studies mean that all statements or actions that are based on theories and ideas (Tuomela, R., 2012). While practical studies are all studies that based on the practice and all theoretical studies will be tasted in the practical (Kolb, 1992). All language learners should learn both of them, because

language was not just about theory, but must be applied through the practical activities namely language skills (Canale and Swain, 1980). By studying the theories of language learning, students would be able to implement the theories into the language practice. Conversation is a type of practical learning that aims to enable students to communicate using a foreign language well (Eckard, 1981). Conversation is very important to learn and even apply in everyday life, because the essence of learning a foreign language is the ability to communicate (Wijayanto, A., & Hastuti, D. M, 2021).

Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School is an Islamic educational institution that is active 24 hours in educating its students. This educational institution was founded in 1991 with a mandatory study duration of six years. The modern system implemented means that this institution uses two languages, namely Arabic and English, for its daily conversations. These two languages are the official languages used by institutions to communicate with each other. The first two weeks of the month are the Arabic zone and the next two weeks are the English zone. Many programs are implemented at these institutions which aim to improve the quality of students' language. This program is taken for five years and the remaining one year is used to carry out graduation exams. To support the success of language improvement programs, this institution uses a court system which means that users of languages except Arabic and English will be punished.

Two months ago, the researcher visited Darul Hikmah for an internship. During the internship program, researchers interacted with teachers and students for several days. From this interaction, the researcher gained some knowledge about the character of the teachers and students of the Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School. Furthermore, researcher also know about several mandatory programs in this educational institution. One of these programs is that students are required to use Arabic or English in daily conversations. After interacting with students at the Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School during the internship program, researchers realized the fact that the majority of students preferred to speak Arabic rather than English. By this fact, researcher tried to interact with students in English zone and researcher discovered the phenomenon that students had difficulty in speaking English, especially in pronunciation. The researcher concluded it because when she

communicated with Darul Hikmah last year students, she observed that many pronunciation errors in students English speaking even though they had good vocabulary and grammar.

The aim of this research was to search on solutions to overcome the existing students' pronunciation problems. Researcher believes that research related to this phenomenon is very important and must be carried out soon, because the results of this research will be a solution in overcoming existing problems. As researcher have explained previously, pronunciation is the important aspect of English speaking. If problems in pronunciation continue to be ignored, then these problems will develop and have a negative impact on other components of English speaking. Therefore, pronunciation problems must be studied soon to make the English learning becomes more effectively and have a good result.

From all the explanation above, researcher is interested in conducting research in this case with research entitled **“The Final Year Students' Problems in English Pronunciation at Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School”**.

B. Formulation of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the research problem in this research are:

1. What problems do the final year students of the Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School face in English pronunciation?
2. What are the factors that contribute to English pronunciation problems among the final year students of Darul Hikmah modern Islamic boarding school?
3. What strategies do teachers use in overcoming English pronunciation problems among the final year students of Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School?

C. Objective of the Research

Based on the research problem, it can be known the objective of the research as below:

1. To know the problems that the final year students of Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School face in English pronunciation

2. To know the factors that contribute to English pronunciation problems among the final year students of Darul Hikmah modern Islamic boarding school
3. To know the teacher's strategies used in overcoming English pronunciation problems among the last students of Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School

D. Significance of the Research

Hopefully that the results of this research will be both theoretically and practically.

In theory, researcher hopes that this research will be useful and provide many information about learning English, especially in speaking skills at Boarding School institution for who read this study in its entirety.

In practice, it is expected to provide maximum benefits as follows:

a. For the Student

This research is useful for students in carrying out all language programs in Islamic boarding schools optimally for both Arabic and English. Therefore, this research will make students aware that studying both languages is important without having to burden one of them.

b. For the General English Teacher

Based on the results of this research, English teachers can evaluate the strategies used in teaching English. By it evaluation, the teachers will know what are the student's problem in English learning.

c. For the Researcher

It is hoped that the findings of this research will expand researchers' knowledge regarding appropriate English learning programs for students, especially in speaking skills. Furthermore, this research makes researcher aware that knowing students' learning problems is very important so that solutions can be found immediately and learning activities can run more effectively.

d. For the Readers and Future Researchers

It is hoped that the findings of this research will broaden the reader's insight. Information and knowledge in this research, can be a reference for

applying the same method in carrying out similar research as this study in English language programs for students at the Islamic boarding school.

e. **Scope and Limitation of the Research**

This research aims to describe the problems experienced by last year students of the Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School, especially female students in English pronunciation, which include:

1. The problems experienced by last year students of the Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School in English pronunciation.
2. The factors contributed in English pronunciation's problem of the final year students at Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School.
3. The teacher's strategies used in overcoming English pronunciation problems among the final year students of Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School.

E. Definitions of Key Terms

To avoid differences in perception regarding the key terms that will become the focus of this research, a definition is needed for each key term in this research.

a. **English Pronunciation Problems**

In this case, the problem of English pronunciation is a problem currently faced by the final year students of the Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School in learning and using correct pronunciation in daily English conversations. The problem in question is the difficulty or obstacle experienced by students in pronouncing English correctly when speaking English.

The final year students have been equipped with all the components of English learning for approximately 5 years. However, field facts show that they are not enough to be said fluently in English. It happened because there are many pronunciation errors made by students in English conversation although they have used the correct sentences according to grammar rules.

b. **Daily English Conversation**

Daily English Conversation is the use of English as a language to

interact with other people in carrying out daily activities and discussing all things that are considered important or even unimportant.

Daily English Conversation is one of the mandatory programs at Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School. All students and even teachers in this educational institution use English in their daily conversations at specified times. If students violate this rule by speaking or having a dialogue using a language other than English, they will be punished.

c. Islamic Modern Boarding School

Islamic boarding schools are schools where students study and stay for 24 hours with predetermined time. An Islamic boarding school educates its students to learn Islamic law deeply. Islamic boarding schools educate their students to always behave as taught by Islam. In addition, Islamic boarding schools also provide students with academic knowledge such as the general school.

Each Islamic boarding school has its own educational program and regulations as a characteristic of its Islamic boarding school. Darul Hikmah is one of the Islamic boarding schools that uses the term "Modern" as a description of the program contained in it. The modern term means that the boarding school uses two languages, namely Arabic and English as the official languages used for everyday conversation. In this institution there are many programs implemented to support the use of Arabic and English. In addition, this institution has many other programs that are extraordinary such as lecture programs that create Islamic boarding increasingly exist in the current era of globalization.