

**TEACHING PRONUNCIATION BY USING
THE CONCEPT OF MINIMAL PAIRS
TO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

PAPER



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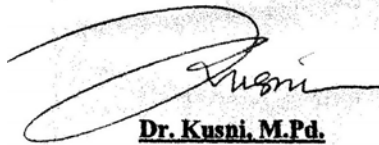
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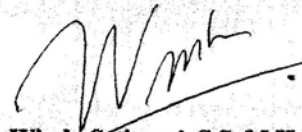
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ABSTRAK

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Bahasa Inggris merupakan salah satu pelajaran yang diajarkan di Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP). Pengajaran bahasa Inggris di SMP juga mencakup empat keterampilan berbahasa, yaitu Listening (mendengar), speaking (berbicara), reading (membaca), dan writing (menulis). Selain empat keterampilan berbahasa diatas, komponen-komponen dalam bahasa Inggris juga harus dikuasai. Salah satu komponen bahasa Inggris yang penting adalah pronunciation (pelafalan).

Pronunciation (pelafalan) sangat penting dalam bahasa Inggris, khususnya untuk keterampilan berbicara dan mendengar. Kesalahan dalam pronunciation (pelafalan) bisa menyebabkan salah pengertian dalam berkomunikasi. Karena itu mengajarkan bagaimana caranya melafalkan kata-kata yang benar dalam bahasa Inggris sangat penting dilakukan oleh guru.

Salah satu teknik yang bisa dipakai oleh guru untuk mengajarkan pronunciation (pelafalan) adalah minimal pairs. Minimal pairs adalah dua buah kata yang memiliki jumlah huruf yang sama namun berbeda makna dan bunyinya. Perbedaan bunyi hanya pada salah satu huruf, misalnya kata pig dan big. Keduanya memiliki jumlah huruf yang sama, namun makna dan pelafalannya berbeda. Perbedaan pelafalannya terletak pada huruf [p] dan [b].

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Finally, the writer hopes that this paper will be useful for English teachers, especially for those who are teaching English at junior high school.

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The writer

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

There are four skills in English that have to be mastered by English language learners, they are: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills are very important for language learners especially for junior high school students to improve their ability in communication, because to communicate well, these four skills are needed.

Learning English is not only mastering the four skills but also mastering the language components. One of important language components in English is pronunciation. Pronunciation refers to the way one produces sounds, and words of language which is produced through organ of speech. Organ of speech is producing the many sounds needed for language. Organs used include the lips, teeth, tongue, and etc.

Pronunciation has an important role to improve students' ability to communicate in English, especially in speaking and reading. If the students do not have good pronunciation, misunderstanding in communication will happen. Many cases of misunderstanding in communication were caused by the mispronouncing of words or the improper intonation. Examples: if someone pronounces the words *fog* and *fox*, *sea* and *she*, *sick* and *six* with relatively no differences, in some cases can lead to a misunderstanding. That's why pronunciation is very important.

Although pronunciation is very crucial in English, many students are still unable to pronounce a number of words or sentences in good pronunciation. They always feel worried when their teacher asks them to speak or to read because they are scared of making mistakes in pronouncing or mispronouncing a number of words or sentences in English.

Based on the writer's experience as an English teacher at junior high school, many students are still unable to pronounce the words or sentences in English in good pronunciation. This happens because of some factors, among of them are: first, students are not interested in learning pronunciation because it is difficult for them to pronounce a number of words or sentences in English, for example: they pronounce *work* with *walk*, *chance* with *change*, *three* with *tree*, and others. The last is the teacher is not creative enough in teaching pronunciation, because the technique such as drilling is not interesting for students.

In order to solve the problems above, using an interesting technique to attract students' attention in teaching pronunciation is very important. One of an interesting technique in teaching pronunciation is minimal pairs technique. Minimal pairs are a technique that can be used in teaching pronunciation. A "minimal pair is any two words that contain the same number of segments, differ in meaning, and exhibit only one phonetic difference". Through this technique, students can learn how to pronounce a number of words that have similar number of segments, but have different meaning and exhibit only one phonetic difference.

1.2 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, this paper is limited to teaching pronunciation by using the concept of minimal pairs to junior high school students.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

The problem is formulated into the following question:

“How can teaching pronunciation by using the concept of minimal pairs improve the junior high school students’ pronunciation?”

1.4 Purpose of the Paper

The purpose of the paper is to explain about teaching pronunciation by using the concept of minimal pairs to junior high school students.