CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

The way in which a word or letter is said, or said correctly, or the way in which a language is spoken is called as pronunciation (Pronunciation, n.d.). The pronunciation takes an important role in producing vowel and consonant sounds of a language. These sounds may be pronounced differently by each speaker depend on some factors. One of the factors is a mother tongue, which may influence the speaker's pronunciation in a language.

The mother tongue interference may influence a speaker's pronunciation in using some other languages. For example, the pronunciation of English. English that used by non-native speakers may have many different variations of pronunciation depending on their mother tongue. Ambalegin & Suryani (2018) stated that "those whose mother tongue is their daily language, it will interfere English pronunciation" (p. 79). Similarly, Lippi-Green (as cited in Carlson, McHe, & Nry, 2006) explained the pronunciation as the following:

> in general pronunciation can be thought as the phonological individuality of spoken language that is influenced by a person's geographical origin, native language, or social status. When English is spoken as a second language, the speech characteristics of the first (or native) language may be carried into English resulting in accented English. (p. 70).

This phenomenon is found in many non-native English speakers. Especially, in South Korea which applies Korean (hanguk-eo) as the mother tongue. Thus, for native speakers of Korean, their mother tongue influence the usage of English

and coin a new particular word that is widely known by South Korean as Korean-English (Konglish).

Korean-English (Konglish) is a particular term that is being used by South Korean as their characteristic in spoken English. It is an English word coined in Korea (Konglish, n.d.). In simply, *Konglish* is a South Korean style of English words and pronunciations. In addition, *Konglish* is a non-formal usage that is common for English purposes in South Korea.

Furthermore, *Konglish* pronunciation is not only being used by Korean native-speakers who stayed in South Korea, but also in the United States where the native Korean speakers lived in. In this research, the researcher analyzed Korean-English (Konglish) mispronunciation in Youtube Korean cooking show well known as *Maangchi*. When *Maangchi* channel became trending on Youtube, the Korean food was gradually getting into Western people' live. Hence, when Korean food began to attract much attention from many people, people began to be aware of the existence of Korean-English automatically.

Even though Maangchi is speaking in English, she used Korean-English (Konglish) pronunciation in hosting her channel. As quoted,

(a).   Maangchi   : Hello, everybody. I'm in **New Jersey**. (00:00:01)

The utterance above happened in *Maangchi Korean Grocery Store Walkthrough* episode when the speaker greeted the viewers at the opening of the show. According to the standard of American English pronunciation in Cambridge online dictionary, the word "New Jersey" must be pronounced as /njuː ˈdʒɜː.**z**i/. The final sound of *-sey* must be pronounced with a final consonant of voiced

alveolar fricative /z/. Meanwhile, Maangchi pronounced the /z/ sound in "New Jersey" as /nju: ˈdʒɜːˌdʒi/, with a replacement sound of consonant /z/ to the voiced postalveolar affricate /dʒ/.

It might occur because the consonant of voiced alveolar fricative /z/ does not exist in Korean phonemic. Habitually, Korean-English (Konglish) speakers will replace the sound of voiced alveolar fricative /z/, in any English word, with the voiced postalveolar affricate /dʒ/. Thus, this case is considered as a mispronunciation in which the final consonant /z/ is replaced by the sound of consonant /dʒ/.

Another example of mispronunciation that *Konglish* speaker pronounced was the final consonant /dʒ/ sound. As quoted,

(b). Maangchi : Next, very important ingredient to make kimchi. What do we need? Yeah **cabbage**. Korean **cabbage**. (00:08:18)

The utterances above happened in *Maangchi Korean Grocery Store Walkthrough* episode when she introduced the usage of cabbage as the ingredient in making Korean cuisine *Kimchi*. According to the standard of American English pronunciation in Cambridge online dictionary, the word "cabbage" must be pronounced as /ˈkæb·ɪdʒ/. The final sound **-ge** should be pronounced with a final consonant of voiced postalveolar affricate /dʒ/. Meanwhile, Maangchi pronounced the word "cabba**ge**" as /kæb·ɪdʒi/, by giving the additional vowel sound /i/ after the final consonant of voiced postalveolar affricate /**dʒ**/. Thus, this case is considered as a mispronunciation in which the final consonant /dʒ/ is followed by the additional sound of vowel /i/.

Korean-English (Konglish) pronunciation is a phenomenon of non-standard English pronunciation that is considered as common for most South Koreans in general. *Konglish* is commonly used to modify some sounds of English consonants that are unavailable in Korean pronunciation. However, the use of Korean-English (Konglish) affects the speaker in pronouncing English words properly.

On the other hand, it is important for the speakers, especially in English, to pronounce the words properly in order to prevent mispronunciation. Mispronunciation was defined as wrong sound used when saying a word, or the habit of pronouncing words or sounds in the wrong way (Mispronunciation, n.d.). Any mispronunciation may lead to misunderstanding because the sound pattern of a word closely related to signal a meaning. Hence, any mispronunciation might be causing the speaker to convey a different meaning in a language. Thus, Maangchi's Korean-English (Konglish) pronunciation usage in pronouncing the consonant sounds of the English word is considered as mispronunciation if it is compared with the standard of American English. As a result, the native speakers of English who do not understand the Korean-English (Konglish) pronunciation may consider it as a mispronunciation.

The phenomenon of various English pronunciations by non-native speakers had been researched by several previous studies. The first study was conducted by Demirezen (2009). He examined a Turkish a fossilized pronunciation error of the nasal devoicing /ŋ/ as /ŋk/. In this study, it has been indicated that the audio-articulation model is a practical and workable method, and that novice teachers

and students are capable of modifying their fossilized pronunciation errors and can bring them closer to the target language norms if they practice with the pronunciation correction model called the *audio-articulation model*.

The second study was conducted by Nuhiu (2013). She investigated a very specific sound category which on the level of syllables and words, in many ways provokes pronunciation difficulties which make native Albanian learners encounter a range of pronunciation difficulties, in the assimilation of these particular sounds. The overall research focused in pronouncing English consonants. As the result of this study, she explained that the teachers play an important role in teaching English pronunciation in order to make the learner able to produce the problematic sounds easily, imitating the native speaker and the teacher. She also suggested that according to ELT methodologist, TV, listening to songs, watching as well as learning English pronunciation from internet help the student to be more familiar with English.

Based on the phenomenon explained above, the researcher realized that either the previous researches or the present research had the similarity that is, conducting an English pronunciation research. However, the previous researches were different from the present research. In this research, the researcher only focused on analyzing the consonants sounds in order to describe the Korean-English mispronunciation pronounced by the Koreans.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on background of the study above, the problems of the research identified as follow:

1. The additional initial consonant sounds in Korean-English mipronunciation

2. The additional middle consonant sounds in Korean-English mipronunciation

3. The additional final consonant sounds in Korean-English mispronunciation

4. The vowel replacement sounds in Korean-English mispronunciation

5. The consonant replacement sounds in Korean-English mispronunciation

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the researcher has limited some problems. This research focused on the additional final consonant sounds and the consonant replacement sounds in Korean-English mispronunciation in terms of consonants mispronunciation of *bilabial* (plosive and nasal), *labio-dental* (fricative), *dental* (fricative), *alveolar* (plosive, nasal, fricative, and approximant), *postalveolar* (fricative and affricate), *palatal* (approximant), *velar* (plosive, nasal, and fricative), and *glottal* (fricative).

In addition, to ensure that Korean-English (Konglish) pronunciation compared with the standard of American English, the researcher checked the

correct pronunciation based on *Cambridge* online dictionary. *Cambridge* online dictionary is a reliable source which provides all up-to-date pieces of information for the researcher regarding the English words including the word spelling, phonetic, and pronunciation in accordance with the standard of American English style.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the problems in this research are formulated through questions as follow:

1. What are additional final consonant sounds in Korean-English mispronunciation?
2. What are consonant replacement sounds in Korean-English mispronunciation?

1.5. Objectives of the Research

Based on formulation of the problems above, then the objectives of the research are:

1. To describe the additional final consonant sounds in Korean-English mispronunciation.
2. To describe the consonant replacement sounds in Korean-English mispronunciation.

1.6.   Significance of the Research

Moved from the formulation of the problem, theoretically, this research involved a phonological approach and English pronunciation. In a phonological study, it focuses on the study of speech sounds, such as vowels and consonants. Whereas, in relation to pronunciation, these sounds can be heard only if they are being pronounced. Specifically, how the influence of mother tongue on pronunciation of sounds is an interrelated relationship in this research.

The relationship between the mother tongue to the influence of sounds pronunciation especially occurs in English. The sounds of English pronunciation are commonly influenced by mother tongue, such as in South Korea. Therefore, the result of this research may give the contribution in the development of phonological consonant research and English pronunciation research. This research also can be useful as a reference for the people who are interested in analyzing the influence of mother tongue on English pronunciation.

Practically, the finding of this research has the benefit in order to give the readers comprehension about Korean-English mispronunciation. They can differentiate that Korean-English considered as mispronunciation only if it is compared to the standard of English. Even though, in daily life, it is common that the usage of Korean-English does not consider as mispronunciation because each speaker of English may have the variation of different pronunciation due to the speaker's mother tongue. Moreover, it is hoped that this research can be implemented by the native Korean speaker as the reference for pronouncing the standard of English.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding of the words' meanings, the researcher defined some key terms in this research for the readers.

Korean-English : Korean-English (Konglish) is an English word coined in Korea (Naver dictionary).

Mispronunciation : A wrong sound used when saying a word, or the habit of pronouncing words or sounds the wrong way (Cambridge dictionary).

Phonology : Essentially the description of the systems and patterns of speech sounds in a language (Yule, 2010, p. 42).