

The Comparison of Pronunciation Error in Vowel Sounds Between Early Adolescence Learners and Mid Adolescence Learners in Foreign Language Learning

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Abstract

This study using a quantitative design, causal comparative aimed to compare the pronunciation errors between Junior High School students and Senior High School students. As well as determine whether the early adolescence learners (junior high school students) have the ability of pronunciation better than mid adolescence learners (senior high school students), or otherwise. The study was conducted at VII A class of SMPN 1 Gresik around 29 students and X MIPA 7 class SMAN 1 Gresik around 29 students. The data in this study were collected through a test pronunciation by reading aloud. That includes two descriptive texts in the text there are 25 words that contain vowel sounds in English. The research found few differences in the number of pronunciation errors if Junior High School students tend to be more wrong in the pronunciation of a word and Senior High School students tend to be a little wrong in the pronunciation of words containing the vowel sounds. Pronunciation errors in students occur because the students do not know and do not mastered so much about vowel sounds. Particularly in the vowel sounds / □ /, / ei /, / u: /, / □ i /, / I /, / □ /, / eθ / and / ð /. So, the students cannot pronounce the word correctly and the students cannot divided which the word must be pronounced with short vowel sounds and long vowel sounds. Result from this study is that the pronunciation of Senior High School students better than Junior High School students.

Key words: Early adolescence learners, Mid adolescence learners, Pronunciation error, Vowel sounds.

1. Introduction

Pronunciation is how does one do the pronunciation of a word or phrase in English language as a foreign language, 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. In learning a foreign language, namely English, indispensable capabilities in terms of pronunciation as understanding the language. This is because when the ability of our excellent pronunciation, then others will also be easier and can grasp and understand the meaning of a word we say. 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 is one aspect that must be mastered by the student in learning a foreign language, especially in the English language in order to speak a foreign language well. 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. Eckstein (2007 : 13), he stated that the pronunciation is regarded as a fundamental element in second language acquisition. To be able to master the pronunciation of foreign languages, someone especially the students should be able to learn pronunciation well to be able to pronounce a word properly in order to produce sound with proper intonation, good and true anyway. According to Dan (2006 as cited in ibid, 2007:19) claims that good pronunciation may make the communication easier, more relaxed and more useful. Even required to learn every day. To be able to master it, a student can learn through a variety of ways, namely through the listening skills of a native speaker itself, from video, from the dictionary on the way pronunciation in a foreign language, or can also practice directly with their friends. Given that the ability of the pronunciation is very important and necessary.

Pronunciation is very difficult and important in learning a foreign language (English) in addition to other aspects. However, often we find many errors in pronunciation of a foreign language (English) on the learner. While good pronunciation itself indispensable. As it is known, that people in Indonesia are still many who find it difficult 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 own tongue (English speakers). Because it can cause frequent peoples like the students difficult to do in the pronunciation of English as a foreign language. Pateda (1989 : 32) he stated that the linguistic fault lines appear if the word or phrase uttered by someone, one by native speakers. 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.

In learning a foreign language pronunciation, many argue that age may affect the learning. 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 young learners will be easier and superior to their foreign language skills than teenage learners and adult learners. For example in this case is elementary school students have good pronunciation than junior high school students and college students. Carroll (1963) stated that young people can gain more genuine as accents in the second language of the older students. 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 students 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. 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. But of course between early adolescence learners and mid adolescence learners have different levels of language proficiency, in this case the pronunciation. Therefore, researcher conducted a study between junior high school students and senior high school students to determine whether early adolescence learner have better pronunciation in the learning process than the mid adolescence learner. While both are still the same at the level of adolescence.

In foreign language learning itself, one of the activities related to the pronunciation that we can meet is the activity of reading aloud. The activity of reading aloud often encountered in junior high school students and senior high school students. Reading aloud is the activities performed by the students, ie reading text with a loud sound or tunable to produce an intonation of the reading. According to Zainuddin (1992 : 124), he stated that reading aloud is reading the article voicing read with expression and intonation appropriate for listeners and readers can capture the information submitted by the author, either in the form of thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and experience of the author. According to Gruber (in Rahim, 2008 : 24), he stated that reading aloud is reading aloud with attention to words and sentence structure, pronunciation, intonation and pauses. Meanwhile, according to Ellis and friends (in Rahim, 2008 : 23), stated that reading aloud is the activity or activities of reading aloud with attention to pronunciation, intonation and expression with the goal of producing students who are fluent in reading.

In reading aloud, concerned with things like : fluency and correctness word pronunciation, voice clear and fluent so that the messages text easily captured the audience, the intonation is strong or weak pressure, high and low tones, how quickly the tempo and also pausing appropriately. Therefore, in the teaching of foreign languages, reading aloud activity closer or more aimed at speech than to comprehension. Because of this, the reading material should be selected that contain content and language that is relatively easy to understand (Broughton in Henry Guntur Tarigan, 1994 : 23). Skills of reading aloud is important to be owned by a student. Of course, the students of junior and senior high school, had to be proficient in reading aloud. And of course the junior high school or senior high school students have different skills.

Of the existing problems above, the researcher tried to examine the level of proficiency in English pronunciation in reading aloud, in junior and senior high school students. From the research conducted, the researcher compared the pronunciation errors during the junior and senior high school students, the pronunciation in English. This study refers to the junior high school students and senior high school students because, at this stage students should be proficient in the pronunciation of the foreign language learning is on the activity of reading aloud. The purpose of this study is to determine whether junior high school students better pronunciation than senior high school students. On the other hand they are different level of school but both is still the same in the category of adolescent age. That is early adolescence for junior high school students and mid adolescence for senior high school students.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Aspects of Language in English

In Indonesia alone, the English language is used as a second language. As according Siahaan (2008 : 7), explained that the language is one of the human heritage that plays an important role in human life itself, as in think, communicate ideas, and communicate with others. Hardjono Rayner (2001 : 25), stated that English is the international language that is the language most widely used worldwide. Kitao (1996), stated that the English language has become a means of international communication and is used by around 350 million people as a first language and around 400 million people as a second language or a foreign language.

There are three aspects of language in English that must be mastered by students, among which aspects of the sounds of language and writing system (*pronunciation*), aspects of grammar and aspect of vocabulary. The third aspect - should be mastered by students to be able to use English properly.

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.

Sound System in Pronunciation English

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. 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/, /aI/, /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:/, /I/, /ɔ/, /u/, /ɒ/, /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 /I/, /ɔ/, /u/, /ɒ/, /e/, /ə/.

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).

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.

2. Methods

This research was conducted to find the differences pronunciation errors of the vowel sound in English happens to students and compare the ability of pronunciation between junior high school students and senior high school students. This research uses quantitative research design, causal comparative because, in this study there was no manipulation of variables. In this study is also divided into two groups based on same range of age but different in level of school. Which is between early adolescence learners for junior high school students and mid adolescence learners for senior high school students. This study was conducted to determine whether early adolescence learners achieve better pronunciation result in the learning process than the mid adolescence learners. Data from this study were obtained through tests were given to junior high school students and senior high school students.

Research Subject

This study conducted at SMPN 1 Gresik and SMAN 1 Gresik. The subjects of this study is VII A class for first grade students of SMPN 1 Gresik and X MIPA 7 class for first grade students of SMAN 1 Gresik. Students of VII A class which amounted to around 29 students, and students of X MIPA 7 class which also amounted to around 29 students.

Data Collection Procedure

This study, data collection technique performed by using one instrument, namely instrument in the form of test are given to students. This test assessing the skill and ability of students in reading aloud using reading text about descriptive text that containing some words about vocabulary. There are 25 words about vocabulary that contains the vowel sounds in English such as : *Pretty, Singer, Good, Voice, Become, Great, Famous, Height, Eyes, Cheek, Remember, Student, Tall, Hair, Small, Sharp, Thick, Dark, Helpful, Lazy, Smart, Because, Learn, Glad* and *Love*. Reading text is given by researcher to the students. Reading aloud test is performed once for the two groups, namely students of SMPN 1 Gresik and students of SMAN 1 Gresik. Reading aloud test carried out on first grade students of SMPN 1 Gresik and first grade students of SMAN 1 Gresik. The number of students is about 29 students (VII A class) for first grade of SMPN 1 Gresik and about 29 students (X MIPA 7 class) for first grade of SMAN 1 Gresik. Each student gets one same paper about descriptive text then students reading text loudly. By reading aloud test about descriptive text that containing some words about vocabulary, it can be seen how the students pronounce a word about vocabulary which there are the vowels in English and can also be known pronunciation mistakes made by the students.

Each student given 2 – 3 minutes to read aloud the text because the text is simple. By the time the students read aloud the descriptive text, researcher recorded and took video of students. After the test is done, researcher will be check scores of students obtained from each student and from these test can also be seen the level of students' skill in pronunciation. Each word pronounced correctly will get 1 point and if pronounced incorrectly will get 0 point. So, if students can read correctly all words, they will get 100. With the total score is $25/25 \times 100 = 100$.

From the result of test will be compared the ability of pronunciation students in English between SMPN 1 Gresik and SMAN 1 Gresik to find out which one has the errors of pronunciation most to the pronunciation of the vowel sounds in English and can also be used to determine whether early adolescence learners achieve better pronunciation result in the learning process than the mid adolescence learners.

Data Analysis

a. Validity and Reliability

Validity is a compatibility test with the main targets that need to be measured. To test the validity of the test carried out using *Analyze – Correlate – Bivariate* in SPSS 16 program. Basic decision making in test validity as follow :

- If value of r_{hitung} higher than value of r_{tabel} , so the test instrument is valid.
- If value of r_{hitung} lower than value of r_{tabel} , so the test instrument is invalid.

Reliability is the overall consistency of a measure. To test the reliability of the test carried out using *Analyze – Scale – Reliability Analysis* use *Alpha Cronbach's* in SPSS 16 program. Basic decision making in test reliability as follow :

- If the value of *Alpha Cronbach's* > 0.600 the test items dictated reliability.
- If the value of *Alpha Cronbach's* < 0.600 the test items dictated unreliability.

b. Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis testing in this study use statistical test *Compare mean - Independent sample t – test*. Statistical test in this study to determine differences result of pronunciation errors between the two samples is first grade of SMPN 1 Gresik namely VII A class with first grade of SMAN 1 Gresik namely X MIPA 7 class. For t test analysis, can be summed up as follow :

- H₀ : Result of pronunciation error between junior and senior high school students there is no difference or same.
- H_a : Result of pronunciation error between junior and senior high school students there is a difference or not the same.

Basic for decision making can be done by looking at the comparison value or the probability of significant value, as follows :

- If the probability value of more than > 0.05 , then H₀ is accepted.
- If the probability value of less than < 0.05 , then H₀ is rejected.

Result of hypothesis testing is also to determine whether early adolescence learners have good ability of pronunciation than mid adolescence learners.

3. Findings

Table one

Items number	rhitung	rtabel	Explanation
1	0.283	0.2542	Valid
2	0.251	0.2542	Invalid
3	0.194	0.2542	Invalid
4	0.478	0.2542	Valid
5	-0.088	0.2542	Invalid
6	0.233	0.2542	Invalid
7	0.412	0.2542	Valid
8	0.351	0.2542	Valid
9	0.479	0.2542	Valid
10	0.182	0.2542	Invalid
11	0.160	0.2542	Invalid
12	0.518	0.2542	Valid
13	0.538	0.2542	Valid
14	0.190	0.2542	Invalid
15	0.261	0.2542	Valid
16	0.528	0.2542	Valid
17	0.140	0.2542	Invalid
18	0.277	0.2542	Valid
19	0.279	0.2542	Valid
20	0.469	0.2542	Valid
21	0.268	0.2542	Valid
22	0.383	0.2542	Valid
23	0.227	0.2542	Invalid
24	0.407	0.2542	Valid
25	0.254	0.2542	Invalid

The validity of the views from value of rhitung compared to the value of rtabel. To search rtabel is use a significance of 5% or 0.05 with (n) 58 because, the number of student is 58 students. Then, will get the value of rtabel 0.2542. From the result of table above, show that the value of item_1 is 0.283, item_2 is 0.251, item_3 is 0.194, item_4 is 0.478, item_5 is -0.088, item_6 is 0.233, item_7 is 0.412, item_8 is 0.351, item_9 is 0.479, item_10 is 0.182, item_11 is 0.160, item_12 is 0.518, item_13 is 0.538, item_14 is 0.190, item_15 is 0.261, item_16 is 0.528, item_17 is 0.140, item_18 is 0.277, item_19 is 0.279, item_20 is 0.469, item_21 is 0.268, item_22 is 0.383, item_23 is 0.227, item_24 is 0.407, and the last item_25 is 0.254.

From the result above, it means that item 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22 and 24 are valid because rhitung is higher than rtabel or > 0.2542 and the other items likes item 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 17, 23, 25 are invalid because rhitung is lower than rtabel or < 0.2542 .

Table two

Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.612	.614	25

4. Discussion

The purpose of this study is to compare the pronunciation error result between junior high school students and senior high school students and to determine whether early adolescence learners have good ability of pronunciation than mid adolescence learners. From the result of pronunciation test in this study show that value of senior high school students more higher than value of junior high school students. Senior high school students also have error of pronunciation less than junior high school students. So, from the result of this study show that senior high school students as mid adolescence learners have the ability of pronunciation better than junior high school students as early adolescence learners. According to Snow and Hoefnagel – Hohle (1978), stated that studies that have compared learners in natural settings after relatively short periods of time have found that older starters usually outperform younger starters. According to Neurology Penfils and Roberts (1959), found that the ability of older children to learn a language can be explained by the flexibility of the brain.

5. Conclusion

Based on the result of research on test pronunciation of the vowel sounds in English that is done on the junior high school students namely VII A class and senior high school students namely X MIPA 7 class, some errors of pronunciation in junior high school students are contained in the word Love, Voice, Become, Helpful, Great, Student and Because. While some errors of pronunciation in senior high school students are on the word Love, Hair, Become, Helpful and Great.

At the word "Love", which supposedly uses vowel / \square / and pronounced to / l \square v /, mostly junior and senior high school students pronounced the word without change and still pronounced be / love / like the original word. This is because students are used to pronounce the word as in the original word and the students do not know how to correct pronunciation. At the word "Voice", using the vowel / \square i / and should be pronounced / v \square is /. Mostly junior and senior high school students pronounce the word be / vois /. This is because students do not know about vowel sound / \square i /. At the word "Become", students almost correct pronunciation. Most errors students is that they do not use the vowel / I / in order to / bI'kam / but they use the / i / so that pronunciation into / bikam /. This is because students do not know about the vowel / I /. At the word "Helpful", the correct pronunciation is becoming / helpf Θ l / using the vowel / Θ /. But, in the pronunciation of the word, the pronunciation of the students have not changed and they pronounce the word remains a / helpful /. This is because students do not know that it should on the spoken word using the vowel / Θ /. So is the word "Great", "Student", "Because", "Hair". The word "Great", it should be pronounced as / greit / using the vowel / ei /. But the students are still wrong in pronouncing the word as the pronunciation of students into / grit /. At the word "Student", pronunciation errors of students are mostly students pronounce the word remains a / student /, even some that became / stadent /. The correct pronunciation is to be /'scu:dent /. This is because the students are used to pronounce the word "student" as the original and unchanged. Students also do not know how to correct the pronunciation of the word. At the word "Because". The students pronounce the word be / bikauz /, use vowel sound / au /. The correct pronunciation is / bi'k \square z /. And the last word is "Hair", the correct pronunciation is / he Θ r /. Students almost correct pronunciation. It's just that the word should be pronounce using a vowel / e Θ / and students pronounce the word with / e /.

After knowing and analyzing the pronunciation errors that occur in students, it can be concluded that the error pronunciation occur to students because most students do not know enough about the vowels that exist in English. Therefore, students can not distinguish the words that should be pronounced with a short vowel and the word that should be pronounced with a long vowel. Students also do not know some words that should changed in pronunciation.

6. Suggestion

a. For teacher :

Teachers should be more to teach and train students about vowel sounds in English. Teachers also need more frequent to improve students' pronunciation is still a lot of mistakes, especially in the vowel / \square /, / ei /, / u: /, / \square i /, / I /, / \square /, / e Θ / and / Θ / of how the correct pronunciation.

b. For student :

Students must improve their pronunciation errors. To correct pronunciation and train them to be better, students can practice using dictionaries, see the video on the internet about way correct pronunciation, or can also learn about some vowel sounds on the internet.

c. For other researcher :

- With some limitations to this study, to other researchers who will conduct similar studies are expected to conduct similar research further by taking more population and sample that not only do the junior and senior high school level but at the level of higher education such as at the University and not only in the english department but can also in other department.

- To the other researchers who will conduct similar research studies that focus not only on the vowel sounds but also on consonant sounds. So, can find a more optimal results and can be generalized to a larger area.

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