CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides general information of this study. It covers the background of the study, purposes of the study, statement of problems, scope of the study, the significance of the study, clarifications of terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1   Background of the Study

Speech, language, and communication skills are essential to one's overall development. To speak clearly and be able to process speech sounds to understand others, to express ideas, and interact with others are important to humans. Simon (2008) stated in his journal that humans are inherently social, giving us a clear perspective that communication played an important role in our life. Nevertheless, difficulties in communication or speech disorders have occurred in some cases. Language disorder happens in the hemisphere area where the language is processed (Darling & Steinberg, 1993). Disruptions in speech disorder made the speaker unable to proceed with language properly, as a consequence, they will have a lack of understanding of language that affects the production of vocabulary, sentence structure, and discourse as well. Travis (1993) has classified three general classes of speech disorders: (1) disorders of rhythm or verbal expression; (2) disorders of articulation and vocalization; (3) disorders of symbolic formulation and expression. In line with this, stuttering is one of the speech disorders that affected someone's articulation and vocalization. Speech or language disorders can affect both speech production and comprehension. In some cases, language disorder can make an individual have a difficulty in understanding and interpreting language. An individual with language disorder is sometimes underestimated even he/she is brilliant, and he/she is stressed due to a poor self-image (Lanier, 2010).

In recent years, speech disorders have become a special concern in the study of various fields of science, such as linguistics, psychology, and psycholinguistics. Studies that focus on the object of study on language and speech disorders are called *Speech-Language Pathology*. Stuttering is one of the language fluency disorders.

Field (2005) in his book "Psycholinguistic the Key Concept" stated that the characteristic of stuttering in each individual is varied, it depends on the present characteristics of the speaker. The symptom occurred in stuttering include repetition of phonemic segments, syllables, or words *(j-j-jangan, ja-ja-jangan, ambil-ambil itu)* and/or an extreme lengthening of segments or syllables *(ta:::kut)*. The most typical symptom is a blocking of the airflow, which results in long pauses, effortful speech, and distorted facial expressions.

Studies about a person who stutters have been conducted by several researchers such as Tsai (2018) and Seth and Maruthy (2019) who studied the person who is stuttering concerning its phonological and morphological factors on speech disfluency by using a group of participants as many 14 adults and 20 children who stuttered. Another study was conducted by Silva et al. (2016) studied the prolongations of adults who stutter and who do not stutter with 15 people who stutter and 15 people who do not stutter as the participants. Other than that, researches on stuttering with a single participant were also conducted by several researchers such as Iriyanti (2016) who analyzed a stuttering character in the "Parental Guidance" movie named Turner Simmon. Sartika (2019) analyzed a participant in America's Got Talent (AGT) 2015 named Drew Lynch. However, there are less researches in stuttering with Indonesian participants. Considering the lack of studies on Indonesian stuttering cases, it is worthwhile to research such a phenomenon *(stuttering)*.

Moreover, language disorder phenomena like stuttering in Indonesia is considered a unique case. People with stuttering are rarely speaking in public spaces as people love to make fun of this because it sounds funny to them. In addition, the impact of stuttering on a person's functioning and emotional state can be severe. It may include fears of having to pronounce specific vowels or consonants, fears of being caught stuttering in social situations, self-imposed isolation, anxiety, stress, shame, low self-esteem, being a possible target of bullying, and so on so forth. However, in contrast to the previous statement above, Akbar Pera Baharudin a famous Celeb-gram and a YouTuber with more than 175.000 subscribers in his YouTube channel "Ajudan Pribadi Official" has proved himself that regardless of the unclarity and mistakes he made in his speech, he is still able to express his

emotion and communicate with others smoothly. Akbar is a person who developed stuttering symptoms as a result of the untreated speech delay which occurred during his childhood. In line with this, this research is conducted to identify the variations, characteristics, and possible causes of phonological errors in pronouncing the lexical item that occurred in the participant's speech. Five different videos will be selected as the data of this research. The five videos are focused on the participant's monologue while answering questions in Q&A sessions, giving tips, and doing an interactive talk.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher investigates the following problems:

1) What kind of phonological errors are produced by the participant in pronouncing the lexical items?
2) What kind of phonological characteristics can be found in the participant's speech?
3) What factors caused the phonological errors made by the participant as manifested in the data?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This study attempts to identify the variations, characteristics, and possible causes of phonological errors in the Indonesian stuttering case. The data was obtained through the participant's speech which has been transcribed from the videos. The selected participant is Akbar as an adult who stutters (AWS).

1.4 Scope of the Study

This research focuses on identifying the phonological errors in the speech production of a stuttered person. This research aims to uncover the phonological errors in pronouncing lexical items that occurred in a person who stutters. The chosen participant is Akbar Pera Baharudin a YouTuber who is famous for his unique feature which is stuttering. Five different videos were selected to be the main data of this research. The five videos were focused on the participant's monologue speech.

1.5   Significance of the Study

The findings of this research can provide some valuable descriptions of the phonological errors in pronouncing lexical items in a person who stutters. These findings can contribute to the richness of literature in the field of phonological error in stuttered persons. Moreover, since this study focused on the stuttering that happened to an Indonesian, it can contribute to point out the nature of Indonesian stuttering cases. Findings can also uncover the characteristics of speech failures of stuttering in Bahasa Indonesia which can help the other students who write their research on a similar topic.

In addition, the findings of this research also can have implications for the therapist who are working to help people with speech disorders, especially in stuttering. Other than that, this research also can help a person who stutters to build more confidence to socialize in society by avoiding similar mistakes that occur in their speech. Therefore, the findings of this work can benefit novice writers, especially students of a particular genre.

1.6   Clarification of Terms

In order to avoid some confusions, here is some clarification of the terms used in this research:

1. Speech disorder

   A disorder affecting the ability to produce normal speech. It may affect articulation, fluency, and/or voice.

2. Stuttering

   A speech disorder characterized by repetition of sounds, syllables or words; prolongation of sounds; and interruption in speech known as blocks.

3. Phonological error

   Hannah & Martha (1997) described phonological error as patterns of sound errors that typically developing children use to simplify speech as they are learning to talk. The error occurs as the result of the inability to coordinate the lips, tongue, teeth, palate and jaw to pronounce a clear speech.

4. Lexical items

Lexical item is a single word, a part of a word, or a chain of words that forms the basic elements of a language's lexicon.

1.7 Organization of Paper

Along with the amount of information obtained, this study is divided into five parts, namely:

1) Introduction

This chapter covers some information including the background of the study, the purpose of the study, statement of the problem, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

2) Literature Review

This chapter elaborates key points, terms, concepts and previous related studies of this study.

3) Research Methodology

This chapter explains the research design, data sources, data analysis, and data presentation.

4) Findings and Discussion

This chapter contains the result of the research. The answer of the research questions and the discussion of the findings are also included.

5) Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter provides a conclusion from the results of the research and some suggestions for future studies