

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a brief explanation of five main points which complete chapter one as introduction. The five points are background of the study, statements of research problem, objectives of the study, significant of study, and scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of Study

English is an international language. According to Crystal (2003), language achieves a genuinely global status when it develops a special role that is recognized in every country. Crystal believed that such role will be most evidence in countries where large number of people speak the language as a mother-tongue, in this case of English, this would mean the USA, Canada, Britannia, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, south of Africa, several Caribbean countries and sprinklings of other territories.

Another reason why English becomes an international language is explained by Crystal in 2003. Crystal believed that English spread throughout the world and diversified throughout the major area in which it is spoken. It means that English is used in many events in the world. One of the examples is in sports.

When we talk about sport, there are many kinds of sport, such as football, horseracing, boxing and others. Generally, sport has close relationship to the competition. Sport exists in international competition such as international football world championship tournament (FIFA World Cup). Many countries that

citizenize English as a mother tongue and as second language are gathering in this competition.

In the competition, there is one important element needed, which is called commentator. All sport competitions have commentators who are commenting something during the competition. Commonly, commentators speak quickly when they perform their job.

Sometimes, speak quickly has close relationship to the changing sounds. When talking about changing sound in rapid speech, the term of phonological process always comes to our minds. There are four kinds of phonological process, such as deletion, elision, insertion, assimilation and dissimilation. The writer is interested in analyzing one of phonological process that is assimilation.

There were some linguists who analyzed assimilation phenomena. They were Nagmeh Mirzaie Hosseinzadeh, Zahra Ehsani, Mansour Shariati, and Gohar Sharafi in the 2014 who observed about assimilation of consonant in Enghlid, an Iranian dialect. Admire Phiri, Progress Dube, and Zvinashe Mamvura in 2015 who observed consonant assimilation in Isindebele. Hamada Shehdeh Abid Dawood and Dr. Ahmad Atawneh in 2015 who observed about assimilation of consonants in English and assimilation of the Definite article in Arabic.

Other examples of former studies such as were done by Joaquin Romero (1996), Reiko Akahane-Yamada, Rieko Kubo, Sonja A. Trent, Kanae Nishi and James J. Jenkins (1998), David W. Gow Jr. and Aaron M.im (2004), Pierre A. Halle, Natalie D. Snoeren and Juan Segui (2008), Pavlik (2009), Sen-ling Lin (2012), Alice Y. W. Chan (2013), Margaret E. L. Renwick, Ladan Baghai-Ravary, Rosalind Temple and John S. Coleman (2013), Naghmeh Mirzaie Hosseinzadeh,

Zahra Ehsani, Mansour Shariati, and Gohar Sharifi (2014), Ayesha Zia (2014), Hamada Shede Abid Dawood and Dr. Ahmad Atawneh (2015), Peter Halasz and Hana Vancova (2015), Kingsley Cyril Mintah (2015), Admire Phiri, Progress Dube, and Zvinashemamvura (2015), Aisyah Filza Fuadi (2016). All of them observed phenomena of phonology and phonetic, particularly assimilation. However, none of them analyzed assimilation in the sport's world. Moreover, there was no linguist who analyzed commentator's utterance in sports, particularly in the "International Horse Racing Championship".

"International Horse Racing Championship" was chosen to be the subject of the study, because the presenters use English in rapid speech when they are commenting during the competition. "International Horse Racing Championship" is one of the famous racing horse championships in the world. This championship is the competition of the international high-class jockey in the world. Besides, this program is suitable to be the source of data, since, some international channels in the world broadcast this event. The last, there are many data of assimilation found in this competition. The one of example, as will he / wɪl/ /hi:/ pronounce as / wɪl/ /li:/.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Based on the background of study, this research discusses assimilation in the commentators' speech on "International Horse Racing". The questions formulated as follows:

1. What are the degrees of similarity of the assimilant to the assimilator found in the commentators' speech on "International Horse Racing"?
2. What are the directions of influence one feature on another feature found in the commentators' speech on "International Horse Racing"?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study explain the answers of the questions revealed in the statements of the research problem. The objectives of study are:

1. To explain the degrees of similarity of the assimilant to the assimilator found in the commentators' speech on "International Horse Racing Championship".
2. To explain the directions of influence one feature on another feature found in the commentators' speech on "International Horse Racing Championship".

1.4 Significances of the Study

There are two benefits of this research namely theoretical and practical benefit. First is theoretically, the result of this analysis is able to give better explanation and understanding about assimilation, particularly in English. Moreover, this analysis expected to give contribution for scholars to be a reference for further research that is related to theory of phonology and phonetic, focus in the assimilation phenomenon. Practically, this research is expected to assist people to understand well about assimilation, focusing on English. On the other hand, the goal of this research is expected to help the viewer of Horse Racing Competition to avoid wrong perception and make easy understanding.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer focuses on the theory of phonetic and phonology to make specify and avoid the broad investigation. As we know that both of them have close relation with sound production. This research limits the data from on the utterances or conversations that contain assimilation sound of the commentators of “International Horse Racing Championship” focusing on the prime competition of the four videos as 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 period. Those are the great and famous Horse Racing in the world as Race Dubai World Cup 2013, 2014 Juddmonte international Stakes Australian Racing UK, 2015 Juddmonte Dubai World Cup, and 2016 Juddmonte International Postponed (IRE) edition.