

# ERROR ANALYSIS OF PHONETIC FOSSILIZATION UTTERED BY ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS UNIVERSITY OF PGRI SEMARANG

Sukma Nur Ardini<sup>1</sup>  
Maria Yosephin WL  
Nicolas Lodawik Ouwpoly  
[sukmanurardini27@gmail.com](mailto:sukmanurardini27@gmail.com)

## ABSTRACT

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menentukan tipe dan latar belakang fosilisasi fonetik yang diucapkan oleh mahasiswa semester 5 Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris di Universitas PGRI Semarang tahun 2014/2015. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian deskriptif dengan data kualitatif. Populasi dari penelitian ini adalah para mahasiswa semester 5 yang mengambil mata kuliah English Phonology dengan jumlah mahasiswa 200. Sampel penelitian adalah kelas 5E, kelas yang paling aktif dan dominan.*

*Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa hanya 15% kata di dalam kuesioner penelitian yang berhasil dilafalkan dengan baik oleh para responden. Itu artinya bahwa fosilisasi fonetik dilakukan lebih dari 75% responden. Tipe kesalahan yang dibuat adalah tipe fosilisasi fonetik baik dalam kategori perseorangan maupun kelompok, sementara itu alasan-alasan mereka melakukan kesalahan adalah; 1) Simbol fonetik yang masih tidak familier bagi mahasiswa semester. 2) Terdapat habituasi dan kebiasaan-kebiasaan yang merujuk pada dua faktor: internal dan eksternal. Faktor internalnya adalah mahasiswa itu sendiri, yang berarti motivasi untuk belajar dan hasrat untuk lebih dalam mempelajari simbol-simbol fonetik. Faktor eksternalnya merujuk pada proses pembelajaran dan sudut pandang dosen. 3) Metode yang digunakan oleh para dosen pengampu mata kuliah English Phonology and Pronunciation. Masalah ini harus diturunkan karena 90% dari mahasiswa menyatakan di dalam wawancara bahwa mereka sangat tertarik dengan subjek ini dan juga menyatakan bahwa para dosen tidak memberikan tekanan, namun faktanya persentase kesalahan dalam pelafalan di atas rata-rata.*

*Berdasarkan pada hasil-hasil ini, peneliti memberikan saran sebagai berikut; 1) Permasalahan ini menjadi tugas bagi seluruh dosen bahasa Inggris, tidak hanya dosen yang mengajar mata kuliah English Phonology and Pronunciation. 2) Simbol-simbol fonetik harus diterapkan secara intensif dan integral sehingga para mahasiswa dapat familier dengan simbol-simbol tersebut. 3) Kebutuhan akan penelitian lebih lanjut yang terkait dengan metode-metode yang digunakan oleh para dosen.*

**Kata kunci:** fosilisasi fonetik, mahasiswa semester 5, pendidikan bahasa Inggris

---

<sup>1</sup> Penulis adalah pengajar di Universitas PGRI Semarang.

## INTRODUCTION

To be very unfortunate that the researchers still found a lot of phonetic fossilization uttered by students of English Education in University of PGRI Semarang. It is quite in contrast to the daily activities carried out by the students of the English Department in each semester in which the course is taught all in English language component.

However, the fact shows that the phenomenon is students are still making pronunciation errors even in simple English words. For example, the word 'wear' pronounced /wir/ should be /weər/, the word 'bear' is pronounced /biə(r)/, the word 'student' is pronounced /stʌd n/ and more. This shows that the mindset of students still strongly influenced by Indonesian and Javanese language which have the same pronunciation with the writing, e.g. the word 'student'. 'U' in Bahasa Indonesia is pronounced 'ʌ' as the word 'hut' /hʌt/ or 'butter' /bʌtə(r)/. This is still done by the 5th semester students who will take PPL 1 and 2 courses or in the current curriculum is now turned into Magang course.

But whatever the name, this course is closely associated with student's skill. As a prospective English teacher, different from other majors, students of English Education have a heavier task. They "should" be able to communicate in English very well. Therefore, the four major skills must be mastered as listening, reading, writing and speaking. This is the main goal of this research; 1) Obtaining a type of phonetic fossilization errors uttered by 5th semester students majoring in English Education University of PGRI Semarang, and 2) Knowing the background of phonetic fossilization errors made by 5th semester students majoring in English Education University of PGRI Semarang .

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used a qualitative descriptive study design to analyze the data. The qualitative data are in the form of utterances (in words) produced by 40 students from class 5E as a sample out of 200 students who are majoring English Education University of PGRI Semarang as the total population. This research was done by doing observation, questionnaires distribution, personal interviews, and documentation. All of the data are processed and developed by the researchers descriptively.

## **PHONETIC FOSSILIZATION**

An effective learning implies that the learners have to interact with every language aspects (lexicon, grammar, phonology, etc) through different teaching methods. The first who raises the fossilization idea is Selinker. He records that 95 percent of L2 learners are failed to reach the same pronunciation level as the real L1 speakers. Such phenomenon is defined as fossilization by Selinker (1972). Fossilization is a mechanism that grounds every surface of linguistic materials where speakers will tend to keep producing their L1, No matter what is the learner's age and how long does the speaker studies or speaks by using target language (L2).

Selinker adds if usually, individual fossilization consists of two aspects: error appearance and language competence fossilization. Error appearance refers to interlanguage structures that considered as inappropriate that has been estimated to have fixed but still keeps appeared regularly. This often found on low-competence learners. While the second aspect, language competence fossilization, refers to learner's L2 phonology development, grammatical competence, lexical, and pragmatics. These can be found on L2 learners that has been learning target language for a long time and on a relatively high level. It will be worse if such language mistakes keep repeatedly continually so that it forms a community and a fossilization group will be exist. The Indians community and Singaporean community that speak English is an example of existing fossilization group.

Fossilization is a linguistic phenomenon in an individual and realized as a form of deviation from target language. This happens on all levels, from phonologic level through pragmatics level.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

### **Phonetic Fossilization Done by Students (in Words)**

It found that the error percentage is high when students pronounce the word 'wear, prize, shame, measure, and clown' by the percentage of 100% or it can be said that none of the students pronounce those words correctly. 97,5% of errors generated to the pronunciation of the word 'caught and pale'. Only one student is able to pronounce correctly. 92,5% of students made mistake in pronouncing the word 'page and voice'.

The word 'cure' has a percentage of 90%, while the word 'toast and teeth' have a percentage of 87,5%. Furthermore, 85% of students made mistake in pronouncing the word 'chart' and 82,5% for the word 'kite'. 75% of students made a mistake in pronouncing the word 'cease', followed by 65% of the word 'breast', 62.5% for 'beneath', 60% for the word 'curb',

57.5% for 'chop', 42.5% for 'beard', 27.5% for the word 'laugh', 25% for 'goose', 22.5% for 'who', 10% for 'harvest', 5% for 'enemy', and 2.5% of students made mistake in pronouncing the word 'back and enough'. There are five words that are pronounced correctly by the 5th semester students; 'hiss, pull, about, other, and sink'.

### **Phonetic Fossilization Done by Students (in Phonetic Transcription)**

The result shows that 100% of students made mistake in pronouncing word /saikaɪətrɪst/, which means that none of the students was correct in pronouncing this word. 95% for the word /jestədi/, 87.5% for /kənʃu:zd/ and /auə/, 72.5% for / i:l/, 75% for /stein /, 67.5% for /jə/ and /eniθiŋ/, 62.5% for /tə/, 50% for /əuvər/, 45% for /dʌznt/, 37.5% word /ðæt/, 35% for / st/, 30% for /əpinjən/, 20% for /ka:nt/, 15% for /mætə/, and 5% for /ikspleɪn/.

From the results of calculations which have been described above, it is known that the type of phonetic fossilization errors made by 5<sup>th</sup> semester students of English Education University of PGRI Semarang is the type of phonological fossilization for the category of individuals and groups. This refers to the persistence of individual learners in developing L1 and the development of language communities.

The data obtained by researchers are also derived from the direct observation for the respondents by observing their speech act or utterance at campus both in the lecture and non-lecture. Observations did show results that support the results of the questionnaire that 50% of 5th semester students made errors in phonetic fossilization of English words.

This fact certainly requires attention of all lecturers, especially English Department University of PGRI Semarang. The 5<sup>th</sup> semester students who should be capable for taking out into schools were not yet able to fully pronounce English words properly. From the observations, it appears that the English language is still not a daily language even though they are students of the English department. Questionnaire that researchers distributed is in the form of a cluster or sequence of words in English with the average difficulty level.

### **Background of the Phonetic Fossilization**

This problem is becoming one of the important objectives in this research. This is considered important to find out the background of the respondents why they still do the phonetic fossilization. It is required