

aspects are also accommodated in the four language skills such as listening skill, speaking skill, writing skill and reading skill.

2.1.1 Pronunciation

One of the important aspects of language are aspects of the sounds of language and writing system or pronunciation. Pronunciation which is how does one do pronunciation of a word or phrase in the English correctly, pausing right to produce the sound of the spoken word with a proper intonation, good and true and can be understood by others. Richard and Schmidt (2002 : 429), they stated that the pronunciation is a sound way - a certain sound is produced. Paulston and Burder (1976: 82), stated that pronunciation is production of a sound system, which doesn't interfere with communication, either from the speakers or from the listeners point of view. Pronunciation aspect is very important. Hinofitis and Baily (1980), they stated that the pronunciation is considered as one of the most important aspect of second language acquisition because it affect the communicative competence of learners. In learning English is indispensable ability in terms of pronunciation. Therefore, a student should have the good ability of pronunciation in English. Because the pronunciation of a word, the correct pronunciation is required in order to produce the intonation right, good and true, and the audience will easily understand the spoken word.

2.1.2 Sound System in Pronunciation English

As you well know, in English itself has a sound system that is divided into two groups, namely consonant sounds and vowel sounds.

1. Vowel Sound

Vowel sound is defined as a vowel in its formation, ie air out through the throat and mouth, without restriction and narrowing so that there is no friction sound.

2. Consonant Sound

Consonant sound is sound or letter (letter dead or alive) are in the production of air does not come out smoothly through the mouth and throat, but encountered resistance or narrowing so it sounds friction. Consonant consists of consonant : /k/, /g/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /θ/, /ð/, /l/, /r/, /d/, /w/, /j/, /t/, /d/, /f/, /v/, /s/, /z/, /p/, /b/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /ʃ/.

Two of the sound system above (vowel and consonant), is a sound system that must be mastered by students in the pronunciation of a foreign language (English). The ability of good pronunciation is needed. By mastering the sound system above, so students will be able to pronounce words with a tone of voice that is good and right, pausing and the right tempo, so the listener is able to understand what is said.

2.1.2.1 Pronunciation of Vowels in English

This study is to focus on how the students of the vowel pronunciation in English. Vocal is defined as a vowel in its formation, ie air out through the throat and mouth, without restriction and narrowing so that there is no friction sound. Vowel itself is divided into two, namely diphthong and single vowel.

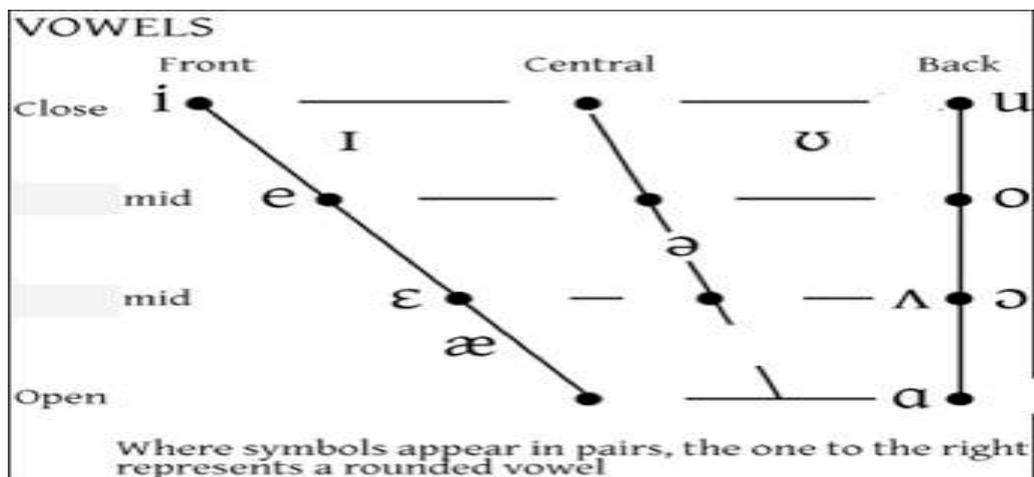
a. Diphthong

Diphthong is the sound made by the removal of one vocal position to position another vowel. In phonetics, a diphthong is represented by a sequence of two letters, the first showing the start position and the second indicates the direction of movement. Diphthong consists of : /ɔi/, /au/, /aɪ/, /eə/, /əʊ/, /ei/, /æ/.

b. Single Vowel

Single vowel is a vowel that has one type of sounds, such as vowels /ɜ:/, /ɔ:/, /u:/, /ɒ:/, /i:/, /ɪ/, /ʌ/, /ʊ/, /ɔ/, /e/. In a single vowel itself is divided into two, namely the long vowel sounds and short vowel sounds. For a long vowel sounds consist of /ɜ:/, /ɔ:/, /u:/, /ɒ:/, /i:/. As for the short vowel sounds consist of /ɪ/, /ʌ/, /ʊ/, /ɔ/, /e/, /ə/.

Here is a diagram of the vowel sounds in English :



Adapted from : www.socsci.uci.edu

2.2 Age in Learning Pronunciation

In the process of learning, especially in this case about the pronunciation of the English, many argue that age may affect the learning. Age may affect the

pronunciation in English. They found a young age is much easier in terms of learning a foreign language, in this case about the pronunciation. Many also argue that students at a young age is easier and superior abilities and foreign language pronunciation than teenage learners and adult learners. Rachmajanti (1993), she stated that foreign language learners who are younger, especially in the pronunciation, would be better than learners who are teenagers or adults because the vocal organs younger learners more flexible and they are not hampered by constraints - psychological. Taylor and Schuman in Ellis (1986), they stated that empathetic child at the age of puberty or young age is much greater than the age of consent, so they do not block in learning a second language. According to the theory of language acquisition (Ellis, 1997), also explained that young learners can learn the language more quickly than adults, young learners are believed to undergo a critical time acquire language, known as the critical period hypothesis. In essence, the mastery of pronunciation of English sounds properly is one of the important factors in English teaching students both junior high school students and senior high school students. When viewed from a range of ages, junior high school students and senior high school students included in the category of adolescent learner. Where the junior high school students included in the category of early adolescence learners and senior high school students included in the category of mid adolescence learners. According to Monks, Knoers, and Haditono, age of early adolescence is 12 – 15 years old and age of mid adolescence is 15 – 18 years old. At this age the students are considered able to learn the language better than adult learners. Because the mastery of pronunciation effect on whether or how their current give information. But of

course among early adolescence learners and mid adolescence learners have different level of language proficiency.

2.3 Pronunciation Error

The ability of good pronunciation in English is needed by a student. This is because the pronunciation aspect is one very important aspect in the process of learning English. Mastery of English pronunciation sound properly is one of the important factors in English teaching in junior high school students and senior high school students. This is considered important because of the age of junior high school and senior high school learners is a critical age for learning a second language, particularly in pronunciation. At this age, mastering the pronunciation of an effect on whether or not a communication smoothly. However, often we find many errors in pronunciation to the students. While good pronunciation itself indispensable. Errors in pronunciation like this can be found in junior high school students and senior high school students, especially in Indonesia. Pronunciation of a sound correctly will make the listener understand the intent of the speaker. Instead, the errors of pronunciation will confuse the listener, can even lead to misinterpretation of the intent of the speaker. Pateda (1989 : 32), he stated that the linguistic fault lines appear if the word or phrase uttered by someone, one by native speakers.

As it is known, that people in Indonesia are still find difficulty to pronounce a word in English well. It was due to the difference in the habit of talking between the tongue of Indonesia with a native speaker's (English speakers). Most of the way pronunciation in Indonesian people are more likely to

American English. Because it can cause frequent peoples like the students difficult to do the English pronunciation. Therefore, it is very important for students to have the ability of good pronunciation.

This study aimed to compare the ability of pronunciation in the English language between students of junior and senior high school students. This study focuses on student pronunciation errors against the vowel sounds in English, which is related to a few words in English that is contained in a text passage in the activity of reading aloud. This study was taken in junior high school students and high school students because at this age students should already have the ability in English, in this case proficient in English pronunciation.

2.4 Previous Study

As has been known in previous studies, with the title “The Relationship Between Age and Accuracy of Foreign Language Pronunciation” and with the research problems is “Do Elementary Children Can Achieve more Native-Like Pronunciation of the Foreign Language than Older Teenage or College Students “, Carroll (1963) stated that young people can gain more genuine as accents in the second language of the older students. While the theory of language acquisition (Ellis, 1997), also explained that younger students can learn the language more quickly than adults, younger students are believed to undergo a critical time acquire language, known as the critical period hypothesis. In previous studies, examines accuracy in pronunciation of the German phoneme among elementary school students, junior high school students and college students. The study was

conducted to determine the relationship between the age of the students with their accuracy in pronunciation. Results of previous studies show that students at a young age is better in learning to produce word - the original words like a native speaker than adulthood. As has been said by Taylor and Schuman in Ellis (1986), they stated that empathetic child at the age of puberty or young age is much greater than the age of consent, so they do not block in learning a second language.

Similarities between previous studies with this research is the same research on the ability of students to pronounce and determine whether age affects the student's pronunciation. In this research is between early adolescence learners and mid adolescence learners. While the difference between previous studies with this study is, in previous studies examining the accuracy of pronunciation in German phoneme which is about 23 German phonemes conducted on elementary school students, junior high school students and college students. In a previous study determined the age of students, the age group from 9.5 to 10.5 for elementary school students, ages 14 to 15 for junior high school students and ages 18 to 26 for college students. While this study examines the ability of pronunciation and comparison pronunciation error of students on English phonemes, which focuses on the vowel sounds which is about 16 vowels consisting of diphthong and single vowel. This study conducted in first grade of junior high school students and first grade of senior high school students to determine the ratio error and the ability of the vowel pronunciation in English. Given this research can also be used to determine whether early adolescence

learners achieve better pronunciation result in the learning process than the mid adolescence learners.