

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter elaborates the background of the problem, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the research, scope of limitation, definition of key term, and organization of writing.

#### 1.1 Background of the Problem

Humans used language to communicate with other members of the same species. McMahon states that human as the *Homo loquens*, or ‘speaking human’ than *Homo sapiens*, ‘thinking human’. Hence humans have sound based signaling systems and they are also put together in an extraordinarily sophisticated way. Phonology and phonetics are two sub-disciplines in linguistics which deal with sound. Phonology is a study of sound in a particular language whereas, phonetics provides objective ways of describing and analyzing the range of sounds humans use in their languages (McMahon, 2002: 1).

Each language has their way of pronouncing or how to write the language. Although there are the same words in writing, some of them have a different pronunciation. This makes language becomes an arbitrary. In relation to Roach (1991: 4) that language has different accents. They are pronounced differently by people from different geographical places, from different social classes, of different ages and different educational

backgrounds. On the other hand, dialect refers to a variety of a language which is different from others not only in pronunciation but also in such matters as vocabulary, grammar and word order.

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) was proposed in 1888; it has been under constant review ever since by the International Phonetic Association (McMahon, 2002: 6). Phonetic Alphabet is a set of symbol which trying to represent sounds more accurately (Roach, 1991: 39). Different languages have different ways of dividing their sounds so the IPA make easier to pronounce any kind of foreign language. Phonetics itself is a branch of linguistics that studies the sounds of human speech. It investigated the sound of language such the differences in vowels or consonants.

Roach (1991: 3) said that in any language a small number of regularly used sounds that called phonemes. The vowels in the words '*ban*' and '*bun*' are different phoneme and meaning as well so that phoneme can distinguish meaning. Classification of language genealogy are basing itself on a sound or phoneme and meaning. These characteristics produce a language family.

A language family is a group of language deriving from a single-ancestor called the proto-language of that family. There are many groups of language and Indo-European is one of them. Indo-European is the language family with the largest population and distribution in the world, but it is not the only one (Yule, 2010: 225). It is spoken mainly in North America, Oceania, Southern Africa, Central, Western and Northern Europe. The Germanic languages are a branch of the Indo-European. It is traditionally

divided into three branches: East Germanic (now extinct), made up of Gothic (Goth.) and the languages of the Vandals and Burgundians; North Germanic, made up of Old Norse, the ancestor of the modern Scandinavian languages, Icelandic, Faroese, Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish; and West Germanic, made up of Old High German, Old Saxon (ancestor of Low German), Old Low Franconian (earliest attestation of what is now the Dutch linguistic area), Old Frisian, and Old English (OE) (Fagan, 2009: 184).

English and German are in the Germanic language family so that the two languages almost have some similarities in grammar, writing, meaning and pronouncing. These languages also have some differences but still quite the same. Normally, it is seen from its pronunciation because the both language has different mother tongue. For instance, the word of '*hand*' is exist in both languages and has same meaning as a part of body. Although it has the same letter as '*hand*', there are differences in vowel and consonant pronunciation. English pronounce vowel as /æ/ (short and low vowel with front airflow) and German pronounce as /a/ (short and low vowel with central airflow). The letter 'd' in the end of word, English is pronounced as /d/ (voiced alveolar plosive) but in German is changes into /t/ (voiceless alveolar plosive). Another example, there are same words in writing but is has different meaning. In English, the word of '*welt*' it means the red area of skin caused by being hit or by cuts healing but in German *welt* means the world, a planet or other part of the universe. Both languages have different IPA, English pronounce as /welt/ and German /velt/. There are two differences in IPA which is in vocal /e/

(short and mid with front airflow) and /ɛ/ (short and mid with front airflow) and consonant /w/ (voiced labial-velar approximant) and /v/ (voiced labio-dental fricative). Moreover, there is a word which has the same meaning and almost the same in writing. *Son* is a word that exists in English and *sohn* in German. Both words have the same meaning as a male child. The difference is in writing that German added letter 'h'. The phonetic transcription of both languages is different. *Son* pronounced as /sʌn/ and *sohn* as /zo:n/.

Based on the description above, the writer is interested in analyzing the differences in phonetic transcription between English and German. There are two types of word that analyzed; the word that has similarities in writing and the word that correspondence in sound where both languages has same meaning. The two points of these differences have different IPA according to each language, since many German sounds are the same as, or very close to, the corresponding sound in English. The differences of phonetic transcription of both languages explained by phonology based on place and manner of articulation of each language. Furthermore, this research analyzed the differences of phonetic symbols pronunciation between English and German language in terms of its vowels and consonants. Moreover, the writer elaborated the phonetic symbols that only exists in English and German by explained the place and manner of articulation and how to pronounced it. The result of this study showed the similarities and differences of language family especially in Germanic by comparing those two languages assisted by phonology, phonetics and history of linguistics.

To distinguish the differences of phonetic transcription of both languages, the writer is interested to analyzed Franz Kafka's novel which originally written in German entitled *Der Prozeß* and its translated book entitled *The Trial* by David Wylie. The German version and English version shows words that have similarities in writing and correspondences in sound. The writer transcribed the word into phonetic transcription that shows the phonetic symbol differences that distinguish how to pronounce the word. Each phonetic symbol can be explained by Phonetics and Phonology of each language.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

There are the similarities and differences words in English and German where they have their own pronunciation. Although, there are the same words, both languages have the differences based on their phonetic transcription which distinguishes how to pronounce it. Based on the background of research above, the research questions are:

- a. What are the differences of English and German phonetic transcriptions found in Kafka's?
- b. What are the differences of phonetic symbols pronunciation between English and German?

### **1.3 Objective of Study**

Based on the statement of problems, the objectives of this research are to:

- a. To analyze the differences of English and German phonetic transcriptions found in Kafka's.
- b. To identify the differences of phonetic symbols pronunciation between English and German.

### **1.4 Significance of the Research**

There are many significance of this research, but the point below is the several of the significance from research, that are:

- a. This research is directed to student of linguistic subjects and the reader generally who wants to learn about comparative linguistics.
- b. Give knowledge about the similarities and differences of phonetic transcription between English and German.
- c. Give knowledge about the similarities and differences meaning in words between English and German.

### **1.5 Scope of Limitation**

The writer explored the data analysis of comparative words in English and German on Franz Kafka's novel which is related to the subject. This research analysis is the comparative word and phonetic transcriptions in English and German.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Term

To make the readers understand the terms used in this research easily, the writer would like to presents several definitions of the key terms as follows:

- a. Comparative Language : The study of similarities and differences between languages, in particular the comparison of related languages with a view to reconstructing forms in their lost parent languages.
- b. Phonetic Transcription : A system of symbols for showing how words are pronounced.
- c. Language Family : A language family is a group of language deriving from a single-ancestor called the proto-language of that family.
- d. Germanic : A branch of the Indo-European family of languages that includes English, Dutch, German, the Scandinavian languages and Gothic.
- e. English : The official language of Britain, the U.S., most of the Commonwealth, and certain other countries.
- f. German : The official language of Germany and Austria and one of the official languages of Switzerland.
- g. Word : A single unit of language which has meaning and

can be spoken or written.

- h. Der Prozeß : A German novel written by Franz Kafka in 1914 to 1915 and published in 1925.
- i. The Trial : A novel of Der Prozeß that translated in English by David Wyllie in 2009.

### 1.7 Organization of Writing

The writer organizes some reference each chapter which has discussed, among others: introduction, theoretical foundation, research method, discussion and conclusion and suggestion.

Chapter one : explained background of the problem, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the research, scope of limitation and definition of key term. The discussion in this chapter explained

Chapter two : the literary review which explained the theory of this research which consists of the history of English and German, comparative language, phonetics and phonology.

Chapter three : explained the research method that include; method of research design, research instrument, data and source, data and collection, and data analysis.

Chapter four : the discussion about analysis of phonetic transcription of English and German. This chapter explained about the problem of this research.



Chapter five : the conclusion of this research. This chapter explained the entire discussion that has been discussed in previous chapters. Moreover, there are some suggestions related to this research.

