CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In phonology, every language has phonological rules. It classified into some major types of process that the language involve. One of them is phonological rules for assimilation process which occur in connected speech. The term assimilation according to Pavlik usually refers to contextual variability of speech sound, which is said to be caused by influence of one sound upon another. The process of assimilation is replacing one sound influenced by the next word which makes similar or same sound. Another process such as elision, juncture, linking, and construction are also met in fast or connected speech. The present of assimilation is the most common in daily speaking rather than the other phonological process. This process also often exists in fast speech. While someone's speaking, he or she may not realize that they say some words in once. Even in the most basic of English lessons, it cannot ignore the changes in pronunciation that occur within and between words due to their position with the next sounds. The fact said that there are many utterances which are not correct with the phonological process. Therefore, less understanding about phonology will influence in intepreting

¹ Radoslav Pavlik. *A Typology of Assimilations*. Department of English Language and Literature. Slovakia. vol. 59

the sound. Deeper understanding about pronunciation will help the students to improve skill especially in speaking.

Understanding assimilation also helps students to do communication with the native speaker. Communication is one of the activities that most often do around us. Sometimes the people do not pay attention how the word is produced while they are doing communication. Indirectly, it will make the listener difficult to get the point or our words. Moreover in fast speaking, the communication will not occur. In fact, people often judge someone from the way they speak. For example the students with poor pronunciation may be argued as incompetent, uneducated or lack in knowledge. The way of someone's speaking immediately conveys something about ourselves to the people around us. Such as students with good pronunciation in English are more likely to be understood even if they make errors in other areas, whereas students whose less pronunciation are difficult to understand will not understood, even if their grammar is perfect. Daniel said that it is important to remember that the pronunciation of English word is not governed by a strict set rules, most word have more than one pronunciation, and the speaker's choice of which to use depends on a wide range of factors. These include of degree of formality, the amount of background noise, the speed of utterance, the speaker's perception of the listener and the frequency with which the

speaker uses the word.² Learning phonology is very important furthermore for second learner acquisition.

There are many studies that assume assimilation is very helpful for improving students' fluency in speaking. The fluency of speaking always presents in connected or fast speech where the assimilation process is happen. It is proven by the common studies of assimilation is comparing between assimilation process which produced by native and non-native speaker. Assimilation is common phonological process in native speaker which bring the influence for the non-native speaker. Cuartero, in his research, compares voicing assimilation in Catalan and English. He found that the different both of them in voicing the word assimilation. From that research know that assimilation has influenced in non-native speaker.

The phenomenon of assimilation also happens in fourth semester students of English Teacher Education Department. They have taken phonology class and speaking class from level 1 to 4. In fourth semester they get the final speaking class. They must be good in speaking. Even, it should also be clear that the students in fourth semester in English Teacher Education Department can speak fluently, evenmore in fast speaking. In fact, when they do speaking performance in front of the class, their friends or the audiences still often get difficult to understand the point of their speech. Other

² Daniel Jones.edited by Peter Roach, James Hartman & Jane Setter.Cambridge English Pronunciation Dictionary.17th edition.Cambridge University Press.2008

evidences, the phenomenon can observe while students of English Teacher and Education Department are teaching in pre-service teaching class. Many students still have a problem with the fluency in their speaking. This show that there are problems in their speaking. Whether it is influenced by their mother tongue, their pronunciation, or self-confidence factors. English Teacher Education Department in UIN Sunan Ampel does not have specific class for pronunciation. The students of English Teacher Education Department only know a few about pronunciation in phonology class. They do not have a place to practice what they get in phonology. Beside that, UIN Sunan Ampel is the one of university that provides Education Department. It is important to get the best quality of the teacher in the future.

Based on the review above and remember that study of phonology is very essential in language learning. This research wants to analyze types of assimilation in students' speaking performance. The distinguish with the previous study above, this research will focus on non-native speakers or the students of English Teacher Education Department. Furthermore the researcher also wants to classify the assimilation which produced by students of English Teacher Education at speaking class in UIN Sunan Ampel. This study is also purposed for knowing more the causes of students' difficulty in producing assimilation process in their speech..

B. Research Question

- 1. What are the types of assimilation that produced by students in speaking class for fourth semester students of English Teacher Education Department at UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya?
- 2. What are the causes of assimilation difficult to produce by students in speaking class for fourth semester students of English Teacher Education Department at UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya?

C. Objectives of the Study

- To describe and to classify the types of assimilation in speaking class
 for fourth semester students of English Teacher Education
 Department at UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.
- To know the causes of assimilation difficult to produce by students in speaking class for fourth semester students of English Teacher Education Department at UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

D. Significance of the Study

The significant of this study are:

a. Theoretical:

This research can give contribution to the students of ESL in a correct analysis of types assimilation which produced by students at speaking class of English Teacher Education Department in UIN Sunan Ampel.

b. Practical:

This research can help the lecturer to recognize the students' difficult with the types of assimilation which produced by the students in Speaking Class for Fourth Semester students of English Teacher Education Department at UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The research is focused on types of assimilation in speaking class. The researcher will observe the type assimilation of the students in speaking. The target of the students is the fourth semesters.

The limitation of the object is the students of English Teacher Education Department at fourth semester students in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. This research is also focused on E speaking for formal class with thirty students. The research will know the process assimilation of English Education and Teacher Department students with the representative of all speaking for formal class. The data is the record of students' speaking performance which had set in mp3 format.

F. Definition of Key Term

Assimilation = is a process how to voice the sound in phonology when the sound of segment is influenced by the next word or the word before it makes the sound is similar or even same. It can also say the process of assimilation is how the word assimilates caused by combining of two words based on some certain phonemes. Assimilation is the utterance which is influenced by two kinds of certain phonemes then can create same, similar, even new sound. For the example: the phoneme /t/ meet the phoneme /k/ in the words fruit cake is assimilation becoming [fru:k.keik]. The phonemes which belong to assimilation are mentioned in phonological rules.

Auditory phonetics = is one of the branch of phonetics which study on how perception of the sound. Auditory phonetics is as the analysis type in this study. The researcher uses an analysis which belongs to auditory phonetics.