

An Analysis of Pronunciation Errors Made by Indonesian Singers in Singing English Song on Youtube

Murti Bandung¹, Syamsuriyana Muchlas²

¹bandungmurti91@gmail.com, ²syamsuryana2@gmail.com

^{1,2}IAIN Samarinda

Abstract: This research was aimed to know the errors of pronunciation made by Indonesian singers in singing English song on YouTube. The subjects are singers in the age range of 18 to 25 years old. The researcher found 4 Indonesian singers on YouTube which are famous and have a good voice. This research used qualitative method. To collect the data, the researcher searched an American singer on Google, then found a good song and the lyrics on YouTube. Listen to the original music several times and then try to find the Indonesian singers who covered the same song, the last is listen to their singing and analyze it. The researcher found 14 words that were mispronounced by the Indonesian singers on their YouTube channel. There were 8 consonants, they were /θ/, /ð/, /dʒ/, /d/, /v/, /c/, /s/, /p/, and 2 vowels that mispronounced by them, They were /ɪ/, and /æ/. There were several causes that affect their pronunciation. In this research, the researcher hopes that this research can make the singers, students, teachers, etc, to improve their pronunciation skill.

Keywords: pronunciation errors, error analysis, English song

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language in the world. English is a foreign language in Indonesia. The position of English in Indonesia is so important because it is including in junior and senior high school. But, actually, English is treated only become one of materials in the school and for communication tool. English has 4 skills, they are: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing.

Especially for Speaking, Speaking is the second skill of the four language skills in English. There is a lot of people need to learn Speaking in English. Because they need to have a good communication when they speak with the teacher who uses English when they teach, speak with the foreigner when they go to abroad, to improve our speaking in English, we can be singing English and imitating what the singer say is. To support the voice when singing a song in English, we need to have a good pronunciation, because pronunciation is a part of speaking and it has difference between symbol and sounds. Based on Harmer (2000) stated that for all those people being made aware of pronouncitaion issues will be of immense benefit, not only their own production but also understanding of spoken English. It is difficult to Indonesian people pronounce English words correctly, it is becuase the difference between their mother tongue and the English. We can see the singer sings a song in English but their pronunciation is

bad. It becomes a weakness for the singer. Richards et.al. In Masari, (1999) stated that error in speech or writing as second or foreign language learners is the use of linguistic item (e.g. a word, a grammatical item, a speech act, etc.) in this way which a fluent or native speaker of the language regards as showing faulty or uncompleted learning. Error in the acquiring process is unavoidable and making errors is part of learning (Dulay, Burt & Krashen, 1982).¹

Pronunciation is a complex area, with a lot of sub skills that can be practiced. The basic rule of thumb is that an average speaker can speak and be understood. But, the researcher realizes that a lot of people are wrong to pronounce the words in English. Phonology is an aspect of linguistics which studies the sound system of language (Crystal, 1985).² Pronunciation is the choice of sounds used in forming words (Carrel & William, 1960:4).³ Furthermore, pronunciation is the way in which a language spoken; the way in which a word pronounce; they way a person speaks the words language (Hornby, 1995). When someone is wrong to pronounce a word in English, it will be different meaning. From Ellis (1997) statement, it could be underline that something false that someone mad because of his or her unknownn was defined as error and mistake is someones' knowledge about something but her or she was unable to perform it.

Regarding the International Phonetic Alphabet or Science, (Oden, 2005, p. 39) English consists of 28 vowels and 58 consonants. Vocals It is divided into single notes or pure vowels and double notes. among them Pure vowels in English have six pairs of vowels Called short vowels and long vowels, namely /ɪ/, /e/, /æ/, /ʌ/, /ɒ/, /ʊ/ Also called short vowels, long vowels are also called /i/, /ɜ/, /ɑ/, /ɔ/, /u/, /ɔ:/ (Roach, 2000 14-19). Delahunty & Garvey (2004, p. 8) said air flow in the mouth is not obstructed. Vocal differences produce high quality through various mouth shapes. Typical vocals Quality depends on (a) the height of the tongue in the mouth; (b) part Protruding tongue (front, middle or back); (c) lip shape; and (D) Oral muscle tension.

In addition, a song based on Peake (1980) is a piece of music for accompanied or unaccompanied voice or voices or, the act of art of singing, but generally not used for large

¹ Dulay, Heidi, Marina, B. & Stephen, K, *Language Two* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982) Google Books.

² David, C. *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell Ltd, 1985) Google Books.

³ James, C and William, R.T. *Phonetics: Theory and Application to Speech Improvement*. (New York: Mc. Graw- Hill Book Company.,1960) Google Books.

vocal forms including opera and oratorio. There are some songs could be quite complex in syntactically, lexically, and poetically, also it could be analyzed in the same way as any other literary sample. So, this research focuses only on the English song that is being sung by the Indonesian singers. In this research all the suprasegmentally features such as stress, tone and intonation are excluded, since in songs these features are used in the music to make it more attractive or emphasize the meaning of the lyrics. The researcher only focuses on the words which deal with the production of the English sounds. All the psychological or emotional factors are also excluded since the subjects are just simply singing the songs. In this study the researcher uses the Standard American English form because it is mostly used by the Indonesian. The researcher investigates the error by watching several Indonesian singers in YouTube who sing a song in English. The subjects are singers in the age range of 18 to 25 years old.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the descriptive qualitative method. The researcher wants to show the errors in the table that are done by the Indonesian singers. This study focuses to elaborate the pronunciation errors made by the Indonesian singers in their YouTube channel performance. The researcher will show the words, the correct, and the wrong pronunciation from the subjects of the research.

The main subjects of this study are Youtubers that always cover the songs in their YouTube channel. The researcher chooses several Indonesian singers who have a lot of subscribers and a good voice. The activity that the researcher did was an analysis. In this analysis, the researcher tried to collect data as many as possible. The researcher watched the Indonesian singers' videos on YouTube. The researcher watched the native singer who is the original or real singer of the song that is sung by Indonesian singers. The researcher used Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary 4th edition written by Victoria Bull (2018) and U-Dictionary tools to analyze the data.

The main data for this research were gathered through following procedures. The first, the researcher searched an American singer on Google. There is a lot of American singers, but the researcher would choose one of them. The second, after the researcher has found the singer. The researcher chose one song which was interesting to analyze. The third, the researcher searched the lyric song on YouTube which is sung by the real singer that is bad liar – imagine dragon, then tried to listen it carefully with headset many times. The fourth, the researcher chose

4 Indonesian singers who are famous and have a lot of subscribers. The last, the researcher listened to their singing while noting the pronunciation errors made by them one by one.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher chose a song which was sung by 4 Indonesian singers. There were 14 words that were miss pronounce made by Indonesian singers in singing English song on YouTube. The researcher took 4 Indonesian singers, they are Eltasya Natasha, Hanin Dhiya, Putri Ariani, Fera Chocolatos. The errors consisted of two categories; they were the consonant errors, the vowel errors. Hence, the vowels in English are divided into two types of vowels, such as long vowels and short vowels. On long vowel consist of /i:/, /ə:/, /a:/, /u:/, /o:/, while in short vowel consist of /i/, /e/, /æ/, /ə/, /ʌ/, /u/, /o/. Beside the two kinds of vowels, there are also diphthongs. Based on Syafei (1988) diphthong is a sound composed of two vowels pronounced in close succession within the limits of syllable. There are eight English diphthongs, /ei/, /ai/, /oi/, /au/, /oə/, /iə/, /uə/, /eə/. The English consonants consist of twenty-four. Those are /p/, /b/, t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /f/, /v/, /ð/, /θ/, /s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/, /h/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /l/, /r/, /w/, /y/.

This research has an aim. The aim is to find out the errors pronunciation made by Indonesian singers. In order to answer that question, the researcher applied two instruments: listen to their pronunciation in singing English song, the second instrument is analyzing the pronunciation errors made by them. The researcher reports and describes the data findings as follows:

Table 1. Using Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary⁴

No.	The Word	The Wrong One	The Correct One
1.	Dear	/Thir/	/ðə(r)/
2.	Darling	/Tharling/	/ðɑ:rlɪŋ/
3.	Three	/Tri/	/θri:/
4.	The	/De/di/	/ðə; ði/
5.	Did	/Thid/	/ðd/
6.	Thing	/Ting/	/θɪŋ/
7.	Asking	/Askin/	/æskɪŋ/
8.	Wage	/Weg/	/wedʒ/
9.	Breath	/Brid/	/breθ/
10.	Believe	/Bilif/	/b'li:v/
11.	Innocent	/Inezen/	/ˈnɒsənt/
12.	Faith	/Feit/	/feθ/
13.	Eyes	/Ais/	/ˈaɪz/
14.	Paradise	/Feredais/	/ˈpærədəs/

The following section below presents the discussion of the analysis of the types of pronunciation errors made by the subjects and the discussion about the causes of errors. Phonological error pertain to error in pronunciation. Phonological knowledge involves knowing what happens to words in fast or slow speech as opposed to more carefully articulated speech (Susan, 2008). Several words are the same errors that were sung by the singers. According to International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA, 2015) in Andesta, Imranudin and Syafrizal (2018) English has total consonants such as /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /f/, /v/, /s/, /z/, /ʒ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /θ/, /ð/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /h/, /l/, /r/, /w/, /j/. From these consonants, some exist in Bahasa Indonesia such as /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /f/, /v/, /s/, /z/, /m/, /n/, /h/, /r/, /w/, /j/, but some are not.⁵

All of the singers were wrong to pronounce the English consonants, such as /θ/, /ð/, those are called “th” sounds/interdental consonant. When they say the interdental consonant, they changed the sound to the t and d sounds.

⁴ Victoria, B, Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary. 4th ed., (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008)

⁵ Andesta, N, I, Imranuddin, Syafrizal S, “an analysis pronunciation error of English consonants: /θ/ and /ð/ by the students of the english education study program of university of Bengkulu.” *Journal of English Education and Teaching* 2.3 (2018)

Table 2. Changed the sound to the t and d sounds

/θri:/	/tri/
/ðə; ði/	/de,di/
/θŋ/	/ting/
/breθ/	/brit/
/fe:θ/	/feit/

The causes of those are in Bahasa that there are not /θ/, /ð/ consonants, so that many people are difficult to pronounce it. There are two consonants that do not exist in Bahasa Indonesia, those are /θ/ and /ð/. It makes Indonesian learners hard to find appropriate way to speak those consonants. Consequently, Indonesian have difficulties in pronouncing some words in learning English (Rustipa, 2003).⁶ So, they changed the sound which is almost same sound with interdental consonant.

The second sound of consonant that is difficult to pronounce by the Indonesian singers is /dʒ/. The singers changed the sound with /g/ sounds.

Table 3. Changed the sound /dʒ/ to the /g/ sounds

/weidʒ/	/weg/
---------	-------

That is because the English consonant /dʒ/ does not exist in Bahasa. They just find the consonant which has the same sound with /dʒ/. But actually, they can say it correctly if they always practice it or they can imitate what the real singer saying.

The third consonant is /d/. Actually, this consonant exists in Bahasa, but one of them is wrong to pronounce it. She pronounces it with /ð/ consonant.

Table 4. Changed the sound /d/ to the /ð/ sounds

/dɪə(r)/	/ðir/
/dɑ:rlɪŋ/	/ðarlin/
/dd/	/ðid/

There is no /d/ sound become /ð/ sound in English. Usually, in English /d/ sound can be sound like /t/ sound and it only happens when the consonant is in the last of word. For the example; /wɔ:kt/ from worked word. One of the singer is wrong to pronounce it because she was too enjoying the song, then she did not realize it or she did not prepare the lyrics well and

⁶ Katharina Ruspita. "English Speech Sounds [θ, ð], [ʃ, ʒ], [tʃ, dʒ]: How Are They Realized?". *Dinamika Bahasa & Budaya* 3.2 (2009)

do that suddenly.

The fourth consonant is /v/ and the vowel is /ɪ/. In English consonant /ɪ/ sound is pronounced /i/ sound by several Indonesian people. In this word, several singers were wrong to pronounce it. They said that /bilif/, it should be /beliv/ the /ɪ/ vowel sounds like /e/ and the /v/ consonant sounds voiced. It is not same with the /f/ sound.

Table 5. Changed the sound /v/ to the /f/ sounds

/b'li:v/	/bilif/
----------	---------

The next consonant is /c/. One of the Indonesian singers said it with /z/ sound. The /c/ consonant sounds /s/, the sound doesn't change to the /z/ sound in /innocent/ word. Sometimes, /c/ consonant could sound like /k/, /s/.

Table 6. Changed the sound /s/ to the /z/ sounds

/'nəsnt/	/inezēn/
----------	----------

Another consonant in English is /s/ sound. Some of Indonesian people only say the /s/ consonant with /s/ sound as well. Actually, there is another way to say /s/ consonant in English that is /z/ sound in some conditions. One mistake can change the meaning of the word, for an example; someone say "eyes" but the sound /s/ do not change into /z/ sound, the word could change the meaning, it is like "ice" word.

Table 7. Changed the sound /z/ to the /s/ sounds

/'aɪz/	/aɪs/
--------	-------

The next consonant which is error to pronounce made by the Indonesian singers is /p/ consonant. In Indonesia, some people say even /f/ consonant sounds /p/ consonant in bahasa and vice versa. More over in English, some people could be wrong when pronounce some words in English. They need to always practice to not do their bad habit in pronounce the word in bahasa and English.

Table 8. Changed the sound /p/ to the /f/ sounds

/'pærədəɪs/	/feredais/
-------------	------------

The second sound that is error pronunciation made by Indonesian singers is /æ/. /æ/ is a vowel sound. Several singers said that with /a/ sound. /æ/ sound is almost like /e/ sound in

bahasa. But, /æ/ is in a stressed syllable.

Table 9. Changed the sound /æ/ to the /a/ sounds

/æsk/	/ask/
-------	-------

In the table 9 shows that a lot of words which have errors pronunciation made by Indonesian singers. There are three causes in this case, the first is the first language affects to their foreign language. The second is habit, some people always do the same mistake when they pronounce some words, but they do not really care about the mistake. Even they could be angry with someone who tells their mistake. And the last, English alphabets are much more than Indonesians', that makes Indonesian people are difficult to pronounce several words in English. However, Human learning is fundametally a process that involves the making of mistake (Terrell and Brown 1981). Mistake, misjudgments, miscalculation and erronous ten assumption from an important aspect of learning virtually any skill or aqcuring information. This principle also prevails in language learning. Making errors is an inevitably part of learning. Hence, people cannot learn a language wthout first systematically comity errors. According to Carey (2005), there are ten interlanguage phonology error in pronunciation: 1) Interlanguage transfer, 2) Phonological universal, 3) Avoidance, 4) Over generalization, 5) Overcompesation, 6) Elision and epenthesis, 7) Stylistic variation, 8) Letter to sound rule confusion, 9) The developmental model, 10) Significant error; current views

CONCLUSION

The conclusions are even the singers have a good voice; it does not mean that they have a good pronunciation in singing English song as well. Pronunciation is also important in speaking, even though a lot of people do not really care about it. There are 14 errors pronunciation made by Indonesian singers on YouTube which have several causes in it. For an example is The word the should be pronounced as /ði/ before a vowel and should be pronounced as /ðə/ before a consonant.

There were 8 consonants that were mispronounced. They were /θ/ ,/ð/, /dʒ/, /d/, /v/, /c/, /s/, /p/. and there were 2 vowels that were mispronounced by Indonesian singers. They were /ɪ/, and /æ/. The cause of the error happened because the English knowledge of the singers or the speaker. It is because the limited knowledge of vocabulary. The suggestion to the singers in Indonesian when singing an English song that as a good people search or try to find and learn how to pronounce a foreign language before you sing the song. Try to imitate what the native

speaker say. They have to know what is the effect of wrong pronounce the foreign language. Therefore, the mistake will not appear anymore.

REFERENCES

- Bull, Victoria. (2018). *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Brown, H.D. (1987). *Principles of Languages Learning and Teaching*. Practice Hall Englewood Cliffs. New Jersey.
- Carrel, J., and William, T.R. (1960). *Phonetics: Theory and Application to Speech Improvement*. (New York: Mc. Graw-Hill Book Company. Google Books. Pg. (4)
- Crystal, David. *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell Ltd, 1985) Google Books.
- Carey, M. (2005). Interlanguage Phonology: Sources of L2 Pronunciation "Errors". <http://clas.mq.edu.au/phonetics/phonology/interlanguage/pronerrors.html>
- Delahunty, G. P., & Garvey, J.J. (2004) *Phonetics and Phonology*. Colorado: Colorado State University
- Dulay, Heidi, C. Burt, M. & Krashen, S. (1982). *Language Two* (New York: Oxford University Press.
- Ellis, R. (1997). *Second Language Acquisition*. nNew York: Oxford University Press, 17. 11
- Harmer, J. (2000). *The Practice of English language Teaching*. London: Longman Group Ltd.
- Hornby, A.S. (1995). *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary*. Oxford: Oxford University Press <https://www.unisbank.ac.id/ojs/index.php/fbib1/article/view/448> (accessed on 31 may 2020)
- Nofpian, A, Imranuddin, Syafrizal S, (2018). "An Analysis Pronunciation Error of English Consonants: /θ/ and /ð/ by the students of the english education study program of university of Bengkulu." *Journal of English Education and Teaching* 2, no.3.
- Odden, . (2005) *Introducing Phonology*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Roach, P. (2000) *English Phonetics and Phonology*, 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ruspita, Katharina. "English Speech Sounds [θ, ð], [ʃ, ʒ], [tʃ, dʒ]: How Are They Realized? ". *Dinamika Bahasa & Budaya* 3, no.2 (2009): 152-170.
- Susan M. Gass & Selinker. (2008), *Second Language Acquisition*. New York: Routledge, 8
- Syafei, A. (1988). *English Pronunciation: Theory and Practice*, Jakarta: Depdikbud, Dirjen Dikti.
- Terrell, T. D., and H. Douglas Brown. 1981. "Principles of Language Learning and Teaching." *Language* 57(3).

