

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. The Nature of Pronunciation

Pronunciation refers to the production of sounds that we use to make meaning. It includes attention to the particular sounds of a language (segments), aspects of speech beyond the level of the individual sound, such as intonation, phrasing, stress, timing, rhythm (suprasegmental aspects), how the voice is projected (voice quality) and, in its broadest definition, attention to gestures and expressions that are closely related to the way we speak a language. Each of these aspects of pronunciation is briefly outlined below, and references for further study are suggested (Yates, 2015, p.1). It means each of this aspects is affect to accuracy of sound result in English pronunciation.

English pronunciation involves the production of each sound and pronunciation of words, phrases, and sentences with correct spelling, compressing and/or correct intonation. The sound systems in English Language are divided into four groups, namely:

a) Vocals (vowel)

Vocals are defined as vowels in the formation of air out through the throat and mouth, without restriction and narrowing so that no friction is heard. There are 12 vowels in English are divided into three groups: front vowels (i:, i, e, æ), and vocal cord (a:, ɒ, ɔ:, u, u:). ʌ, ɜ:, ə vocal center (vocal division depends on the tongue and lips). Positions lips include: closed-lips widened, lips neutral, open-rounded lips, and the lips closed-rounded.

b) Diphthong

diphthong is a glide from one vowel to another, and the whole glide acts like one of the long (Joseph Desmond O'Connor, 1989 : 86).

c) Consonants

Consonant is a sound or letter (letter on or off) that the production of air does not come out smoothly through the mouth and throat, but have problems or narrowing that sound of friction

d) Clusters

Clusters are a number of words read in one breath, for example, movies, spending, struggle, knuckle and pronunciation. Produce such a sound English, speech organ to move properly. In the production of sound, the air coming from the lungs through the air cavity (trachea), and then pass through the esophagus, throat, and oral cavity are governed by the organs of speech.

B. Pronunciation Practice

Pronunciation is how English sounds are spoken. It is in line with Cook (1996) as cited in Gilakjani (2016, p.2) who defined, “pronunciation as the production of English sounds. Pronunciation is learnt by repeating sounds and correcting them when produced inaccurately.” Through learning pronunciation, the sound that people produced as if it is inaccurate, people will correct it by themselves or the other. In addition, pronunciation is not only about how to produce sounds, but also how sounds produced convey meaning for the other people. It is because pronunciation is a part of communication. According to Yates (2002) as cited in Gilakjani (2016, p.2), “pronunciation is the production of sounds that is used for making meaning.” Therefore, through pronunciation, people can convey the message and its meaning in order to create effective communication.

In pronunciation practice, there are some activities that the students or people always do. Vitanova and Miller (2002) stated that self-monitoring,

active listening, mirroring, and controlled practice are the activities that the students do in pronunciation practice. The explanation of those activities is explained below:

1. Self-monitoring is critical for creating independent and competent learners and is a necessary part of the consciousness raising process. The learners will be independent learners when they are conscious with the inaccurate pronunciation and correct it by accurate pronunciation during the practice. In pronunciation practice, this activity is done to monitor themselves in pronouncing the accurate and inaccurate pronunciation. Dealing with using karaoke application, self-monitoring can be happened when the learners realize the inaccurate pronunciation and fix it by pronouncing accurately during singing a song or in the next song that they sing.
2. The strategies of active listening and mirroring are applied when a student listens to a native speaker and repeats after him/her. It also illuminates this learner's realization of the relation between listening skills and production of speech. In using karaoke application, the learners tend to listen the native speaker's pronunciation during singing. Then, they tend to repeat what they hear in the song.
3. The majority of reflections revealed that students valued individual attention and targeting specific phonetic features in controlled practice. However, they also pinpointed the need of communicative activities.

Based on the activities of the students practice pronunciation, it can be seen that students might control their pronunciation by themselves when they have role model such as native speaker.

C. Smule as Karaoke Application

In the era where the technology is advanced, many applications of the smartphone are released to meet the necessity of people to sing a song. Smule is an application for the user to sing karaoke song. Woo (2016, p.1) stated, “Smule is an application allowing the user to sing karaoke, play guitar and piano through smartphone.” This application allow the user to sing in various methods. Khoiriyah, Waris and Juhansar (2019, p.46) stated, “Karaoke by using Smule application can be done solo, duet (pair), and group.”

Smule has advantages and disadvantages. Khoiriyah, Waris and Juhansar (2019, p.46) stated that there are several advantage features of Smule application that one can use to sing a song. The first is self-recording option with video. Smule application is not only audio recording but also video recording application. Second, sing like a star with audio effect. The users having bad voice do not need to worry when they would like to sing because Smule application provides professional features to edit voice easily. Third, share on the global platform. Some persons have social media to inform their activity to their social media’s friends. Fourth, duet with featured artists. It becomes prior feature of Smule application to sing karaoke with many artists without meeting directly.

Fifth, collaboration with the original singer. Smule application presents different experience by providing collaboration singing with the original singer. It makes the singer fans can sing together with their favorite singer. Thus, using Smule can make the users to do anything related with singing karaoke song.

In contrast, Smule also has disadvantages. Khoiriyah, Waris and Juhansar (2019, p.47) stated that Some of the disadvantages are; 1) users should pay about IDR 24.000/month to be a VIP member, 2) not all songs can be sung soloist, 3) users must cost the VIP for it, not all artists or singers are using Smule, so it limits the user to sing collaboration with original singers of the song, and 4) has many ads - the annoying ads usually appear when the user open the application and or when user has done singing karaoke. Therefore, the user of Smule should pay the cost for VIP room as if it is not VIP, the ads makes the users annoying.

D. Smule as Karaoke Application to learn Pronunciation

Karaoke can develop learner's pronunciation. It is in line with Refingo (2009) as cited in Erten (2015) who stated, "Karaoke singing can provide meaningful practice required for the development of language learner's pronunciation" (p.592). Thus, Smule as Karaoke application can provide practice for the learners to learn pronunciation.