

**AN ANALYSIS OF ERROR PRONOUNCIATION THROUGH
READING ENGLISH OF THE SECOND GRADE
AT SMAN 5 LANGSA**

(A Case Study in the second grade at SMAN 5 Langsa)

THESIS

By:

**CUT ORIZA KEUMALA
141000421**

English Education Department



**FACULTY OF TARBIYAH AND TEACHERS TRAINING STATE
INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES (IAIN)
ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA
2015 M / 1436 H**

STATEMENT OF APPROVAL

**AN ANALYSIS OF ERROR PRONUNCIATION THROUGH READING ENGLISH
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**Submitted to the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala
Langsa as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the degree of Sarjana Pendidikan
(S.Pd) in English Education Department.**

By:

CUT ORIZA KEUMALA

141000421

English Education Department

Approved by:

Main Supervisor,

Co. Supervisor,

**MHD. RASID RITONGA, MA
NIP. 19770513 200912 1 005**

DEDI SUHERI, M.S

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

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141000421**

**It has been defended in Sidang Munaqasyah before the Council of Examiners and has
been accepted as a partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Sarjana Pendidikan
(S.Pd) in English Educational Department
of Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training, on:**

Saturday, April 25th 2015 M

The Council of Examiners`

Chairman

**Mhd. Rasid Ritonga, M.A
NIP. 19770513 200912 1 005**

Secretary

**Drs. Zainuddin, M.A
NIP. 19681022 199303 1 004**

Member

**Cut Intan Meutia, M.A
NIP. 19790529 200912 2 005**

Member

Shafrida Wati, M.A

Certified by:

**The Dean of Tarbiyah Faculty State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN)
Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa**

**(Dr. Ahmad Fauzi, M.Ag)
NIP. 19570501 198512 1 001**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Praise be upon Allah SWT; the lord of the universe, the master of the day that has given us the blessing so that the writer is in a good health to finish this thesis. This thesis is a responsibility of every student at the end of the study.

Later on let us send our best regard hoping to be sent in to the lap of biggest prophet Muhammad SAW, his family and his companions who have struggled hard to reform the human civilization and brought us from the darkness and stupidity to the atmosphere of brightness full of knowledge at the present.

I would like to give my immeasurable gratitude to Mhd. Rasyid Ritonga, MA as the main supervisor for his great help, who patiently gives valuable guidance, encouragement and criticism. My deepest appreciation is also presented to Dedi Suheri, MS as the second supervisor who has helped me patiently in guiding and completing her research. The gratitude is also dedicated to Nelly Badriah, M.Hum as my academic advisor and to all lecturers of English Department who has provided the knowledge and useful advices to the researcher.

I would like to give my deepest gratitude to my lovely parents, T.Rajudin and Mariyana for their love, support, and encouragement in finishing my study. Also to my sweet sisters, Cut Aida Maulida and Cut Safnila who support me along the study.

I also say thank so much to Yuni, Arnis, Yeni and all my friends in Unit 1 who give support and motivation, thanks for nice relationship and enjoyable friendship.

Last but not least, I would like to express my thanking to all people who cannot be mentioned one by one helping me in writing this final project.

Langsa, March 2015

CUT ORIZA KEUMALA

ABSTRACT

Pronunciation is the way of pronouncing word. Most of the students have difficulties in pronouncing English word, although they learn English subject at their schools however they have not fully mastered the English pronunciation. Therefore, the students often make errors. The objectives of the research are: (1) to find out kind of students' error in pronouncing consonant (2) to find out the causes of students' error in pronouncing consonant. This research was conducted under the consideration that pronunciation plays an important role. The population was the second grade students at SMAN 5 Langsa. The sample of this study was randomly selected. The students of class XI science 2 were chosen as the sample. The research used descriptive quantitative. The technique of collecting data that was used in this research is test and interview. Test was used to identify the kind of students' error in pronouncing consonant. The result of the analysis shows that students did much error in kind of consonant /ʃ/ is 43.84%, consonant /tʃ/ is 17.53%, consonant /ð/ is 11.39%, consonant /θ/ is 20.92%, consonant /s/ is 0.87%, consonant /l/ is 1.74%. Interview was used to identify the causes of students' error in pronouncing consonant. Based on the result of interview, it shows that the interference of mother tongue, the difference in phonological system, low motivation in learning English, seldom reading loudly caused students' error in pronouncing English word. The suggestion of this study is students should practice more their pronunciation.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

According to Finocchiaro “Language is a system of arbitrary, vocal symbols, which permit all people in a given culture, or other people who have learned the system of that culture, to communicate or to interact”.¹ Meanwhile, language is succinctly defined in our glossary as a human system of communication that uses arbitrary signals, such as voice sounds, gestures, or written symbols.”² Based on the definition above, the writer concludes that language is an important role in human life, since it is a tool which human uses to interact with other people. By using language, we are being able to express our ideas and feelings.

Someone who wants to learn a new language, he should know the components of language. Moreover in English, when someone wants to learn English, he also should know the components of English. Language has three major components including phonology, vocabulary and grammar.³ Among three components, phonology takes an important role. Phonology is an aspect of linguistics which studies the sound system of language.⁴ Automatically, phonology relates with pronunciation.

Pronunciation is one of the most important components to master when learning English. There are many differences between Indonesian and English and so the learners have to make much effort to overcome the problems they meet. The differences between Indonesian and English sound system are found in both segmental and

¹ Finocchiaro, M. *The foreign Language Learners* (New York: Regent Publishing Company, 1974), p. 3

² What is language, <http://grammar.about.com/od/grammarfaq/f/whatislang.htm>

³ Carrel J And Tiffany W.R., *Phonetics: Theory and Application to Speech Improvement* (New York: Mc. Graw-Hill Book Company, 1960), p. 54

⁴Crystal D, *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell Ltd, 1985), p. 112

suprasegmental features. Suprasegmental features, which refer to such feature as stress, pitch, length, intonation, and other features, always accompany the production of segmental. Segmental features refer to sound units arranged in a sequential order. Segmental features consist of vowels and consonants, diphthongs and their distribution. Certainly, it has caused so much trouble for non-native speaker. That is the reason why many people say that pronunciation in English is more difficult than Indonesian language for non-native speaker.

In learning English, non-native speakers tend to make errors. Error in acquiring process is unavoidable and making error is part of learning. As well as error which occur in Indonesian learners' pronunciation. In producing different sounds, the learners are sometimes influenced by the native language process which is used frequently. Dulay also states that one of the factors which cause the error is the influence of first language (L1).⁵ Hence, the errors in mastering new language cannot be avoided. For example, many Indonesian learners who learn English cannot pronounce the English word correctly and clearly.

All people are expected to be able to pronounce English word correctly, especially for students. However, as a matter of fact the students face some difficulties when they were asked to pronounce the word correctly. Some of the students cannot pronounce a simple English word, even though the word is common which usually appears in their English textbook. For example, they pronounce the word *read* is said /red/ not /ri:d/, another example when they pronounce the word *like* is /lik/ not /laIk/. As the result, they cannot speak English fluently and think that pronunciation is difficult

⁵ Heidi Dulay, Marina Burt and Stephen Krashen, *Language Two* (New York: Oxford University Press. 1982), p.138

subject to learn. The writer observed this phenomenon after she finished teaching practice for three months at eighth grade students in SMA Negeri 5 Langsa.

Related to the topic of pronunciation, there is a study concerning this topic. The study was done by Afda Rahayu. Afda Rahayu was one of the students at STAIN Zawiyah Cotkala Langsa in English Department. She studied the error in pronouncing of diphthongs that is done by students of fourth semester of the English Department at STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa. The result of the test showed that most of the students did error in pronouncing diphthong /əu/. They uttered go /go/, but it must be /gəu/.

Same with Afda Rahayu, the researcher wants to conduct a research about the same issue focus on consonant. In this research, the writer wants to investigate kinds of errors made by students of Senior High School in pronouncing word. Based on the explanation above, the writer carries out a research entitled: **“An analysis of error pronunciation through reading English at the second grade of SMA N 5 Langsa”**.

B. Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the writer states some problem as the following:

1. What kinds of students' error in pronouncing words through reading textbook?
2. What are the causes of error in pronouncing words through reading textbook?

C. Objective of the Study

Related to the problems of study above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the kind of students' error in pronouncing words through reading textbook.

2. To find out the causes of students' error in pronouncing words through reading textbook.

D. Significance of the Study

Here are some significances of the study that is expected to be useful for following individuals or the institution:

1. The significance of this study for the researcher herself is to comprehend the pronunciation well.
2. It is also hoped that this study can be useful for teacher who teach English as a reference in making some plans and could decide the best way to teach pronunciation.
3. For the students. It can be motivation to practice and to increase their pronunciation.
4. The significance of this study for other researchers is to provide relevant information those who are interested in doing further research in similar issue as point of departure in conducting their research.

E. Terminology

Terminologies which are used in this research as follow:

1. Errors

Error is a term used in psycholinguistic referring to mistakes in spontaneous speaking or writing attributable to malfunctioning of the neuromuscular commands from the brain. It is thus distinct from the traditional notion of error, which was based on the language user's ability to conform a set of real or imagined standards of

expression.⁶ In short, errors analysis is a device of finding and overcoming the errors made by language learners which reflect not only the structure of the first language of the learners but also to that of the target language.

2. Pronunciation

Pronunciation refers to the production of sounds that we use to make meaning. It includes attention to the particular sounds of a language (segments) aspect of speech beyond the level of the individual sound, such as intonation, phrasing, stress, timing, rhythm (supra segmental aspect), how the voice is projected (voice quality) and, its definition, attention to gestures and expressions that are closely to the way we speak the language.⁷ Students should master about pronunciation because it is the one important element in English. If students practice pronunciation more often they can pronounce word correctly. Mainly, this research will find out students 'error in pronouncing of consonant.

3. Reading

Reading is multidimensional process that involves the eyes, the ears, the mouth, and most importantly, the brain.⁸ From the statement above, the writer concludes that reading is result of an interaction between the graphic symbols that repetition language and the learner's perception about the word.

People know that reading is to get information or ideas from what we read such as book, magazine, newspaper, or other printed information. In this research, the writer

⁶ Wilga M. Rivers, *Teaching foreign Language Skills. International Edition* (London: The University of Chicago Press, 1968), p. 241

⁷ Definition of Pronunciation. <http://www.eref-trade.hmco.com/houghtonmifflincompany> accessed on Sunday, July 27th 2014, at 17.00 PM

⁸ Danny Brassel and Timothy Rasinski, *Comprehension at Work Taking Students Beyond Ordinary Understanding To Deep Comprehension* (New York: Praeger, 2008), p. 15

will ask students to read aloud one of texts in their textbooks. It is the way to know the students' error in pronunciation.