

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

English is an important language for everyone to communicate with foreign people. Basically, one of the key points in learning English is pronunciation, as Szynalski believes that “good pronunciation should be one of the first things that you learn in English ...” (par. 5). Pronunciation is important for people especially for children who learn English as a foreign language. Good pronunciation in speaking will help them to communicate well with others. Szynalski said that, “Pronunciation is definitely the biggest thing that people notice when you are speaking English ...” (par. 1). Since pronunciation holds an important part in speaking English, it is better to learn English pronunciation since we are young, so we can get used to pronounce English words correctly. Therefore, I chose pronunciation as the topic of my term paper based on my internship.

I did my internship at High Scope, a school for preschool and kindergarten children. The location is on Jl. Dr. Sukimin No. 9,

Cipaganti, Bandung, Jawa Barat. I did my internship as a teacher assistant from 15 July until 26 August 2014. I handled fifteen children from TK A in Yellow Room together with two teachers from High Scope. I had to take care of the children and also helped those teachers when the children learned about numbers, alphabets, and many more. In High Scope I had to be able to communicate with the teachers and children in English. However, some of the children could not pronounce English words correctly. So, I got this problem when I did my internship in High Scope.

Based on the above explanation, I had to deal with two 4 years old kindergarten children who had a difficulty in pronouncing English words, and they just started the school in this term in 15 July 2014. I felt confused when I communicated with them because they could not speak English well, and they also made some mistakes in pronouncing the English words. An example is when I asked Noni, one of the children who had a difficulty in pronunciation at my class, what the object in the picture was, she answered my question that was a /pi:r/, but, actually the picture was a /peə/. Another example is when I asked Khaleef, another child who had a difficulty in pronunciation at my class, what he was making, he answered my question that he made a /swa:rd/, I knew that actually he meant /so:d/. At that time I knew those two children had bad pronunciation in English, and that happened continually.

I got a difficulty in handling them because those children made the same mistakes over and over again, therefore I decided to correct their pronunciation. As a teacher assistant I had to help them, so that their pronunciation in English would be better. I choose this topic for my term paper because I would like to find out the solutions to teach pronunciation to them, and it is very important for their speaking skill, as Hewings said that “it can be frustrating and demotivating for students if they have repeated experiences where communication break down because of problems with their English pronunciation”(10). I will analyze my problem in this term paper including the causes, the effects, and the solutions to solve my problem.

B. Identification of the Problem

The problem can be formulated in the following questions:

1. Why did I have a difficulty in handling two kindergarten children in Yellow Room at High Scope who could not pronounce the English words correctly?
2. How did this problem impact the children and I?
3. How should I overcome this problem?

C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

The objectives of my study are to find out the causes, the effects, and also the solutions for my problem. The benefits of my study for the teachers in High Scope are they can learn how to handle the children who have a bad pronunciation, they can get some ideas how to teach the children pronunciation in fun way, and they can make the children have better English skills, especially in speaking. The benefit for the readers is they can know how to deal with the children who have a bad pronunciation in English. Furthermore, for me personally, I can learn how to handle and help the children in pronouncing English words in the future.

D. Description of the Institution

Based on the brochure, High Scope School in Bandung was established on 26 July 2006. High Scope is located on Jl. Dr. Sukimin No. 9. According to High Scope Website, the vision of this school is to be the world's innovative and barometer of education in Indonesia. The mission of this school is to help Indonesian children develop totally – in academic, intrapersonal, interpersonal, and physical area – and be competitive internationally. High Scope has programs for children ages of 18 months until 6 years old. The programs are toddler, preschool, pre-kindy, and kindy. The motto of this school is “learning is a journey not a race, it's the process that

matters". The facilities in this school are security system, playground, classroom with various educational materials, assembly hall, and school car service. High Scope Bandung now has 60 children, 11 teachers, and 1 teacher assistant. High Scope also has annual program like, Costume Day, Cooking Project, Field Trips, and Guest Visit. (Source: High Scope Brochure and High Scope Website: <http://www.akupintar.info/sekolah/high-scope-indonesia-cipaganti-bandung-7347>)

E. Method of the Study

I got the data for my study from my observation in High Scope during my internship and from an interview with one of the teachers in High Scope. Then, I found the data and theory from the electronic resources and also from books. The data that I got were used to analyze the causes, the effects, and the solutions of my problem.

F. Limitation of the Study

The subjects of my study are two 4 years old kindergarten children in a class called Yellow Room, Noni and Khaleef, and I. The study is based on my internship in High Scope Bandung as a teacher assistant from 15 July until 26 August 2014.

G. Organization of the Term Paper

My term paper starts with the Approval Page, Abstract, Declaration of Originality, Acknowledgements, and Table of Contents. Then, it is followed with the first chapter as Introduction which contains Background of the Study, Identification of the Problem, Objectives and Benefits of the Study, Description of the Institution, Method of the Study, Limitation of the Study, and Organization of the Term Paper. The second chapter is problem analysis that describes the causes and the effects of my problem. The third chapter explains three potential solutions, the potential negative effects of the solutions, and the potential positive effects of the solutions. The fourth chapter is Conclusion. The next part is Bibliography. This term paper also has Appendices which are a flowchart, transcript of the interview, a brochure of High Scope School, and song lyrics for teaching pronunciation.