

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, identification of the problem, limitation of the study, formulation of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, and operational definition.

#### A. Background Of The Study

English is unique including its pronunciation, even many words are not spoken when read. It proves is the word climb pronounced /klaɪm/, the word knee pronounced /ni:/. Pronunciation in the language is very important so as not to misinterpret and purpose. Communication using English certainly pays more attention to pronunciation because in English some words are written with different pronunciations. Pronunciation is a way of conveying words that can be accepted and understood in a particular language. Someone who masters English can usually be seen from the way he pronounces it.

According to (Gilakjani, 2016), pronunciation is an integral part of a foreign language because it directly affects the communicative competence and performance of students. Therefore, English is currently one of the concerns to be improved. However, there are some problems experienced by English learners in terms of pronunciation, things that are spoken do not match the meaning of the word and cannot be reached, One thing that always happens in English pronunciation mistakes is silence in a letter. Silent letters are defined as unspoken letters in a word, present in spelling but missed in pronunciation.

Based on Podhaizer (1998), states that silent letters are letters that are not sounded. Therefore, English learners, when faced with silent letter words, often confuse their pronunciation. Even some students know silent is the rule, but when

they do, they make some mistakes. In addition, some students do not learn the rules and the correct pronunciation of words. because in English pronunciation it is necessary to often recognize sounds and voices by utilizing the organ of speech.

There are hundreds of words in the language english contains silence letters that when sounded will be very interfere with the listener's understanding. By knowing the mistakes that are often made by novice learners in Indonesia, it will be easier for English teachers to map out which quiet characters need more training and which do not. Furthermore, the results of this study can be used as the basis or manufacture of teaching materials for English pronunciation courses that are in accordance with the context of Indonesian language learners, especially regarding the pronunciation of silent letters.

### **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on what has been described in the background, there are problems that can be identified, as follows:

1. Learning methods that tend to be monotonous
2. Students do not learn the rules and the correct pronunciation of words.
3. Lack of student learning consistency regarding pronunciation

### **C. Delimitation of the Problem**

In order for this research to be in line with the background and problems, it is necessary to have problems that are reviewed. The limitations of this research problem are as follows:

1. The researcher improved the teaching of English pronunciation which involved the silent letters
2. Researchers use the CAR method as a process of improving educational devices
3. Researchers involve individuals who tend to be weak in the use of English

#### **D. Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the background described above, there are several formulations of the problem as follows: How to improve teaching pronunciation in English to silent letters?

#### **E. Objective of the Study**

The aims of this research are as follows:

1. To find out the types of individual pronunciation errors in English
2. To see the difficulties in learning the pronunciation of silent letters in English
3. To explain the improvement of learning in involving the silent letters

#### **F. Significance of the Study**

This research is expected to be useful in learning about the pronunciation of silent letters in English for students, teachers and researchers. First, for students, this research will help students in improving the pronunciation of silent letters, besides the learning methods provided will make students consistent in learning silent letters. Second, for teachers, from this research the teacher can find new techniques that can be used in the process of learning to pronounce silent letters. Lastly, for future researchers, this research can be used as a reference and can be further improved.

#### **G. Operational Definition**

Tarigan (2011:132) states that: "Pronunciation is very important in vocabulary improvement because it involves the distinction between sounds that combine to form words and concepts. To know good and right speech requires regular and systematic practice. When a letter is omitted in pronunciation and present in spelling, it is referred to as a silent letter. According to Podhaizer, (1998)), silent letters are letters that are not heard when forming the 'regular' sound in a word and are designated as silent. There is no denying that silent letters cause the difference between how a word is spelled and how a word is pronounced in English.