

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses Background of Study, Problem of the Study, Objective of the Study, and Significances of the Study.

#### **A. Background of Study**

Humans need to learn language to convey their intension or opinion to others in a community. Their ability to communicate clearly and fluently to other refers to language performance. In order to use language well, we have to master the language competence. Language competence covers some skills and components. In language learning, there are four skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. As stated by Morrow in Demirbas (2013), receptive and productive skills are the combination of four skills are listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. English is one of a language originally the language of the people of England. Now English has been international language. It is the most commonly spoken language in the world to communicate with people around the world.

English pronunciation is one of the most important sub-skills in speaking skill. Speaking without considering the pronunciation will cause different interpretation in meaning among the speakers and listeners (Rafael, 2019). There are many misunderstanding in the meaning of the words spoken caused by the inaccurately and wrongly pronunciation. Pronunciation in language has functions as basic requirement of learners' competency and one of the most important features of spoken language. It places as an important role because it shows how

people make a sound of words and how they articulate the words. It includes the sound of its element like vowels, consonant, intonation, rhymes and stress.

Word stress or lexical stress is the stress place on syllables within words. According to Bear in Sabarudin (2016) explains that words consist of syllable and the syllable itself is a unit of sound which includes a vowel sound. In the word "information" there are four syllable but the stress is placed on the penultimate syllable , "in-for-MA-tion".

Word stress is the magic key to understand speaking English. Native speakers of English use word stress naturally. Word stress is so natural for them that they do not even know they use it. Non-native speakers who speak English to native speakers without using word stress, encounter two problems, they find it difficult to understand native speakers, especially those speaking fast. The native speakers may find it difficult to understand them. To understand word stress, it helps to understand syllables. Every word is made from syllables. Each word has one, two, three or more syllables. In many languages such as in English, all the syllables in multisyllabic words are not equally stressed (spoken with some kind of a force or strength) when they are pronounced. Word-Stress is also sometimes referred to as word accent.

In English, it's does not say each syllable with the same force or strength. This means that one part of a certain word is said louder and longer than other parts of the same word. In one word, it accentuate one syllable. It say one syllable very loudly (big, strong, important) and all the other syllables very quietly. The syllable which is pronounced with greater force is called the stressed syllable. It

can also call it the accented syllable. "Accent" in this case means "emphasis". It is something that is completely natural for English speakers, but something English department students can learn from practicing their conversational skills and by learning the rules for using word stress. When speaking, it is important to put the stress on the correct syllable. Otherwise, it would sound unnatural, and might even be difficult to understand.

In English, the placement of word stress is not as regular as in the languages just mentioned. Word stress can be on the first syllable, the second, the third, the last, the one before last, etc. It depends on various factors, including the different parts that form the word (Pierrel, 2010). When talking about stress is also talking about syllable and sentence stress. According to Fudge (2015) there are two kinds of stress, they are sentence-stress and syllable stress. Sentence stress is the manner in which stress is distributed on the word and syllable stress is the manner in which stress is distributed on the syllable. and he stated there is a sign (,) to put stress placement in a word

An English listener is three times more likely to encounter a word with the primary stress on the first syllable than on other syllables (Heidari, 2012). Indonesian university students had difficulties in identifying the stress for 3 to 7 syllable words (SW), because the students have already learned a specific stress pattern for the individual words, and they often misstress words with suffixes because they tend to retain the stress for the stem which had been learned earlier, for example: the word 'circulate' which stressed on the first syllable and the word 'circulation' which stress on the third syllable (Mariana, 2015). Word stress is

important to be learnt is because of different word stress pattern between Bahasa Indonesia and English. This factor becomes a problem for Indonesian learners who learn English (Weda, 2012).

Baturaja University is one of the universities that teach English in the field of education. There are many students who study English as a foreign language, not a few of them face several problems in learning English, from grammar, pronunciation and almost of them ignored about word stress syllables in the language.

Based on pre-observation, the writer found if the students of English education study program of Baturaja University are too focused on learning grammar, dialogue and intonation. So they often forget very important little things like “word stress” even though this is very influential on the meaning of speech because if error word stress happened during the spoken it will change the meaning of the utterance. Relating with the statement above, as a matter of fact, that students need to know that words stress correctly when they are speaking instantly and automatically improves their pronunciation, enhances listeners' comprehension and facilitates communication. Error words stress, in contrast, impedes comprehension and makes speech more difficult to understand. Therefore, non-native speakers who speak English to native speakers without using word stress encounter at least two problems. First, they find it difficult to understand native speakers, especially those speaking fast and second, the native-speakers may find it difficult to understand them. This happens very often because non-native speakers mispronounce some of the individual sounds in words. At the

other times, words are not easily recognized because the speaker has error stressed of the word. Thus, it is clear that stress importance appears in both, its grammatical function in speech and its emphatic role in communication.

Based on the previous point of views about pronunciation and word stress the writer is interested in conducting a descriptive research under the title “**An Analysis of English Syllable Words Stress Errors by The Students of English Education Study Program of Baturaja University**”.

## **B. Problem of the Study**

### **1. Limitation of the Problem**

In this study, the writer focused only on English syllable words stress errors by the students of English education study program of Baturaja University.

### **2. Formulation of the Problem**

Related to the problem statement, formulation of this study are

- a. In what syllable, words stress errors made by the students of English education study program of Baturaja University?
- b. What kind of word stress errors made by the students of English education study program of Baturaja University?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

An objective of this study was that the writer want to find out English syllable words stress errors by the students of English education study program of Baturaja University.

#### **D. Significances of the Study**

In aspect focus on analyzing English syllable words stress errors by the students of English education study program of Baturaja University.

##### **1. For the Writer**

This study is estimating to gave the knowledge for the writer. Well as the writer that is estimate become an English teacher in the future, it is estimating to become a good reference for the writer in teaching English speaking syllable words stress errors by the students of english education study program of Baturaja University.

##### **2. For the Students**

This study expect the students will know about English syllable words stress errors and make them better to analyzing English speaking syllable words stress errors as their learning and find the solutions that can make them better in pronunciation the words stress.

##### **3. For the TEFL**

To inspire the teacher to determine the model of learning appropriate to the material and conditions of learners.

##### **4. Other Researcher**

It can inspire the other writers to conduct further studies on analyzing English speaking syllable words stress.