

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses: Background of the Study, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, and Benefit of the Study.

A. Background of the Study

Every language has a lot of variations. As we know that there are so many languages in this world, one of the examples is English. English is a language that has a variety of dialects. The existence of the varieties of dialects in a language is a common thing that happens in some countries, 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, 2012). Generally, 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 various aspects.

Hartanto (1996) declared that there are six principles of the differences of language between British and American English that they are in the form of vocabulary, spelling, number, business letter, structure or grammar and the pronunciation. The problem found are among English users, for example, in the teaching and learning process when the teacher often mixes both of British and American English while teaching speaking or writing, so as the result the students also mix both British and American English in their daily conversation because they do not understand the differences between both of two languages.

To minimize the misunderstanding of the students above about the differences between British and American English also about the use of the two variations of language that have been followed, because generally people will choose one of the variations of language that they want to follow and consistent to use it as daily conversation.

Basically, British English is "might serve as a unifying label," says Pam Peters, it "is not universally embraced. For some British citizens, this is because it seems to imply a broader base of users than it includes. The 'standard' forms of British English as written or spoken are mostly those of southern dialects".

In this paper, discusses the differences and similarities that occur between British English and American English, this research discusses more because at present many Indonesian students seek knowledge or work abroad, especially those who graduate from vocational high schools. They use English in general or American English (US), if they are in British where the population is more dominant using British English as a daily language then there are some differences in words between the US and UK. For example, in English word, namely "pants". In British English "pants" have a meaning is "underwear" and in American English have a meaning "Trousers". In conclusion "Pants" have a difference meaning in British and American English. In this paper, I will explain the differences and similarities word meaning between British and American English with the aims to make it easy for students to learn the differences in word meaning between British and American English.

This case can be concluded that one English word can have different meanings in British English and American. The second problem occurs in translators when interpreting words. For example, the meaning of the words we say in American English because Indonesians are more dominant using American English (US) than British English (UK) while those used by the interlocutor interpret into the meaning of British English, there will be a fallacy of meaning, then, is, besides, one idea can have different words in British English with American English. That means that a word in British English there are different words from American English for the same meanings.

In this research paper, explains basic words that will make it easier for students to learn, starting with word differences between British English and American English, not only that the writer has also collected data on different spellings of British English and American English. This will be easy for students to learn before they learn about grammar.

The researcher is interested in examining the differences and similarities of word meaning between British English and American English because researchers find problems in an Indonesian student who wants to study or work abroad, then the student will do an interview test when he enrolls in a school or occupation, the writer makes. This study is to examine students' English proficiency by finding vocab and meaning and grouping with the aim that students understand the differences in British English and American English, then so that students do not make many mistakes when saying English vocabulary and understand what the meaning of a word between British English and American English.

Based on these problems, British and American English have different words and the same meaning. From that phenomenon, the researcher is interested in bringing this topic to research. By doing this, the researcher decided that this research was titled "A Comparative Study between the Word Meaning of British and American English".

B. Problem Statement

1. What are the differences between British and American word meaning?
2. What are the similarities between British and American word meaning?
3. What factors make them different and similar?

C. Objective of the Study

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

1. To describe the difference words meaning between British English and American English
2. To explain the similarities words meaning between British and American English
3. To explain the factors make them different and similar

D. Benefit of the Study

The benefit of this study can be divided into two, namely theoretical and practical benefits:

1. Theoretical Benefits

Conducting this research, the researcher can apply her knowledge in analysis distinguish meaning technique and get useful experience in doing this study. It can be used as a reference for the next researchers and will help the researcher solving their problem in translation and can enrich the theory of teaching technique and method of distinguishing meaning words of American and British in the classroom.

2. Practical Benefits

a. For the English Teacher

This study result can enrich their techniques in teaching technique and method in the classroom, they can use their ability to understand about technique and distinguish of meaning words from American and British.

b. For Other Researchers

This study result can enrich their references if they want to conduct research for the same and related topics.