

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background of the Study**

The use of English has developed over time. English has become an important language. But actually, about four centuries ago, not so many people used English; only five million people spoke English as their first language. Beginning in the reign of Queen Elizabeth the first, English-speaking people were spread all over the world and they made the English language more widely-known. One country that has made a remarkable contribution in spreading English is the United States of America. The United States of America uses English for their everyday communication. As the United States of America becomes one of the great world powers, many people in the world have been influenced by its life style. It means that the use of English also increases. After that, over two hundred million people use English as their first language and million more read and understand English as their second language. (Dawson 14) Considering that we are now in the twenty-first centuries, the use of English is wider than that era.

Nowadays, English is regarded as an international language. Someone who can speak English fluently can be considered a person who can follow the world's development. The Globalization era also forces many people to be able to speak English. For these reasons, many people try to master English language. People start to learn English language from the early stages of school, and many also take a language course to develop their English ability.

Learning English does not only deal with vocabulary or grammar. How to pronounce the English sounds seem to be one of the problems someone who is learning English has to face. In learning English we have to know how to produce English sounds correctly, because, in English words, different sounds may have different meanings, for example in the words *sheep* [ ʃi:p ] and *ship* [ ʃɪp ]. These words sound similar. The only difference occurs in the vowels [ i: ] and [ ɪ ]. Although the only difference is a vowel, the meanings of these words are totally different. People who have grown up without speaking English usually cannot easily pronounce the different sounds. Non-English speakers may have a tendency to mispronounce English sounds. (Dawson 4) That is the reason why we have to understand sounds when we are learning a language, so that we do not make a mistake.

This problem may occur when people who usually speak in their first language try to learn English as a second language. People from various language backgrounds, including Javanese, want to learn and understand English. But learning English pronunciation is not as simple as they think. Javanese-speaking people will find some difficulties in producing certain English sounds. This is because they are influenced by their first language, the Javanese language. I would like to analyze this problem in my

thesis. The topic of my thesis is the Influence of the Javanese Pronunciation on the English Pronunciation of Javanese-Speaking People. I choose this topic because I would like to know how the sound system of the first language, in this case Javanese, can influence Javanese-speaking people in learning English pronunciation.

The significance of my topic is to help Javanese-speaking people learn English, especially in pronouncing English sounds. By reading my thesis, hopefully, Javanese speaking people who want to learn English will be aware of the common mistakes in learning English from their own community. Therefore, it is hoped they will not make the same mistakes.

In writing on this topic, I use thirty Javanese-speaking people as my sources of data. From these sources, I will find as much useful information as possible to analyze in my thesis. I will choose Javanese students in Maranatha Christian University. In this case I choose people from Central Java, especially those speaking in the Banyumasan Dialect. They have already learnt English for five years. They are Javanese people who regularly use their first language in their daily life when they speak with those who come from the same area. I would like to find out how far this language could influence Javanese-speaking people when they are learning English pronunciation.

My topic belongs to Phonetics and Phonology, that is, the study of speech sounds. I also use the theory of language transfer from the theory of second language acquisition, which talk about the process of how humans acquire their second language. I use the theory of English and Javanese Phonology and also the theory of language transfer to find the reason of the difficulties in pronunciation.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In this thesis I would like to discuss the following problems:

1. What are the English sounds that are difficult to pronounce by Javanese – speaking people?
2. What are the factors that influence them so they are faced into these difficulties?
3. If they can produce some English sounds accurately, what factors help them?

### **Purpose of the Study**

In this thesis I would like to show:

1. The English sounds that are difficult to pronounce by Javanese-speaking people.
2. The factors that influence Javanese-speaking people so they are faced with these difficulties.
3. The factors that help Javanese-speaking people if they can produce some English sounds accurately.

### **Method of Research**

The method of research that I use to gathering the data consists of six steps. The first step is to make a list of English words and sentences. These words or sentences contain different English sounds. The second step is I use an English Pronunciation cassette as a guidance to compare the accurate and inaccurate sounds. The third step is to ask Javanese speaking people to read the word list I have prepared. The fourth step is classifying the data. I make a table to classify all the data that I have already found. The

fifth step is to find out what the difficult English sounds are for Javanese-speaking people when they speak English. In the last step, I analyze why these sounds are difficult to pronounce by the Javanese-speaking people.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

Chapter one is the Introduction. This chapter consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter two consists of the Theory of the Thesis. Chapter three consists of the Discussion of the Thesis. Chapter four will be the Conclusion of the Thesis followed by Bibliography and Appendix.