

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Language is an important part of human life to communicate with others. There are three basic modes of linguistic communication, corresponding to different modes of perception: oral communication, relying on the use of speech and hearing organs; writing, visual representation; and signing, a visual or visible gesture representation (Finegan, 2008, p. 16). Most of people communicate or convey their idea or information through oral way and produced sounds such as speech, conversation, and singing. Finegan (2008, p. 16) stated that the most common vehicle of linguistic communication is the voice, and speech is thus a primary mode of human language, with some advantages over other modes. As a means, language is conveyed by sounds when people convey the idea or the message. As a mentioned by Finegan (2008, p. 16), human voice has volume, pitch, rhythm, and speed; it is capable of wide-ranging modulation. It means that the human voice is complex. In oral way all elements must be involved, according to Harris (as cited in Ambalegin, Suhardianto, & Kaprawi, 2017, p. 122), there are five elements of speaking such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

Pronunciation is one of the important elements to convey idea or information in term of oral way. Pronunciation is the manner where someone utters a word. According to Hornby (as cited in Mulatsih, 2015, p. 295)

pronunciation is the way a word or language is usually spoken, the way which a word is pronounced, the way a person speaks the word or language. In the other words, people should be able to pronounce a word clearly to avoid misunderstanding between speakers and listeners. Every different language has its own different pronunciation. The way to pronounce the words of Indonesian is different from the way to pronounce the words of English. In Indonesian, the written words will be pronounced the same as well. For example, Indonesians will pronounce the word /buku/ same as the written 'buku'. Contrarily in English, the most of written words will be pronounced differently. For example, the word 'cut' will pronounce /kʌt/. The differences of pronunciation in Indonesian between English will greatly affect in oral way. So, Indonesian will experience the difficulties in pronouncing the English sounds.

English as a foreign language (EFL) is taught in school and Indonesian and mother tongue are too. The ordinary people are learning English to think globally and they master the skills of English; writing skill, reading skill, listening skill and speaking skill. Moreover, by knowing English, Indonesian can compete against with other countries and will not be left behind from other countries. Because of the important of English to connect people of the world, people should learn English to support their activities and carrier such as doing business, having meeting either nationally or internationally, and attending an international conference.

As a President leading a country, knowing English is important to support the president's activities. The presidents have to meet the world to attend the

international conference with other countries. The presidents also give speeches in various events nationally or internationally, such as a press conference, inter-country meetings, ASEAN forums, world forums, etc. In addition to giving speeches, the president also needs to be able to socialize well to conduct bilateral cooperation between countries. So that is why the presidents need to learn English well especially in increasing the speaking skill. The researcher chooses Jokowi's speech as a source of the data because Mr. Jokowi is well known person. He brings Indonesia to the world and he is a good role model as a president of Indonesia.

Joko Widodo or Jokowi is the seventh president of Indonesia. As a president, Mr. Jokowi delivered the English speeches well, but in case he brought his Javanese-accented stress while pronouncing the English words. Mr. Jokowi is a Javanese because he was born and grew up in Solo. Solo is one of the regions in Java that still has very strong Javanese culture, most of the people in Solo still use their mother tongue to communicate with others (Jackson & Rahmat, 2013, p. 143). Javanese as their mother tongue has a very specific accent which is different with other countries; Javanese pronounce some consonants /d/, /b/, and /g/ with heavy stress.

Javanese mother tongue brings its own characteristics such as dialect, accent, sound, stress, and intonation. The characteristics may influence the second and the third language. Therefore it makes the uniqueness in pronouncing other languages; Indonesian and English. Thus, Javanese characteristics influence Mr. Joko Widodo in pronouncing some English vowel and consonant sounds. In one

of his official speeches of world meeting and conference, Mr. Jokowi said /ə'bbot/ to the word 'about' meanwhile, the correct pronunciation is /ə'baut/. He pronounces it with heavy stress /b/ and he said /aʊ/ as /o/. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting the research about sounds in term of vowel and consonant sounds pronounced by Mr. Joko Widodo, the president of Indonesia.

The researcher hopes this research brings a good impact to the readers and identifies more about factors influencing Mr. Jokowi's pronunciation, and this research gives the contribution to development of language about phonology. There is also research related to phonology; Demircioglu and Wewalaarachchi, Wong, & Singh. Demircioglu (2013), discussed about the diphthongs, the voiced and the unvoiced "th" / θ/ and /ð/ sounds of Turkish students in state primary, secondary, and high school in Turkey meanwhile, Wewalaarachchi, Wong, & Singh (2017) conducted the research about vowel, consonant, and lexical tones in Monolingual and bilingual English-Mandarin by toddlers.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the research, the researcher would like to identify the problems which are related to the research. There are:

1. The differences of mother language (L1), Indonesian (L2), and English (L3).
2. The influence of Javanese-accented stress to the English pronunciation.

3. The English vowel and consonant sounds of Mr. Joko Widodo in his official speeches.
4. The factors are influencing Mr. Joko Widodo's English vowel and consonant sounds in his official speeches.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Due to the research become specific and limitation of the researcher's time and media, in this research the researcher focus on certain problems. The following limited problems are stated below.

1. The way of English vowel and consonant sounds mispronounced by Mr. Joko Widodo in his official speeches.
2. The factors are influencing Mr. Joko Widodo's English vowel and consonant sounds in his official speeches.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problem and limitation of the problem above, the study will focus to answer the following questions:

1. How are English vowel and consonant sounds mispronounced by Mr. Joko Widodo in his official speeches?
2. What are the factors influencing Mr. Joko Widodo's English vowel and consonant sounds in his official speeches?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

In relation to the research problems formulated above, the purpose of the study in this thesis are:

1. To describe the way of English vowel and consonant sounds pronounced by Mr. Joko Widodo in his official speeches.
2. To describe the factors are influencing English vowel and consonant sounds by Mr. Joko Widodo in his official speeches.

### **1.6 Significance of the Research**

The researcher hopes this research has significance both theoretically and practically as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical Significance**

Theoretically, this research is used to enrich the further researcher's knowledge about pronunciation especially vowel and consonant sounds in English. Besides, this research can be as a reference toward vowel and consonant sounds in English to the other researchers.

#### **2. Practical Significance**

Practically, this research hopefully will be useful and applied in speaking English, in term of pronounced vowel and consonant sounds correctly.

## 1.7 The Definition of Key Terms

1. Consonant sound : Consonants are sounds produced by partially or completely blocking air in its passage from the lungs through the vocal tract (Finegan, 2008).
2. Pronunciation : Pronunciation is the way a word or language is usually spoken, the way which a word is pronounced, the way a person speaks the word or language (Hornby as cited in Mulatsih, 2015)
3. Speech sound : Human languages display a wide variety of sounds (O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, & Katamba, 1997).
4. Vowel sound : Vowel sounds are produced by passing air through different shapes of the mouth, with different positions of the tongue and of the lips, and with the air stream relatively unobstructed by narrow passages except at the glottis (Finegan, 2008).