CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Research background

Speaking is always an important aspect to people in their life. Because by speaking people can communicate their feeling, share the ideas and opinions. As a language skill, speaking is sometimes undervalued, or in some circles, taken for granted. In other words, speaking English as a kind of skill used to show that the people have superiority in mastering English, or some people give a judgment about English competence based on speaking ability rather than from any other language skills. In addition, student's languages are considered successful if they can communicate effectively in their second or a foreign language. Speaking is one of the important productive skills to be mastered in learning English. People are said to be fluent in English if the person has good speaking skills. In learning to speak English, you have to master pronunciation. The good or bad of speakers can be seen from their pronunciation.

Pronunciation is how a person pronounces or pronounces words that are acceptable and understandable in a particular language. This is often also used as one of the skills to show that someone has an advantage in mastering English. Pronunciation is an integral part of learning a foreign language because it directly affects the competence and communicative performance of learners according to Solikhatun (2022). In fact, as quoted by Wulandari (2022), the main goal of learning pronunciation is to become like a native speaker. There are many problems encountered in understanding English in pronunciation at a natural pace by native speakers who speak with various accents. Non-native English also has speaking problems. These problems are related to phonetic and phonological understanding. Mispronouncing even one letter in a word can lead to different meanings and can confuse others. Therefore, pronunciation must be mastered by English learners so that

communication can run well and not cause misunderstandings and miscommunication.

One thing that always goes wrong in English is silence in letters. Silent letter defines as a letter that is not pronounced in a word, it is present in the spelling but not spoken. based on my pre-observation, students in class 11 have scores below the average in English. especially when given a speaking test, many students still make mistakes in pronunciation, especially in silent letters. In addition, some students do not learn the rules and correct pronunciation of words so it can be said that students have not mastered English pronunciation, especially in silent letters. Not only that, it is also because there are still many who feel doubtful and don't know how to think about English words correctly. The pronunciation of English words is of course different from Indonesian because in English the words written are different from the pronunciation.

Many previous studies discussed' problems in pronunciation in English. For example research conducted by winda pusfarani *et al* (2020) Students' Pronunciation Errors in English Silent Letters. Researchers draw several conclusions. This shows the English education study program at Bengkulu University have many problems in pronouncing words that contain silent letters. It can be proven from research that students of the English Education Study Program make two types of errors, namely prasystematic errors and systematic errors. The type of error that most students make is prasystematic. The researchers also found that the highest number of errors made by students of the English education study program in pronouncing words containing silent letters were "g" and "b".

Other research was previously conducted by Horia Siregar (2020) with The Analysis of Students Pronunciation Error. In this study, the researcher observed the mistakes made by non-English majors students in pronouncing the silent letters in English words. The pronunciation errors that occur are not solely intended by students. They are some of the reasons why students mispronounce words. The first is a lack of learning

exposure to English Listening Vocabulary, the second is a lack of extensive knowledge of English phonemic transcription, the third is the habit of generating incorrect vocabulary sounds from given words. Fourth is the lack of desire to learn English pronunciation. The fifth is the lack of motivation from the teacher to provide knowledge about listening skills, then, the lack of hours of time needed to practice English vocabulary and pronunciation and the last is the lack of proper and correct knowledge from the teacher to train students in English.

The third research was previously conducted by Elsan Arvian (2021) with the Error Analysis of Silent Letters Pronunciation. The results from this study First, fourth semester students majoring in English at STBA JIA made many post-systematic errors, especially in pronouncing the silent letters in English words. Second, the most frequently encountered word errors are honest words. The sword word is the most common error. While in the final position, the words ballet and buffet are the most common mistakes. Third, there are no mistakes in the pronunciation of the words autumn and unlucky. These words have an inert letter in the final position. All students do not pronounce the correct letters.

Based on the previous studies above are used as a benchmark for researchers to get research ideas. This researcher interesting to raise this case relate to the mispronunciation of silent English letters and the researcher will find out about the causes that often occur in the mispronunciation of silent English letters. The researcher hopes that students can be motivate in improving their confidence in English pronunciation in class and outside. Based on the facts above, the researcher is interesting to conduct a research with Analysis of Student's Pronunciation Errors of English Silent Letter.

B. Research Questions

1. What types of errors are made by students in pronouncing the words containing silent letter /k/, /t/, /b/, and /w/ ?
2. What are the causes of pronunciation errors made by The english silent letters at the 11th grade in SMAN 3 Sengah Temila ?

C. Research purposes

1. To find out types of errors are made by students in pronouncing the words containing silent letters k/, /t/, /b/, and /w/.
2. To find out the causes of pronunciation errors made by english silent letters at the 11th grade in SMAN 3 Sengah Temila.

D. Significance of Research

The present research would benefit in the following aspects:

1. Theoretical Benefits

   Theoretically, the result of this research is expected to contribute to knowledge about pronunciation errors.

2. Practical Benefits

   a. To Participants

   The finding of the research will increase student's knowledge about how to pronounce the English silent letters correctly. They will be able to be motivate to improve their pronunciation skills.

   b. To Lecturers

   This research will be able to help the teacher to find out students' pronunciation errors in pronouncing the English silent letters. In addition, it is hope that it will also be a consideration for teachers in the process of teaching English, especially in teaching pronunciation.

   c. To Researchers

   This research is expected to provide knowledge and experience to the researcher.

E. Scope of Research

This research on analyzing student's problems and their causes.

1. Research Variable

    Single variable in a research is very important, because is tell us about what is going to be mesured.it means that variable is a research tell us about what characters that will be measured by the research.Based on the explanation above, this research focus on the single variable, that is student pronounciation error of english silent letter.

2. Research Terminology

    The researcher provides the following explanations which are used in this research. The terms are below:

    a. Pronunciation

        Pronunciation is one of the keys in English speaking skills. Pronunciation has an important role, especially in speaking according to grammar and vocabulary. Pronunciation is very important in English because the slightest mistake can cause misunderstandings between the speaker and the listener. Pronunciation serves to avoid misunderstandings in communication, according to Hassan (2014:31). However, there are some students who still mispronounce words, especially words that contain silent letters. Pronouncing words in English is a difficult aspect of learning. There are several characteristics in pronunciation, namely segment characteristics and suprasegmental characteristics. Segment is also called phoneme. Meanwhile, suprasegmental features are speech characteristics that generally apply to segment groups. Some very important examples of pronunciation are stress, intonation, and how the sound changes with speech. It is also used to learn spelling and provide guidance on how students can pronounce what they read according to vocabulary and how they can speak it in conversation.

    b. Sillent Letter

Silent letters are letters that have a specific word and do not correspond to any sound in pronunciation of inaudible words will not make a sound. Silent letters can cause problems for native speakers and non-native speakers of a language, because it is very difficult to predict spelling of spoken words,according to Yusriati and hasibuan (2019). There are 60 percent of English words have a silent letter. The researcher concluded that silence letters are letters that cannot be heard when someone pronounces them but those letters written and generally letters that do not correspond to the sounds in a word. therefore the researcher uses silent k, t, b, w because for grade 11th the four silent letters are easier to remember and learn and researcher will find it easier to find out the types of pronunciation errors in silent English letters.

c. Error

Error analysis is the process of observing, analyzing, and categorizing errors from the rules of a second language, and then revealing the learner's processes. According to Al hamzi *et al* (2022), error analysis is a process of identifying and correcting errors in writing and speech. Error analysis can be used to determine how well someone understands a language, how they study it, and learn about common language learning issues, as well as to help with teaching and the design of teaching materials. The importance of mistake analysis is emphasized in this definition.

In learning and using a foreign language, one of the most inhibiting factors is the fear of making mistakes and errors. Both error and mistake have similar meaning, but they have difference in language. Errors are the flawed side of learner speech or writing. They are those parts of conversation or composition that deviate from some selected norm of mature language performance. An error can be defined as a deviation from the norms of the target

language. Error takes place when the deviation arises as a result of lack of knowledge.

d. SMAN 3 SENGAH TEMILA

SMAN 03 Sengah Temila is the level of senior high school which in eleventh grade students are in interactive skill. There are 2 kind classes of eleventh grade students of SMAN 03 Sengah Temila are MIPA and Social class. The researcher choose XI Social Class to do Researcher with 15 participants.