

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Language is one element of communication. We can understand what a speaker means through language. By the time English becomes an international language, much information and technology will be transferred in English. Since we are from a developing country, we have to try to learn English if we want to compete in this globalization era.

There are many aspects that must be noticed in learning English. One of them is phonology, the study of speech sounds. It is known that our country is multiethnic. Automatically, we have many different tribal languages. Therefore, in learning English pronunciation we will be influenced by our first language. From many tribal languages in our country, I choose Sundanese as my subject of research. The phenomenon makes me curious to analyze how far the Sundanese-speaking people first language's influences them in learning English as a second language.

The title of my thesis is **The Influence of the Sundanese Language on the English Pronunciation**. The reason why I choose this topic is that I am interested in pronunciation and I notice that most Sundanese people in my society have difficulties in pronouncing certain English sounds. Some of them realize it,

but they lack information and the people around them do not care about it. Therefore, I want to help them to solve their problem by giving explanation about it. Their problem also makes me want to find out the factors that influence Sundanese people to pronounce English sounds.

It is known that someone's first languages may cause them to have difficulties in producing certain sounds of a foreign language they are learning. Some learners cannot even produce particular sounds. This makes me wonder whether the same thing happens to Sundanese people. And the other reason why I choose Sundanese people as the subject of my research is that I find many members of my family, friends and people around me face some difficulties due to the influence of the Sundanese language. I interviewed 30 Sundanese people who use Sundanese language as their first language for communicating with other people, at least in one situation (in their home or with their friends, etc).

The Sundanese people who become my subject of research have already finished high school or college students because I need people who have a similar or at least average formal educational knowledge of English. Hence, I can be sure that the inaccuracy occurs not because of their lack of knowledge, but because of negative transfer.

The significance of my topic is to give some information and tips that can help Sundanese people to pronounce the English sounds they find difficult. This information is important because if we do not pronounce the sounds correctly, the people we are talking to might not understand or even misinterpret our words.

Therefore, I hope that by comparing the English and Sundanese phonologies I can find out the difficulties and the factors that make Sundanese

people difficult to pronounce certain English sounds. I discover that those difficulties and the factors are related with their language background as Sundanese people as well as their knowledge about the Phonetics in English and Sundanese. Actually, some of the Sundanese people do not realize about their difficulties in producing certain English sounds. However, they do not know the factors that influence them to have difficulties in pronouncing certain English sounds. Therefore, I want to give some explanation about the English and Sundanese phonetics and phonology to make them know and aware of their problem. The problem arises from their language background, their environment or even their habit.

Before they can help themselves to minimize their mistakes and difficulties, learners have to know and understand the factors that influence them to encounter those difficulties. Later on, they can learn and do more practice to pronounce English sounds correctly.

The approach I use for my thesis is Phonology, which is one branch of pure linguistics. I choose this approach because in analyzing my data, I have to know how to produce particular sounds in words or sentences. In this case, I need to know the factors which influence them not only through phonology but also through psycholinguistics. In psycholinguistics we learn how someone's first language influences their second language. Besides, there are some factors that influence someone in learning a second language.

Statement of the Problem

1. Which English sounds are pronounced incorrectly by Sundanese-speaking people?
2. What are the factors that influence Sundanese-speaking people in pronouncing some English sounds?

Purpose of the Study

1. To find out which sounds are pronounced incorrectly by the Sundanese-speaking people.
2. To find out the factors that influence Sundanese people in pronouncing the particular English sounds.

Methods of Research

The method of research is interview. First of all, I find cassettes of native speaker's of British English and Sundanese which I use as the standard in evaluating my data. Then, I search a number of Sundanese people in my neighborhood to be interviewed. The Sundanese people who become my subject are high school graduates or college students. After that, I categorize the incorrect sounds that they pronounce then try to find the causes.

Finally, I categorize the sounds from the most to the least incorrectly pronounced.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One provides an Introduction to the subject matter in which it includes Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two presents the Theoretical Framework, underlying the topic of the thesis. It contains some theories of Phonology and Psycholinguistics and explanation related to the data that I analyze. Chapter Three reports the research finding and its analysis. This chapter presents the result of the data analysis in order to answer the research questions. Chapter Four draws some conclusions from the previous chapter. This thesis is completed with Bibliography and Appendices.