

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of research, statement of the problem, scope of the research, objective of the research, significance of the research.

A. Background of the Research

English as an international language is very important to learn because in this era English is used almost in all aspects for modern life, such as education, business, trade, science, technology and many others. In Indonesia English is as foreign language to study it is used to communicate with other people who are from other countries.

Problems faced by the Indonesians learning English are concerned with the ear, the matter of making foreign sounds, the distribution of the sounds, certain attributes about sounds, fluency, and the relation between pronunciation and conventional spelling. Therefore, they should overcome these problems by deeply understanding the theory of phonology and practicing to pronounce the words correctly.

As a foreign language, English is considered difficult to pronounce since there are differences between the symbols and its sounds. In many cases, students understand the meaning but find difficulties to express the word in spoken language because it is very different from how to spell and how to pronounce the word.

In studying a language, students need to have the capability of all elements of the language. Therefore, students can interact with the people around us with language skills and students are able to do all things, when studying English language students can speak with other people who can not understand Indonesian language.

In English, the students may have difficulties to use English well because it is not learnt as their native language but it is as the foreign language. Studing

English, students have to know how to learn and students have the ability to use well in accordance with the rules of English, such as grammar, pronunciation, dictation and others. In Learning English there are many words that have similar sounds. If students are not familiar or do not understand them, students may be confused. In the study of similar sounds, students should have competence in pronouncing them.

Based on the above explanation, the researcher conducts research entitled **“Students’ Competence in Pronouncing Similar Sounds of English words at English Language Education Study Program of Khairun University”**.

B. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the researcher states the problem as: “What is the students’ competence in pronouncing similar sounds of English words at English Language Education Study Program of Khairun University?”

C. Scope of the Research

In this research, the researcher focuses her research on students’ competence in pronouncing similar sounds of English words.

D. Objective of the Research

The objective of this research is to know the students’ competence in pronouncing similar sounds of English words at English Language Education Study Program of Khairun University

E. The Significance of the Research

Hopefully the significance of the research is:

1. Theoretical Significance

The results of this research are expected to enrich existing theories concerning the pronunciation of students' similar sounds of English words.

2. Practical Significance

a. Students

The students should know their competence in pronouncing similar sounds of English words. This research will give information to the students to learn more about similar sounds.

b. Lecturers

It is expected that the lecturers know how to solve the problems in the teaching and learning of pronunciation especially in similar sounds of English words.