ABSTRACT

Hidayatun, Layla. 2009. *Students' Mastery in Pronouncing English Words Presented in Their Textbook an Action Research on the Eighth Year Students of SMP N 1 Winong Pati in the Academic Year of 2008/2009.* Final project, English Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Semarang State University. First Advisor: Drs. Alim Sukrisno, MA. Second Advisor: Dr. Djoko Sutopo, M. Si.

Key words: Mastery, Pronouncing, Words, Textbook

The objective of this final project was to find out the students' mastery in pronouncing English words presented in the textbook by the eighth year students of SMP N 1 Winong. Moreover, this study was also conducted to explain the difficulties faced by the students in pronouncing the words.

The population of this study was the eighth year students of SMP N 1 Winong, Pati in the Academic Year of 2008/2009. The number of the population was 247, however, the writer took 15% of the population or 36 students as the samples of this study. Then, they were given 60 test items to pronounce which were chosen using purposive and proportional random sampling technique. The test items were arranged proportionally; consisting of 29 nouns, 17 verbs, 12 adjectives, and 2 adverbs. In gathering the data, the writer used a tape recorder and ninety minutes blank cassette to record the students' pronunciation. After that, the writer transcribed the results of the recording assisted by a friend of hers. As far as this, the raw scores were gained. Then, after that, the data was computed and analyzed using the Curriculum 2004 criterion.

From the analysis, it was found that the average proportion of the data was 51.8. The mean of the students' pronunciation results was 31.08, which meant that each student could only pronounce 31 from 60 words correctly. This study confirmed the proposed assumption, which was the students faced difficulties in pronouncing English words presented in their textbook. Referring to the result of the data, there were 14 words considered difficult. They were neighbors, villa, scenery, mount, hour, cousin, height, frightens, produce, increase, choose, finally, certain, and humorous, while the easiest ones were news and lazy.

Based on the analysis of the average proportion of the data, the students' mastery in pronouncing English words presented in their textbook was considered 'poor'. Then, the suggestions are: the students have to improve their ability in pronouncing English words both in the class and in daily conversation. It is also suggested that English teachers do something to help their students to improve their pronunciation. Moreover, it will be better if the books used for students are completed with more exercises for pronunciations.