

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters, namely background of the study, statements of the research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study and scope and limitation of the study. Those subchapters are necessary to be explained because they describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of The Study

Phonology is the branch of linguistics which studies about the sound system of a language. The sub point of phonology is phonological processes and phonological features. There are many phonological processes like adding sound and deleting sound.

One of the sound deletions is consonant cluster reduction. Consonant cluster is found when two or more consonant sounds come together (Hewings, 1993). When deleted one or more consonants occur it is called as consonant clusters reduction (Crowley & Bower, 1977). Commonly, consonant cluster occurred in English language like *hand* and *handgrip*, the *hand* is read as [hæn] than [hænd] in this case the clusters of [nd] are lost. English learners reduced consonant cluster, especially when they read in English (Yuliati, 2014). Because of that this study is concerned about consonant clusters reduction of students of English department of University of Tronojoyo Madura when they are reading English.

Consonant cluster reduction is a unique phenomenon especially in non-native speakers because they do not have consonant clusters reduction as in Indonesian language (Green, 2002). They use the mother language in every day speech. It is why this phenomenon often occurs for them, especially when they are reading English. Mostly, they reduced the consonant clusters of the words in English when they read such as *impact* became ['ɪmpæk] than ['ɪmpækt] and *respect* became ['rɪspæk] than ['rɪspækt].

Non-native speakers English as a second language might find it difficult to produce certain sounds or words in English. For example, some words which exist in English do not exist in other languages such as in Indonesian. Because of that the Indonesian learners of English still use the articulation of Indonesian language and they have long time to practice the English language in certain ways.

Non-native English using mother tongue and L1 interference when they speak and it is make an impact to the second language in the learning process of that. Mostly, they will reduce the consonant cluster such as *husband* became ['hʌzbən], the /nd/ cluster are reduced. It is the impact of L1 interference to the second language when they learn it.

English learners produced English words as their first language (Jenkins, 2000). Because of that English learners made an error a consonant clusters when they speak and read English words. Non-native speakers will generally reduce a consonant cluster not only when making speech in formal but also when they speech with their friends (Green, 2002).

In English, final consonant clusters have the plural and past forms. For example the using of /s/ to show the plural and /d/ to show the past forms. The

types of these suffixes are difficult to produce of non-native speaker as English learners. These speakers reduced them in their speech even though some suffixes are needed to show the plural and past forms (Green, 2002).

The plural and past forms are the problems of English learners. As the result, they reduced them in their speech (Alip, 2007). Non-native speakers such as English learners will be difficult to produce the words *contexts* and *wasps*. In these words they tend to delete or reduce some consonants, as they pronounce them as ['kɒntek] and [wɒs] (Alip, 2007).

In English, consonant clusters have three rules which function as the first onset syllable, the first is /s/, the second is one of the voiceless stop consonants /p/, /t/, or /k/ and the third consonant is one of these “approximants /l/, /r/, /w/, or /j/”. According to Crowley & Bown (1977) consonant clusters reduction occurs in the middle and the final of words in English.

The process in which the consonant group or clusters, which is composed of two or three consonant sounds, is reduced to a single consonant sound is called a consonant cluster reduction process. The illustrated of this process is CC (Consonant and Consonant) became C (Consonant). However, there are differences in pronunciation between the native and non-native speakers of English, this different pronunciation is called as phonological processes.

Mostly, English learners who reduced consonant clusters are African English or non-native English. It is noted when they speak such as the *nt* clusters in words *paint* and *pint* are reduced. In auxiliaries, the *n't* cluster in *ain't*, *can't* and *don't* are not usually fully produced, so the words are pronounced as [ain'], [cain'] and [don'], without the final *t* (Green, 2002).

The writer has three reasons to take the data from *English Words Containing Consonant Cluster Produced by English Department Student of University of Trunojoyo Madura* when they read the short story entitled *Miriam* by *Troman Capote* to be the source of the data. The first is the students of English Department are non-native speakers of English. The second is some of the students of English Department still use Madurese accent. The third is the students of English Department do not speak English fluently.

From this phenomenon, there are some examples of consonant cluster reductions of English in the middle and final words:

- (1) Hand became [hæn]
- (2) Postman became [pəʊsman]
- (3) Handgrip became [hæŋgrip]

Mostly, the speakers of non-native English reduced a consonant clusters which follows by the consonant (Green, 2002). Consonant cluster reduction is strongly inhibited when a subsequent phonological segment beginning with vowel such as the final *t* in *left* more likely to be deleted in *I left the house* than in *I left a tip*.

However, the writer finds two related previous studies about consonant clusters reduction. The first is Yulianti (2014), she analyzed Final Consonant Clusters Simplification by Indonesian Learners of English and Its Intelligibility in International Context. The second is Fang-Chi Chang (2004), he analyzed Chinese-Speaking EFL Learners' Performances of Processing English Consonant Clusters. These studies didn't either discuss about the types of consonant cluster reduction or what makes the cluster reductions occur in English Department

Students of University of Trunojoyo Madura. Therefore, this study plays an important role in the discussion issues about consonant cluster reduction which occurs in English learners especially in English Department Students of University of Trunojoyo Madura.

1.2 Statements of The Problems

Related to the description of the background of the study above, the writer would like to formulate the problems as follow:

1. What are the types of consonant cluster reduction found in *English Words Containing Consonant Cluster Produced by English Department Student of University of Trunojoyo Madura?*
2. What are the factors that cause consonant cluster reductions occur in *English Words Containing Consonant Cluster Produced by English Department Student of University of Trunojoyo Madura?*

1.3 Objective of The study

Related to the statements of the research problem above, this study has several objectives, they are:

1. To explain the types of consonant cluster reduction applied in *English Words Containing Consonant Cluster Produced by English Department Student of University of Trunojoyo Madura*
2. To explain the factors that cause consonant cluster reduction occur in *English Words Containing Consonant Cluster Produced by English Department Student of University of Trunojoyo Madura*

1.4 Significances of The Study

The significances of this study are to provide theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, this study is hoped to give understanding to the readers about consonant cluster reduction. The result of this study is expected to be one of the references to the next researchers who are interested to analyze the same source of data or use the same theory of this study.

Practically this study is hoped to be one of the references for the English students of University of Trunojoyo Madura especially the students who take linguistics as their major. This study can develop their knowledge about the types and the cause of consonant cluster reduction. This study is also useful for the English students of University of Trunojoyo Madura who are interested in consonant cluster reduction and take the data from *English Words Containing Consonant Cluster*.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

The scope of this study is in phonological process of consonant cluster reduction which focuses on the type of consonant cluster reduction and the factors that make the consonant cluster reduction occurs in pronunciation of English Department Student of University of Trunojoyo Madura. In addition, the limitation of this study is *English Words Containing Consonant Cluster Produced by English Department Student of University of Trunojoyo Madura* when they are reading short story entitled Miriam by Troman Capote.