CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses: (1) Background of the Study, (2) Problem Statement, (3) Objective of the Study, and (4) Benefit of the Study.

A. Background of the Study

Communication plays an important role in daily life. Without communication people in the world can't understand each other when they are together. In communicating we definitely heard how the pronunciation of the interlocutors, therefore we must know some of the contrastive found in British and American English because there might be some who do not know about the pronunciation. Before from the core of this research, pronunciation means the way in a word or a language was spoken. Factors that strongly underline differences in the pronunciation of these methods include the area of one's origin; people who come from the UK must be with the pronunciation of British English while people who come from America or US must be with the pronunciation of America English. But it is also not certain, it could happen because of the habits of the person, if someone is too long settled in an ordinary area just have the same pronunciation in that area. So, environmental factors also affect the pronunciation between British and America English.

In general, this research paper discusses British and American English but focuses more on RP and GA segmental features. In British and American English, there are 2 elements, namely segmental features and super segmental. This study discusses segmental features called vowel, consonant and diphthong. This research is important and interesting, because readers can find out what the contrastive are in RP and GA segmental features.

As a rule, there are three surveys that we have to focus on to discover contrasts in British and American English articulation, to be specific from vowels, consonants, stress and sound. The thing that is highly considered in this research is the vowels, consonants and diphthong. Known vowels are divided into three parts namely Short Vowels, Long Vowels and Diphthongs. Short vowels include **/ə/, /e/, /i/, /ʌ/, /ʊ/, /ɪ/, /æ/.** Long Vowel, among others **/iː/, /ɔː/, /ɑː/, /uː/, /ɜː/, /aː/.** The last is Diphthongs and among others are /**eɪ/, /aɪ/, /ɔɪ/, /oʊ /, /ɪə/, / ʊɔ/.** Then after the vowel, there is also what is called a consonant. Consonant letters are as follows **/p/, /k/, /b/, /f/, /s/, /t/, /d/, /g/, /l/, /n/, /m/, /r/, /v/, /w/, /j/, /z/, /ʃ/, /Ɵ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /ʒ/, /ŋ/.** The contrastive between RP and GA in the diphthong **/əʊ /** for RP and **/oʊ/** for GA**.** In the example pronunciation of the words 'Go', 'Home', and 'Hope' in RP it becomes **/gəʊ/, /həʊm/, /həʊp/,** while pronunciation in GA becomes **/goʊ/, /hoʊm/, /hoʊp/**.

The purpose of this study is to find out how and how different pronunciation when using RP and GA segmental features by finding words in Youtube. Among these two, American English is the most commonly used, so we also need to know how to pronounce British English. British English is considered modern because some teenagers learn and use these accents when they gather with their peers. In other hands, the differences between British and America English are not just pronunciations, but from several words also have different writing. The author already has some data that will be used as a reference to this research about the contrastive pronunciations between British and America English.

B. Problem Statement

Based on this topic, the writer formulated the problems as follow:

1. What are the similarities between RP and GA segmental features?

2. What are the differences between RP and GA segmental features?

C. Objective of the Study

Objective studies are related to problem statements, because of it this objective of the study includes:

1. To find out the similarities between RP and GA segmental features.

2. To find out the differences between RP and GA segmental features.

D. Benefits of the Study

We know that pronunciation is a key of communication. When we are mispronouncing words, we might be saying another words altogether, or similar sounding words that get misunderstood by the listener.

The researcher hopes this research can give benefits, as follows:

1. Theoretical

In theory, the contribution of developing English of this research can help readers better understand about the contrastive pronunciation of several words using RP and GA segmental features. After knowing about it the reader can definitely know what the contrast in vowel, consonant and diphthong.

2. Practical benefits for English teacher and future researcher.

    a. For the English Teachers

        It can provide students with knowledge and examples of similarities or differences in RP and GA segmental features. English teacher will definitely meet some students from various regions, so the teacher must be able to understand the differences or similarities in the RP and GA segmental features. English teachers can identify that may be arisen during the teaching learning process.

    b. For the Future Researchers

        Hopefully it is useful in being able to give more innovation to all readers and remember the importance of similarities or differences that line in RP and GA segmental features. The author hopes that future researchers can provide more knowledge and give some variation in their research more than this research and to be able to give more examples and significant theories of differences or similarities in RP and GA segmental features.