

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of research, statements of the problem, research objectives, research significance, and the definition of key terms. The background of the research tells general information about why this research is needed to be conducted. Then, the statements of the problem are the specific questions about the process. The research objectives are to identify the process of pronunciation occur in the Hwang Myunghun vlog. Then the significance and the definition of key terms of this research are clarified.

1.1 Background of Research

The English language is now spoken in various countries as a foreign language. It has been studied in school in almost all countries in this world. According to Crystal (2008), English has recently become the language taught as a foreign language in many countries, becomes a foreign language in schools, and replacing another language. English is seen as sophisticated in some countries, including Korea.

Min-ho at The Korea Times (2015), in Korea seven out of 10 middle and high school students are dissatisfied with English education in the classroom, a survey showed Wednesday. English language in Korea has been a curriculum, Junior High School until Senior High School they have been studied the English language. Need a longer time to learn English because Korean need to learn the English alphabet first before learning the language. It is because of the Korean use hangeul (alphabets in Korea). According to a survey of 990 middle and high schools

in Seoul, 67.5 percent of the respondents believe that their English lessons were too grammar-focused and test-oriented (Min-ho, 2015). That is the reason why Korean students thought the English language is hard and needs a longer time to learn.

Since there are differences in Korean and English phonetic sounds, the English words change when it is spoken by Korean, which is also called the phonological process. The phonological process is the change of units influenced by other units in a system (Wolfram and Johnson, 1982, p. 88). Therefore, a phonological process is the change of sound influenced by another sound in a word. The varieties of phonological processes are assimilation, dissimilation, deletion, epenthesis, and sound substitution. Assimilation is a term that refers to a process of changing the sound to make the sound similar to the following sound (Fromkin *et al*, 2010, p. 557). In contrast with assimilation, dissimilation refers to a process of changing a sound become less similar to the other sound (Fromkin *et al*, 2010, p. 563). Then, deletion refers to the process of deleting one sound in a segment (Crystal, 2008, p. 134). On the other hand, epenthesis refers to the process of adding one sound to a segment (Crystal, 2008, p. 171). For instance, the word cry, which is pronounced as /kəraɪ/ rather than /kraɪ/, gets the insertion of the sound /ə/. The last is sound substitution is the process of replacing one sound with another sound (Crystal, 2008, p. 171). For example, when the word breath is pronounced as /blɛθ/ by Korean rather than /brɛθ/, the sound /r/ is replaced by the sound /l/, because of the speaker's inability to differentiate the sound /r/ and /l/.

The distinctive writing system of Korean and English results in the different phonetic systems of both languages. The phonetic sounds, place of articulation, as

well as manner of articulation of Korean are different from English. Korean has seven vowels which are /ɪ/, /ɛ/, /a/, /u/, /o/, /ʉ/, and /ɤ/. However, these vowels are different from the /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/ and /o/ vowels in English. Korean also has consonant sounds that are different from English. The Korean consonants that are different from English consonants there is 17 summary of Korean consonants that do not exist in English /p^h/, /p^ʰ/, /t^h/, /t^{h̥}/, /k^h/, /k^ʰ/, /s^ʰ/, /tʃ^h/, /tʃ^ʰ/, and /ɾ/ implies that this set of consonants will pose problems for English speakers learning Korean. Most notably the obstruents with constricted glottis will be the hardest to acquire. There are the lists of English consonants not found in Korean /b/, /d/, /g/, /f/, /v/, /θ/, /ð/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/, /dʒ/, /l/, and /r/ helps to identify four major areas of pronunciation errors (Cho & Park, 2006).

The distribution of the English language in human life is not only in education but also in entertainment industries like Youtube. The use of the English language on Youtube is common in many countries. In Korea, for example, many YouTubers are speaking in English though they have limited knowledge of the English language and pronunciation.

A popular YouTuber from Korea known for their Korean-English is Big Marvel. Big Marvel joined the YouTube industry on 29 March 2017 and had produced many videos until now. In his videos, he always speaks using English even though he is a native Korean.

Through many of practice, Hwang Myunghun's pronunciation sounds to be better. However, there are some words that cannot be perfectly pronounced by him. His limitation of pronunciation is influenced by his native language. As stated by

Lado (1957), “Individuals tend to transfer the forms and meanings, and the distribution of forms and meaning of their native language and culture to the foreign language and culture” (p. 2). It means that the influence of the native language on the foreign language cannot be avoided, and it is normal for people to do so.

This research aims to find the word which is pronounced including their patterns and the comparison between English sounds. Phonology will be applied as the approach to describe the phenomena. The researcher is going to observe the phonological processes that occurred and comparison between English sounds when they are pronounced by Korean speakers. The video that is going to be analyzed is “Korean Convenience Store”. The researcher aims to see the difference in the pronunciation of the word when it is spoken by Native Korean and English sounds.

The previous study for this research the first is research with title “Phonological Analysis of University Student's Spoken Discourse” the writer is trying to investigate the phonological features, either segmental or supra-segmental, in the spoken discourse of Indonesian university students. In the phonological analysis of the university students’ spoken discourse, there are several characteristics: (1) they have difficulty in pronouncing consonant clusters, such as /gh/, and determining the vowel sounds; (2) the word stress is often put at the last syllable and does not change even when the word is put in larger units (phrases and clauses); (3) the rhythm patterns are following the stress placement, so one rhythm unit ends with a stressed syllable; (4) there are some irregularities of the intonation

contour for affirmative sentences; while questions tend to be pronounced with a rising intonation (Clara, 2011).

The second study is entitled *The Phonological Study of Vowel Change in Colombian Speaker's Pronunciation as Seen in Character Gloria in "Modern Family" TV series by Wisung (2016)*. The analysis aims to search out the vowel modification that happens in Colombian speakers' pronunciation and to search for the pattern of the phonological changes. In pronouncing some words, Gloria tends to substitute the vowels with alternative vowels that are considerably totally different.

There is a study with similar topics to this study which was done by other researchers. The research is by Yolanda (2018), entitled *Phonological Analysis of A Native Japanese Speaker's Pronunciation of English Reflected by One Ok Rock's Singer*. The result is The result that the Japanese pronounced some English words differently. There were 18 mispronounced words with 3 consonants and 3 vowel sounds pronounced differently from the targeted pronunciation.

Despite the fact that this study has a similar topic to Yolanda's research, this study focuses on the pronunciation of Korean English speakers which makes both types of research different. The purpose of this present pattern is to find out the phonological process that occurs in words pronounced by the native Koreans.

The main theories used to analyze the data in this study are phonetics and phonology. Phonetics and phonology discuss speech sounds (McMahon, 2002). Phonology provides information about how the sound system of a language is formed and the rules that precede it. While phonetics provides information about

the sound of speech in human language. The phonetics theory includes the sound features, English phonemes as well as Korean phonemes.

The phonological change in Big Marvel's pronunciation must-have pattern on how the sound change happened. As a result, system varieties are predictable. The different pronunciations of English in Korean and Standard English pronunciation must have reasons because what looks incorrect in one language can be seen as correct in another language and vice versa. Therefore, the possible reasons will also be analyzed by comparing the English sound system with Korean.

1.2 Statement of Problem

From the background of this research above, the researcher concludes that two questions will be the main focuses of this research, they are:

1. What phonological processes occurred in the form of pronunciation by Hwang Myunghun as native Korean on Big Marvel YouTube Channel?
2. What are the different meanings of pronunciation of native Korean with standard English when speaking the same sound in pronunciation by Hwang Myunghun as native Korean on Big Marvel YouTube Channel?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the formulation of the research question above, the purpose of this study is to answer two objectives. The first is to observe phonological processes that occurred in the form of pronunciation by native Korean on the Big Marvel YouTube Channel. The data will be taken from Hwang Myunghyun's

pronunciation in speaking on the vlog. From all of the Big Marvel vlogs, there are three vlogs that will be analyzed in order to understand in what environment the sound changes occur, and the pattern of the sound changing in the pronunciation occurred. The second is to know the different meanings of pronunciation of native Korean with standard English when speaking the same sound.

1.4 Research Significance

The result of this research can significantly benefit the writer and the reader and provide contributions to the related research theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically

This research can help enrich knowledge about linguistics related to phonology.

2. Practically

This research is expected to contribute constructively to the development of English literature in the future. Can provide solutions to problems that occur in learning English to achieve a learning goal. Can be an evaluation material for learning English.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In this part, the researcher provides explanations of the term related to the study. The terms related are defined as follows:

“**Pronunciation** refers to how we produce the sounds that we use to make meaning when we speak. It includes the particular consonants and vowels of a

language (segments), aspects of speech beyond the level of the individual segments, such as stress, timing rhythm, intonation, phrasing, suprasegmental aspects), and how the voice is projected (voice quality)” (Yates, Lynda, & Zielinski, 2009). In other words, pronunciation is the way the sounds or words in a language are produced with the consideration of the segments, suprasegmental aspects, and voice quality.

“**Phonological process** is a dynamic system in which units change as they come into contact with other units in the system: assimilation, dissimilation, neutralization, deletion, epenthesis, and metathesis.” (Wolfram, Walt, & Johnson, 1982) While the phonological study is the study of how speech sounds are organized in human language. It also covers the phonemic sounds and their features, also the rules of how sounds collaborate. The concept of phonology is important to base to analyze further the problems discussed in this study.

“**Phonetic Symbol** can be used as a way to show pronunciation in a dictionary, to record a language in linguistic fieldwork, to form the basis of a writing system for a language, or to annotate acoustic and other displays in the analysis of speech.” (IPA Association, 1999).