

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses the background of the research, the scope of the research, the problem of formulation, research objectives, and the significance of the research.

#### **A. Background of the Research**

Language is a system for communicating in the form of speech and writing used by the people of a particular country or region. Language is a symbol, has meaning and is a tool for human communication in everyday life (Kaelan, 2002). With language, humans express their thoughts and feelings through spoken words. English is an international language

In communicating, the speaker must speak as well as possible so that the listener can understand what the speaker is saying. Pronunciation is the most important thing in communicating because with good pronunciation the listener can understand and comprehend what the speaker is conveying. However, if you pronounce it incorrectly, there will be misunderstandings in communication. Good pronunciation means reducing speaking errors.

Each country or region has different pronunciation, most likely influenced by the accent of the mother tongue, or their habits in communicating. People who learn English never make mistakes in

pronouncing English words. This is a common thing in learning English. In fact, every English learner makes mistakes in pronunciation of words, this is a simple problem but can affect the quality of English learning. When we learn English we have to know the rules in English pronunciation such as stress, intonation, English phonetics, etc. This is an important thing when we want to pronounce English words like native speakers, we have to know these things, so that when we say the words the listener understands what we say. English pronunciation is one of the important aspects not only in speaking but almost in learning English. Meanwhile, pronunciation is how to pronounce sounds correctly.

Pronunciation should not be ignored when learning English. Pronunciation errors should be avoided to improve overall word pronunciation skills. To change the sounds made, it is necessary to control the shape of the mouth and the airflow using the muscles of the mouth, tongue, and lips. When we speak English, the muscles may not be well developed. We will also find pronunciation more difficult to understand. By practicing English pronunciation, our muscles become developed and pronunciation ability improves. According to Ur (1996), the purpose of learning pronunciation is for learners to be able to pronounce a word like a native accent. But in simple terms, for learners to be able to pronounce words accurately enough to be more easily understood by the interlocutor. The main reason for the importance of learning pronunciation is to avoid misunderstanding the meaning of words.

Understanding pronunciation is very important because in the practical process students will always apply in daily activities related to English. Students will work on exam questions which are closely related to vocabulary understanding. Likewise, when students practice speaking or communicating, understanding vocabulary and pronunciation is very important so that there are no stuttering and miscommunication. However, in reality, vocabulary and pronunciation are the main things that are difficult for students to learn and understand, besides that students rarely implement by communicating directly using English. This obstacle arises because in learning English in the classroom more emphasis is placed on grammar rather than direct conversation. Students are rarely given direction on what and how the functions of the grammatical elements of transactional and functional texts that students learn. The results of research conducted by Suhaimi show that there are still more than 50%, namely 64% of students who experience problems in English speaking skills, so this is an initial finding so that further research can be carried out by providing treatment or developing appropriate learning models. appropriate to improve students' English speaking skills and solve solutions to difficulties or obstacles experienced by students in learning English, especially in speaking skills.

Based on the background explanation above, the research was carried out to find out the pronunciation of MTs Negeri 3 Tidore Islands students is correct when pronouncing words in English.

### **A. Scope of the Research**

The scope of this research is on common words in English to find out how students pronounce english words.

### **B. Statement of the Research**

Based on the background above, the researcher formulated the research question as follows: What is students competence in pronouncing common words in English?

### **C. Objectives of the Reserach**

The aim of this research is to see the students' competence in English pronunciation made by grade 2 students of MTs Negeri 3 Tidore Islands.

### **F. Research Significance**

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

It is hoped that the results of this research enrich existing theories related to students' English pronunciation.

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

Researchers hope that the results of this research can be used to:

- a) It is hoped that the results of this research can be used as a contribution of information for students who will conduct research with the research object being pronunciation. Apart from that, it is hoped that

this research can increase students' knowledge and understanding, especially regarding pronunciation.

- b) It is hoped that the results of this research can be used as a learning medium for pupils, students and the community.