

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Pronunciation is a part of language aspects of foreign language that was quite difficult to learn. To get the correct pronunciation needs a tough effort and the learner has to practice constantly. English pronunciation is one of the most difficult skills to acquire that learners should spend lots of time to improve their pronunciation Gilakjani (2016).

There are so many things that must be mastered in learning English, this is intended to make it easier for learners to communicate with one another, because speaking ability is one of the most important things. It is also because English speaking ability has become a must, especially for those who want to advance in certain fields of human endeavor Sibai (2004). If someone make an error on pronunciation, it is directly known by listeners and this causes misunderstanding in receiving the message. This happens because in English there are a few words that have the same pronunciation, but it has different meanings. Therefore pronunciation has been influenced by several things that make the learner do an error without realizing it.

When error occurs, it changes the meaning of the words, so that the learners must pay attention to every word that is uttered. Students whose mother tongue is not English. It encounters some common difficulties when pronouncing the English words. Pronunciation is learnt by repeating sounds and correcting them when it produces inaccurately. Some students find it hard to pronounce 'unfamiliar' words correctly. Wrong pronunciation can be caused by less practice by the students or because the teachers rarely give them pronunciation practice. This reflects of learners pronunciation errors Ayulistya (2016). To improve students' pronunciation skill, there are many ways that can be done by the teachers to help their students to improve their pronunciation skill, starting from giving more pronunciation practice in the classroom until using many kinds of media that can be easily found in this

modern era. Errors in pronunciation can affect misunderstanding in the message delivered, therefore correct pronunciation of words or sentence in English is very important. The message being conveyed can be captured properly.

In learning the language, there are many obstacles that make learners have difficulty pronouncing words in English, one of which is the local language. Local language affects their pronunciation in learning English and this makes it difficult for them to communicate properly. Pronunciation is a significant part in our personal and social lives because the way we speak reflects our identities, and indicates our association to particular communities Levis (2015).

A common error is made by students who learn English as a foreign language happens because they are not paying attention to English pronunciation well. They underestimate the importance of pronunciation because they consider that pronunciation is less important than other English skills such as grammar, vocabulary and lexicology. This is also faced by students at Musi Banyuasin. As students who are learning English, they also make errors in pronouncing English words, especially in producing the vowel sounds. They have problems in producing vowel sounds, as there are vowel sounds that do not occur in Musi language. For example, the word **Chair** /tʃeɪr/ contained /e/ sound. This never appeared /e/ sound in Musi language, therefore Musi Banyuasin students pronounced it /tʃʌer/. Gilakjani and Ahmadi (2011) stated that in many cases, learners have difficulty in pronouncing particular sounds. It is easy to show that the learners usually pronounced a version of sound that can be perfectly accepted in another context.

The difference above is the characteristic of native Musi Banyuasin in their daily communication. It was resulted in difficulties by native Musi Banyuasin III students when they spoke English, they often made errors in pronouncing English words. A lot of errors

made by them in pronouncing English vowels. As they were influenced by their mother tongue in learning foreign language. Octaviana (2019) who had conducted a research on pronunciation find that the students' errors in pronouncing English vowels were influenced by their first language. More examples of the problems that they were often errors in pronouncing vowel sound /ɪ/ with /ʌ/ in word 'receive' /rɪsi:v/ with /rʌsɪp/, sound /ə/ with /ɔ/ in word 'from' /frəm/ with /frɒm/. These problems arised as the result of the phonetic characteristics of Indonesian in contrast with the phonetic of English words which complicates the learning of pronunciation of EFL students the problems keep occurred everytime they spoke in English.

Based on the above problems, the researcher was interested in conducting a research on the phonetic field on a thesis entitled **The Vowel Errors Made by Native Banyuasin Students in English Pronunciation.**

1.2 The Problems of the Study

The problems of the study were formulated as follows :

1. What errors were made by Native Musi Banyuasin III students in English vowel pronunciation?
2. What were the factors of errors made by the Native Banyuasin III students in English pronunciation?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the above problem formulation, the objective of this study are as follows:

1. To find the errors of English vowel pronunciation made by Native Musi Banyuasin III students.
2. To find the factors of errors in English vowel pronunciation made by Native Musi Banyuasin III students.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research was expected to be able to provide additional reference in learning English, especially in English pronunciation to the readers. It was also expected to be able to provide information for readers about the importance of having correct pronunciation in English. Moreover, this research hopefully able to develop the way of learning English pronunciation.