

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English is an international language, which in this era, is our need as the part of an important communication tool. However, some countries do not use English as their second language. Some countries that use English as the second language are India, Ghana, Singapore, and Malaysia, where it appears in mass media and daily conversation. In contrary, there are also countries that use English as foreign language including Indonesia, which means the public does not use English in daily conversation. However, in some schools and colleges, it is taught as a curriculum lesson and conversation in formal scope.

Students of Department of English in the Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya come from different regions and have different mother tongues. They also use this affecting aspect in daily conversation and even sometimes, they mispronounce English words. Therefore, they are required to study phonetics in the early semester. Phonetics, in linguistics, is a branch of phonology that studies and identifies how we produce a sound. This focuses to explain and analyze the various human voices used in the production. Phonetic has several branches such as *articulatory phonetics*, the study of identify precisely which speech organs and muscles are involved in producing the different sounds, *Acoustic phonetics*, the study of the physical speech sounds using laboratory instruments, and *auditory phonetics*, the study of speech perception (Katamba, 1989:2).

According to Francis Katamba (1989:2), acoustic phonetics is the study of the physical properties of speech sound using laboratory of speech perception. In acoustic phonetics, the researchers examine the physical of stop sounds. In order to support their analysis, they use special tool including tape recorder and specific applications.

Most languages use 26 letters as the alphabet including English language which include a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, and z. Each alphabet has phonetic symbols for pronunciation, divided into consonants and vowels. According to O'Connor (1980:8), English has 24 consonants ([p], [b], [t], [d], [k], [g], [s], [z], [m], [n], [f], [v], [l], [r], [h], [w], [j], [ŋ], [ʒ], [θ], [ð],

[tʃ], [ʃ], and [dʒ], 12 vowels ([ɪ], [e], [æ], [ʌ], [ɑ], [u], [ɔ:], [ɑ:], [i:], [u:], [ə], [ɜ:]), and 8 diphthongs ([aɪ], [eɪ], [ɔɪ], [əʊ], [iə], [eə], and [uə]). Compared to Indonesian sound inventory, quoted by Sa'diyah (2015:3), it has 27 consonant ([b], [c], [d], [f], [g], [h], [j], [k], [l], [m], [n], [p], [q], [r], [s], [t], [v], [w], [x], [z], [ŋ], [ɲ], [ʃ], and [x]), 10 vowels ([i], [ɪ], [e], [ɛ], [a], [ə], [ɔ], [o], [U], and [u]), and 3 diphthongs ([ai], [oi], and [ui]). Similar to English and Indonesia, Javanese also has its own sound inventory. According to Wedhawati, et al. (2001:33), Javanese is consisted of 6 vowels ([i], [e], [ə], [ɑ], [u], [o]), and 23 consonants ([p], [b], [m], [f], [w], [t], [d], [n], [l], [r], [ʈ], [ɖ], [s], [z], [c], [j], [ɲ], [y], [k], [g], [ŋ], [h], [ʔ]). According to Uhlenbeck (1982:27), Javanese sound inventory has 6 vowels ([A], [O], [E], [U], [I], [ə]). According to Soedjarwo (2009:29-56), Javanese sound inventory has 21 consonant ([p], [b], [t], [d], [th], [dh], [k], [g], [m], [n], [ɲ], [ŋ], [s], [h], [c], [j], [l], [r], [w], [y]). Those classifications are based on the manner of articulation, point of articulation, and the position of vocal.

These previous studies on phonetic pronunciation presented in order to avoid some ambiguous explanation in this thesis afterwards. The writer found three studies that discuss about pronunciation. First, the work from Linda Susanti discussed about how Sundanese students from Department of English pronounce the English sounds in her work entitled *A Study of Pronunciation of English Sound by Sundanese Students of English* (2003). Second, the work from Alfriani Ndandara entitled *A Study English Consonant Pronunciation by Sumbanese Students Live in Kupang and Salatiga* (2009) discussed about pronunciation by Sumbanese students who live in Kupang and Salatiga as informant to pronounce English consonant. Last, the work from Ima Halimatus Sa'diyah entitled *English Pronunciation by Madurese Students in Surabaya* (2015) discussed about how Madurese students in Surabaya pronounce English and Madurese. In previous studies that have been mentioned, it is known that the theme of research is almost the same, but the difference is the area of research.

Based on explanation as mentioned, the writer uses stop sounds as main topic and uses different object which is East Javanese students in Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya. Stop sounds will be investigated using Praat application. It is interesting topic to be discussed because it will discuss the phonetic acoustic characteristic of stop sounds. The purpose of the study is to analyze the characteristics of English stop sounds [b], [d], [p], [k], [t] and [g] in the initial position produce by East Javanese students who live in Surabaya.

Specifically, the study will investigate English pronunciation by East Java students who study in Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya with English as their major. This research involves 5 students who have studied phonetic. This research uses Praat application to know the interval between the release of stop sounds and the start of the voicing vowel. Praat is a program for analyzing, synthesizing, and manipulating speech. This application is available on [www.http//praat.org](http://praat.org) and can be downloaded for free. This software is designed to help linguist to be “phonetician”.

1.2 Statement of the Study

Based on the background, the writer formulates the problem:

1. What are the acoustic characteristics of stop sounds produced by east Javanese students of Department of English studying at the Faculty of Letters, Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya?

1.3 Objective of the study

Based on the statement of the problems, the purposes of this research are to identify the characteristics of stop sounds produced by East Java students who live in Surabaya, to show, and to describe the length of interval duration of their stop sounds.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is phonetic. The limit of the study is pronunciation of English stops sound in the initial position of bilabial [b] and [p], alveolar [t] and [d], velar [k] and [g] in the initial position pronounced by native of East Java students who live in Surabaya and study English as their major.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study will provide important information and knowledge for the reader after reading this research. The writer also expects that this study will give benefits to students of the Department of English, Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya about English stop sounds.

1.6 Organization of The Study

The organization of research paper is given in order to help the readers understand the content of this thesis easily. The organization of this research is given as follows:

Chapter I is the introduction which deals with the background of study, statement of the study and organization of the study.

Chapter II is the review of related literature which deals with the phonetics, organ of speech, English sounds system, and Javanese sounds system.

Chapter III is the research method which deals with research design, subject and instrument, data source, data collection procedure, and data analysis procedure.

Chapter IV is analysis. It presents the result of the study which describe about the characteristics of stop sounds.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion of the study.

