

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the introduction of the study. It consists of the background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, research methodology, and the organization of the paper.

#### **1.1. Background of the Study**

Language is a living thing and it evolves as the human evolves. The changes that happen in a language is a topic that is discussed by the field of historical linguistics (Campbell, 2004). Historical linguistics, also called diachronic linguistics, “describes the relationship between various aspects of languages over periods of time.” (Crowley, 1997, p. 19).

One of the aspects of a language that is related to historical linguistic aspect is loanwords. According to Appel & Muysken (2005), loanwords naturally occur due to language contact, that a language needs to enlarge the number of vocabulary for certain reason and there is a similar concept of the needed expression in other language. It is in line with Campbell (2004) who argues that loanwords are words descended from donor languages that became part of the recipient language in order to fulfil the need and prestige. Thus, new words are constantly introduced to a language in order to fulfil the necessity of that language. In the meantime, while Appel & Muysken (2005) describe that the sound and meaning of a word are borrowed to a language, Campbell (2004) further explains that loanwords underwent phonological and morphological adaptation in order to fit the phonological and morphological features of the recipient language. In this case, the field of historical linguistics is used to trace the changes of the words between the recipient and the donor languages whether they are natural language or constructed language.

Even though Appel & Muysken (2005) state that language contact causes borrowing, language contact is not necessary to happen in borrowing in constructed language. Constructed language is a language that, unlike natural languages that evolves through a long period of time, is created by a certain individual or group (Gobbo, 2014). According to Okrent (2010), since 1150 until 2007, there are more than 500 published constructed languages that were supposed to serve certain function such as to be a lingua franca such as Esperanto and Volapük, to be a fictional language in literary work such as Sindarin in *The Lord of The Ring* by Tolkien and Klingon in *Star Trek*, to be taken as an art or logical products such as Solresol and Lojban, or merely to satisfy personal passion of the creator. Constructed language can be a research object for linguistic analysis in which the study of constructed language, sometimes called interlanguage which began in 1911 but became popular around 1935 by Otto Jespersen, a Danish linguist who attempted to use a constructed language as a lingua franca.

With regards to constructed language, Esperanto is a constructed language created by Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof and published for the first time in 1887 in Poland, and it has been used for more than 120 years by people from all over the world (Universala Esperanto Asocio, 2000). Officially, there are 120 countries in which Esperanto speakers can be found. As a constructed language, Esperanto attracts researchers to conduct studies regarding its historical, social, linguistic, and literary aspects, and producing an Esperanto-based field of study called Esperanto Studies or Esperantologio (Edwards, 1986, in Gobbo, 2015a). Even though a number of linguistic research on Esperanto has been conducted, the study of its historical linguistic feature is still limited. The study concerning the Esperanto loanword phonology has been conducted by van Oostendorp (1999a) yet it describes merely the loanword phonology in general. Therefore, a study concerning the historical linguistic aspects of Esperanto has to be conducted more profoundly in order to contribute to the field of Esperanto studies.

Based on the previous points discussed, this research is conducted to fill the gap of historical linguistics in Esperanto by explaining the sound changes that occur in Esperanto loanwords of English origin. Furthermore, this research is also conducted in order to discover the factors that cause the sound change to happen in the process of linguistic borrowing from English to Esperanto.

## **1.2. Research Questions**

The research questions of this study are formulated as follows:

- a. What categories and types of sound changes are there which occur in Esperanto loanwords of English origin?
- b. What are the factors which trigger the sound changes?

## **1.3. Aims of the Study**

This study is conducted to explore, describe, and explain the linguistic aspects of Esperanto, i.e. the sound changes that occur in Esperanto words of English origin which includes the categories and types of sound change from each category and the factors which triggered the changes. In addition, this study also fills the gap of historical linguistics aspects of Esperanto and would contribute to the field of Esperanto studies and historical linguistics.

## **1.4. Scope of the Study**

This study investigates the sound changes that occurred in the process of English word borrowing to Esperanto. A word is taken as part of the data only if the word is borrowed directly from English, i.e. not the English words that were borrowed through other languages. The number of the data are limited by analyzing only the words that were borrowed according to the pronunciation and neglecting the

words that were borrowed according to the orthography. Therefore this study examines the sound changes that occurred between the pronunciation of native English words and their Esperanto borrowing.

## **1.5. Research Methodology**

This study is a qualitative-based research since it attempts to discover the process of sound changes from English to Esperanto. This is in line with Creswell (2009) who states that one of the purposes of qualitative research is to investigate the systematical procedure clues. Meanwhile the theoretical framework that is used to interpret the data is historical linguistics using the framework of sound change proposed by Crowley (1997) and Campbell (2004).

### **1.5.1. Data Collection**

The data were in the form of words, which are Esperanto vocabulary taken from *Konciza Etimologia Vortaro* (Concise Dictionary of Etymology) in which each Esperanto word has information about the root of the word. The data was collected by taking Esperanto words of English origin that is stated on the dictionary, and the words were transcribed phonetically, using the information from the *Plena Ilustrita Vortaro* (Full Illustrated Dictionary). In order to be more focused, only the words that were loaned according to the pronunciation were analyzed. Besides the Esperanto words, the original English words was also taken and transcribed phonetically using the information from Collins Dictionary in order to trace the changes between the two sets of data.

### **1.5.2. Data Analysis**

The data were analyzed by comparing each data set, i.e. the transcribed words in English and Esperanto, and then the changes were explained. The type of the

changes was traced based on the changes in the phonetic transcription between the two sets of the data. Finally, the factors that influenced the changes were explained based on the analyses of Zamenhof (1889-1912) in Waringhien (1990) regarding the changes involved in the creation of Esperanto.

## **1.6. Clarification of Related Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstandings of the problems in this study, several related terms are clarified as follows:

### **a. Historical linguistics**

Historical linguistics is a branch of linguistics which describes the relationship between various aspects of languages over periods of time (Crowley, 1997).

### **b. Sound change**

Sound change is a type of language change that happens in phonetic or phonological level of a language (Campbell, 2004). In this study, it refers to the changes in phonetic or phonological level between English original words and Esperanto borrowed words.

### **c. Loanwords**

Loanwords are a type of word in a recipient language that is taken from a donor language through the process of borrowing and usually undergoes linguistic adaptation to fit phonological and morphological features of the recipient language (Campbell, 2004)

## **1.7. Organization of the Paper**

This paper consists of five chapters and is organized as follows:

The first chapter contains the introduction including background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, research methodology

which includes data collection and data analysis, clarification of the terms, and the organization of the paper.

The second chapter provides related theories as the fundamentals of the study. It provides theories that are used to answer the research questions. In addition, a number of previous studies concerning the study are also discussed in the chapter.

The third chapter explains the research methodology, including the statements of the problems in the study and the research method consisting of research design, data collection, and data analysis. This chapter also provides an outline of the procedure of the study and the techniques of analysis.

The fourth chapter presents the results of the study. It consists of the findings and discussions of the findings. The result of analysis and the answers to the research questions would be stated in this chapter. Moreover, the explanations of the results are also discussed in this chapter.

The last chapter provides the interpretation of the results and it also gives the conclusions and suggestions concerning the study.