CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents conclusions and suggestions related to the present research. Some suggestions are offered to future researchers who are interested in analyzing pronunciation deviations by using acoustic analysis.

5.1 Conclusions

This research investigates the common characteristics of Indonesian pronunciation deviations made by undergraduate college students from BatakAngkola. The sounds that are investigated are limited into two vowels: /e/ and /ə/ and six plosives: /b/, /d/, /g/, /k/, /p/, /t/. The speech production is observed from continuous speech and single-word production. In addition, the factors that contribute to the interferenceare also analyzed.

The results show that out of all of the phonemes produced by the participants, there are two main types of pronunciations deviations made by the participants: devoicing and allophonic shift. Allophonic shift refers torefers to situations in which allophones of a phoneme undergo changes. The allophonic shift does not only occur between /ə/ into /e/, but also from /e/ into /ə/. The total occurrences of allophonic shift observed are thirty two, with twenty nine alternations (18.125%) found in the data collected from word list 1 and three alternations (1.056%) found in the data collectedfrom the reading task. All of the deviationsoccur on medial position and final position of the syllables.

Another deviation that isobserved is devoicing. Devoicing refers to the loss of voicing in final obstruents that most commonly occur in word-final position

(Brockhaus, 1995).The total occurrence of devoicing is eighty four alternations, with nine alternations (50%) observed in the data collected from word list 2 and seventy five alternations (83.33%) observed in the data collected from word list 3. In all of the devoicing alternations observed, the phoneme /b/ is realized as [p], /d/ is realized as [t] and /g/ is realized as [k]. However, the alternation only occurs when the phonemes are put as the coda of the syllable and no alternation is found on initial position.

After analyzing the deviations occurred, a further acoustic phonetic analysis is also conducted by analyzing the duration of the vowels and voiced plosives (in the final position) produced by the participants,which are collected from word list 3.The devoicing patterning and the inconsistencies between the total occurrences of the devoicing alternation and the vowel duration indicate that out of the two acoustic features mentioned above, the consonant duration is the one which influenced the devoicing alternation the most. The devoicing patterning and consonant duration differences also show that although the monolingual participants are not active speakers of any local languages, the environments where they come from along with the variety of languages spoken there might contribute greatly on their language use, especially in this case, their pronunciation.Thus, it can be argued that in a diglossic country, such as in Indonesia, one's pronunciation will always be influenced by other languages that are used and spoken in his/her regional area.

The factors that contribute to the interference are also concluded based on the works of Weinreich (1970) and Yi (2012). These factors are including speaker bilingualism background, typological difference, anxiety, empathy, and group solidarity.

5.2 Suggestions

This research focuses on analyzing the common characteristics of Indonesian pronunciation deviations made by undergraduate college students from BatakAngkola and observes the factors that contribute to the interference. However, the research of language interference in Indonesian context, especially in this case research which analyze phonic interference based on acoustic analysis are rarely found. Further research will be necessary to investigate the language interference phenomenon in Indonesia, especially which are related to languages that are less studied such as BatakAngkola-Mandailing language.

In addition, other contexts such as gender, age, and the situations in which the utterances occur are also needed to be investigated. Research with larger sample and ampler variables will help us to gain a more complete understanding of language interference and factors that contribute to it that will ultimately lead to the development of language education policy and methods related to bilingualism.

Further linguistic research employing acoustic analysis will also be needed. The features of various software related to acoustic phoneticsthat accurately analyze, synthesize and manipulate sounds in terms of its acoustic propertiescan help researchers to minimize errors, widen the range of the research and make the research conducted more efficiently.