

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Research Context

Every language has a lot of variations. Like all languages, English is a language that has a variety of dialects. The existence of the variety of dialects in a language is a common thing, especially for English as an international language that is used by many people in the world. English is a language which has its own literature, its own grammar books, and its own dictionaries (Trudgill, 1996:1). Broadly, there are two types of English that is well known and that is used as a reference in Indonesia, there are British English and American English. Both of them have differences in the way they are written or spoken, such as: spelling, pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. British English is different from American English in some ways. If those differences are not well understood, the English learners will interpret English incorrectly in some aspects.

Hartanto (1996:362-407) states that there are six principal differences between British and American English namely vocabulary, spelling, number, business letter, grammar and pronunciation differences. Problem will happen between English users, for example when the teacher often mixes both British and American English while teaching or speaking, so as the result learners also mix British and American English in their daily conversation, because they do not understand the differences between British and American English.

However, the obscurity of usage of the variation between British and American English that is used as a reference often leads questions about British English and American English. The questions such as: Which one is correct dialect? Which one is better? Which one to follow? What are the differences? Those questions are often asked by English's user. Those questions showed that the English's user is already interested and realizes that there is a differences between British and American English. Besides, the ignorance about the differences between British English and American English sometimes makes misunderstanding in communication. It shows the importance the

exposure and a good comprehension about the differences between British and American English.

To minimize misunderstanding, the comprehension about the differences between British and American English also can be used as a reference to be more consistent in using variations that have been followed, because basically the best solution to respond the variations of language is the choice the one you want to follow and being consistent using it.

To decrease the problem, the writer uses the contrastive analysis to analyze the problem of learning English dialect, by contrastive analysis of two or more English dialect that are compared. James (1980:3) maintains that contrastive analysis deals with the differences rather than similarities between languages.

In conducting this research, the writer chooses to analyze two aspects of the differences between British English and American English, namely: vocabulary and spelling.

The writer decides choose to analyze the differences between British and American English found in the vocabulary and spelling, by using contrastive analysis. This is due to the fact that the writer wants to contribute to increase the English user or the learner's comprehension about the differences between British and American English and to make them to be consistent in using variations that have been followed.

The following are examples of the use of English which may result in misunderstanding.

Boy : Hey! Nice pants!

‘Hai! Celana yang bagus.’

Girl : Sorry? What?

‘Maaf? Apa?’

Boy : I said nice pants.

‘Saya bilang celana yang bagus.’

Girl : You can see my pants, can't you?

‘Anda tidak dapat melihat celana dalam saya, iya kan?’

Boy : Of course I can see your pants.

‘Tentu saja saya bisa melihat celana anda’

Girl : How can you see my pants?

‘Bagaimana anda bisa melihat celana dalam saya?’

In the dialouge above, there is misunderstanding between the boy and the girl. It’s because the vocabulary that is used in the dialouge, that is *‘pants’*, the word *‘pants’* that is used by a boy has meaning *‘trouser’*, while a girl understand the word *‘pants’* as *‘underpants’*. This thing causes the girl surprised how the boy can see her *‘underpants’*.

This case can be concluded that the boy comes from America, and the girl comes from British. This is based on the fact that in British English the word *‘pants’* has a meaning *‘underpants’*, while to explain *‘pants’* in British English by using word *‘trousers’*. Besides that, in American English the word *‘pants’* has a meaning *‘trousers’* not *‘underpants’*.

Based on the phenomenon above, the writer is interested in conducting the analysis on contrastive study found in British and American English. Actually the writer tries to identify the differences of vocabulary and spelling in British English and American English. The writer chooses vocabulary and spelling in British English and American English because there are many differences vocabulary and spelling between British English and American English to be searched. The data are analyzed by using general theory of morphological process. The tittle of this research is “A Contrastive Study between British and American English: Morphological Perspective”

## **B. Focus of the Study**

Based on the discussion, the focus of the study is “A Contrastive Study between British and American English: Morphological Perspective”. This focus is broken down into sub focuses as follows:

1. What are the differences between British and American English vocabularies?
2. What are the differences between British and American English spellings?

### **C. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the research problem above, the researcher has the objective study as follows:

1. To describe the differences of vocabularies between British and American English.
2. To describe the differences of spellings between British and American English.

### **D. Benefit of the Study**

The benefit of this research consists of theoretical benefit and practical benefit.

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The result of the research can give the contribution to the study of contrastive study, especially in analyzing the kinds of differences between British English and American English, in analyzing the differences of vocabulary and spelling in British English and American English.

#### **2. Practical Benefit**

##### **a. English Teacher**

The result of the research can enrich the knowledge about morphology and contrastive study. It is also can be the additional material in teaching both literature and linguistics especially in contrastive study and morphology.

##### **b. Future Researcher**

The study can be additional reference for future researcher in conducting the research about contrastive study and morphology.