

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Introduction is used by the writer to give the issue that will be appointed. This chapter presents about the background of the study, research questions, scope and limit of the research, and definition of the key terms.

#### **A. Research Background**

To make an effective communication, people should understand what interlocutors said. As Katty Walker, et.al said in the book “*Communication Basic*” that we send 100 to 300 messages a day. These includes the message we intend to send, the message we actually send, the message as the hearer interprets it, the response of the hearer based on what he or she heard, and our reaction to exchange of words, meaning, and interpretation.<sup>1</sup> This means that the interlocutors are able to response the message if the speakers’ speech is intelligible.

Communication occurs whenever two or more individuals using a socially shared or biologically shared signal system send and receive a message.<sup>2</sup> It means that the core of communication is the message. In addition, the message in face-to-face communication is conveyed from body

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<sup>1</sup> A member of The University of Maine System, “*Effective communication*” (The University of Maine Cooperative Extension: May 8 and June 30, 1914 ), 1

<sup>2</sup> University of Arkansas, “when does the communication occur?”, ([comp.uark.edu/.../Communication/.../Microsoft%20Word%20-%20When%20Does%20the%20Communication%20Occur%20.docx](http://comp.uark.edu/.../Communication/.../Microsoft%20Word%20-%20When%20Does%20the%20Communication%20Occur%20.docx)), accessed on April 8, 2014)

language (50%), tone of voice (40%), words (10%).<sup>3</sup> It means that the listener or the interlocutor can understand the speaker's utterance from body language when they are doubt in recognizing the words.

On the other hand, when the speaker and the listener do not meet each other, the listeners can base their judgements only on the words they hear.<sup>4</sup> This allows speakers to produce utterance clearly. Consequently, it can reduce the misinterpretation of the listener, and the utterance can be recognized correctly. In this case, intelligibility can have important role. According to Smith and Nelson the term "intelligibility" refers to recognition of words and other sentence-level elements of utterances.<sup>5</sup> Hence, it is needed to conduct this research which the speakers and the listeners do not meet each other. In this case, the speakers are students who take speaking class 4. They are chosen to be investigated because they are in the last step of speaking class. They have passed speaking 1, speaking 2, and speaking 3. Thus, English have been exposure for them. Meanwhile, the listeners are native English speakers since they are the excellent and reliable raters in measuring intelligibility of speech utterance.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Andrew Triganza Scott., MBA, M.Ed, BPsy, PGCE, *Types of Communication*,

<sup>4</sup> National Pharmacy Association – "Telephone Communication",  
([http://www.npa.co.uk/documents/docstore/nms/revised/telephone\\_communication.pdf](http://www.npa.co.uk/documents/docstore/nms/revised/telephone_communication.pdf)., accessed on April 9, 2014)

<sup>5</sup> Taesung Kim, "Accentedness, Intelligibility, Comprehensibility, and Interpretcompetence of NNESTs". *Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center*. CATESOL Journal 20.1, 2008, 2

<sup>6</sup> Wang Hongyan, Doctoral Dissertation: English as....., 25

Besides, for establishing intelligibility, some factors needed to be fixed such as pronunciation, stress, intonation, and the vowel and consonant sounds of English. On the other hand, besides pronunciation problems, other reasons of comprehensibility seemed to create misunderstandings related to cross-cultural pragmatic issues of, English fluency, and grammatical, cultural, and socio-linguistic aspects.<sup>7</sup> Those aspects will reflect when someone is speaking. When speakers want to speak English fluently, it is crucial for them to be able to pronounce phoneme correctly, use appropriate stress and intonation patterns and speak in connected speech.<sup>8</sup>

Speaking in this context is speaking English which is as an international language. Students in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, especially who study on English Teacher Education Department have English as foreign language. Whereas, for examining the speech production of foreign accent, there are found some factors such as age effect, experience effect, and transfer from native language.<sup>9</sup> This means that foreign accent is had by non native speaker. In addition, adult learners of non-native speaker may be more difficult to learn English especially in learning pronunciation than child learners of non native speakers. Lenneberg theorizes states that “the

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<sup>7</sup> Mi-Young Jung, The Intelligibility and Comprehensibility to Non-Native Speakers, *Journal of Pan-Pacific Association of Applied Linguistics*, 14(2), 2010, 141-163

<sup>8</sup> Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Language Teaching, Fourth Edition* (England: Pearson Education Limited, 2007), 343

<sup>9</sup> Wang Hongyan, Doctoral Dissertation: “*English as Lingua Franca: Mutual Intelligibility of Chinese, Dutch, and American Speakers of English*” (Netherlands: University of Leiden, 2007), 17-19

acquisition of language is an innate process determined by biological factors which limit the critical period for acquisition of a language from roughly two years of age to puberty”.<sup>10</sup>

When people learn a foreign language (L2), especially after puberty, they do not normally acquire native pronunciation in the new language. They will typically speak the foreign language with an accent, which is often the result of substituting phonemes and/or allophones of the native language (L1) for sounds that are needed in the foreign language.<sup>11</sup> In this case, this research investigated the students in the fourth semester of English Teacher Education Department who are included in adult learners because their age is between 19 – 22 years old. That means they may not learn English language as good as when they were in their childhood. However, they are intensively learning English for four semesters in English Teacher Education Department. Hence, their speech must be fluent, and the words utterance is easily to be recognized by native English speakers.

Meanwhile, a study titles “*An Exploratory Study of Pronunciation Intelligibility in the Brazilian Learners’ English*” focusing on the segmental features of pronunciation, consonant, vowel, epenthesis, and word stress. This study analyzed the consonant error, vowel error, epenthesis error, and word

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<sup>10</sup> Mehmet Nuri GÖMLEKSİZ, “The Effect of Age and Motivation Factors on Second Language Acquisition”. *Firat University Journal of Social Science*. 11 Sayı: 2, Sayfa:217-224, ELAZIĞ-2001, 2

<sup>11</sup> Wang Hongyan, Doctoral Dissertation: “English as a lingua franca: Mutual intelligibility of Chinese, Dutch and American speakers of English” (The Netherlands: University of Amsterdam, 2007), 10

stress error that can affect the intelligibility of the Brazilian learners to native speakers. The result of this study showed that the word stress made the unintelligibility pronunciation of the Brazilian learners although the native speakers had familiarized with Brazilian accent.<sup>12</sup>

In addition, the communication among Non-native speakers and Native speakers may be different because of their language background. The language background can influence the intelligibility of speech by the non native speaker for non native listener from either same or different language background. There is previous study conducted about inter-language benefit by the title “*The Inter-language Speech Intelligibility Benefit*”. The result of this research showed that native English speakers was the most intelligible for native English listeners, and for non native listener, the non native speakers with high proficiency from the same language background were as intelligible as native speakers. However, non native speakers who were from different language background were unintelligible for non-native listeners.<sup>13</sup>

Different from the previous studies presented above, this research aims to examine the level of intelligibility of speech production of students in the speaking class 4 of English Teacher Education Department, to examine the students’ competence in transcription, and to know the correlation between

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<sup>12</sup> Neide Cesar CRUZ, “An Exploratory Study of Pronunciation Intelligibility in the Brazilian Learners’ English”. *The ESPecialist*, vol. 24, nº 2 (155-175) 2003

<sup>13</sup> Tessa Bent and Ann R. Bradlow, “The Inter-language Speech Intelligibility Benefit”. *Acoustical Society of America*. Vol. 114, No. 3, September 2003

the level of speech intelligibility and the competence in transcription. It is necessary to conduct this research since it will give information about the level of speech intelligibility based on native speakers' perception in rating scale. In addition, by investigating the correct word transcription written, it will be known the competence in transcription. Finally, the correlation between level of intelligibility and the competence of transcription can be investigated.

## **B. Research Questions**

Based on the background of the study above, this study focuses to answer the following questions.

1. What is the students' level intelligibility of speech production based on native speakers' perception?
2. How is the students' competence of transcription?
3. Is there any correlation between the student's level of intelligibility and the student's competence in transcription?

## **C. Objectives of the Research**

Based on the background of the study above, this study has the objective of the following.

1. To examine the level of speech intelligibility of the students in speaking class 4 English Teacher Education Department by using the native speakers' judgment in the form of rating scale.
2. To examine the competence of transcription of the students in speaking class 4 of English Teacher Education Department by finding the transcription score.
3. To predict the correlation between the level of speech intelligibility and the competence of transcription of the students in speaking class 4 of English Teacher Education Department.

#### **D. Hypothesis**

There are two kinds of hypothesis made in this research,

1. Alternative hypothesis ( $H_A$  or  $H_1$ ) says that the students' level of speech intelligibility has correlation to the students' competence of transcription.
2. Null hypothesis ( $H_o$  or  $H_0$ ) says that the students' level of speech intelligibility does not have correlation to the students' competence of transcription.

#### **E. Significance of the Research**

The researcher expects that this study can bring benefit for students, lectures, and further researcher. The significance is mentioned bellow.

1. For the students especially who take speaking class 4 of English Teacher Education Department, the researcher hopes that from this research, they will know the level of speech intelligibility and competence of transcription. The students are expected to be aware for improving their speaking English competences, especially in term of intelligibility that influences the quality of the speech production. Because it is about native listeners' perception, the researcher hopes that they will more confident to speak with native speakers
2. For the English lecturers, this research is expected able to give the information about the students' level of speech intelligibility and the factors of being intelligible or not intelligible, so they can apply a new strategy in teaching and give more practice in pronunciation to improve the level of the students' intelligibility. In addition, the lectures are expected to motivate the students in order to speak English more fluently.
3. For further researcher, recently there is no research concerning in intelligibility in English Teacher Education Department. Therefore, it can be as beginning to conduct search concerning in intelligibility, and the researcher hopes that there will be another research concerning in intelligibility in different aspect especially which is located in State Islamic University Sunan Ampel, so the research about intelligibility can get improvement.



## **F. Scope and Limits of the Research**

In this research the researcher focuses on the intelligibility of speech produced by the speakers. The theme of speech is Teaching English in Indonesia, and the speakers are given maximal two minutes. The measurement is based on the native English speakers' perception, and this kind of measurement is the subjective measurement.

The object of this study is the students' who take speaking class 4 in English Teacher Education Department. However, only class A is chosen as sample of this study. The writer chooses this object because as the students of English Teacher Education Department, they must have high intelligibility in producing the words and sentences. In addition, as the candidate of English teacher, intelligibility is something essential for them because they need to pronounce the words correctly when they give instruction and explain the materials. In addition, as the students in fourth semester of English Teacher Education Department, their speaking must be get easily understood by other people because they are in the last step of speaking class. They are in the speaking class 4. The previous step are speaking class 1, speaking class 2, and speaking class 3. Finally, this research is conducted at English Teacher Education Department of State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

## G. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid the ambiguity and misunderstanding of the readers to this study and to make the readers have the same concept, the researcher gives the key terms for this study. The terms are described below.

### 1. Speech intelligibility

Intelligibility is the recognition of a word or another sentence-level element of an utterance.<sup>14</sup> In addition, with respect to second language speech, it is defined as the degree to which a speaker's utterance is actually understood by listeners.<sup>15</sup> Therefore, in this case intelligibility is the speech which is produced by the students of English Teacher Education Department, and it measures by using the native speakers' perception in the form of rating scale.

### 2. Competence of Transcription

“Competence refers to one's underlying knowledge of a system, event, or fact”.<sup>16</sup> In addition, transcription is the typewritten version of dictation that is copied from one media to another.<sup>17</sup> In this case, competence of transcription is the knowledge of the students in transcribing the native

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<sup>14</sup> Yamuna Kachru - Larry E. Smith, *Cultures.....*, 61

<sup>15</sup> (Subtelny, 1977, Pennington, 1996, Munro and Derwing, 1995a) as cited in Jette G. Hansen Edwards and Mary L. Zampini, *Phonology and Second Language Acquisition* (Amsterdam : John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2008), 200.

<sup>16</sup> H. Douglas Brown, *Principle of Language Learning and Teaching, fifth edition*, (United States of America: Pearson Longman Inc., 2007), 35.

<sup>17</sup> --, What does Transcription Mean?, ([www.audioenglish.org](http://www.audioenglish.org) accessed on July 09<sup>th</sup> 2014)

speech in the written form in which the students do listening test in the fill in the blank form.

### 3. Native English speakers

Native English speakers are people who use English as their mother tongue.<sup>18</sup> In this case, the native speakers just stay for a while in Indonesia, and they cannot able to speak Indonesian.

### 4. Perception

Perception is how they are organized by the brain to give us any, if not the best chance of recognizing stimuli, particularly complex ones, such as speech or sign language.<sup>19</sup> In this case, the perception is the native speakers' opinion on students' intelligibility, and it is used for measuring the intelligibility.

### 5. Correlation

A correlation is a single number that describes the degree of relationship between two variables.<sup>20</sup> In this case, correlation is the relationship between level of speech intelligibility and competence of transcription.

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<sup>18</sup> Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice...*, 13

<sup>19</sup> California State University. "Perception and Language", ([http://www.csun.edu/~vcoao0el/de361/de361ov\\_folder/tsld010.htm](http://www.csun.edu/~vcoao0el/de361/de361ov_folder/tsld010.htm), accessed on April 10, 2014)

<sup>20</sup> William M.K. Trochim, <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/statcorr.php> accessed on August 13<sup>th</sup> 2014.