

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

People are now beginning to learn different languages. By learning another language people can communicate easily with other people in different countries. But at this time a lot of people learning about language, especially about vowels. The purpose of the author writing this study is so that the reader can see the difference between tense and lax with detail and no more mispronouncing different words but sounding the same and found out what phonemes wrote correctly.

The full set of units known as phonemes is referred to as the language's phonemic system. Although the phonemes themselves are abstract, there are numerous, slightly varied ways that can be produced the sound that corresponds to them. As the primary phoneme kinds, vowels are different from consonants. But Both are the same segmental phonemes. Segmental phonemes are divided into three kinds, they are consonants, vowels, and semi-vowels or approximants. Although they come from one source but basically the three phonemes kinds are different from everything. Consonants differ from their creations. Obstructions in the speech organs create in many kinds and many ways. All consonants must be created through several elements; those elements are the parts of something called a phonon. Phonon

is as bases of all consonant creations means there is no consonant that is created without phonon element processes. There are 4 phono elements. They are places of articulation, manner of articulation, voicing, and effects of voicing. Places of articulation mean where all consonant phonemes are able to be seen or traced. Places of articulation inform us where those consonants are created in our speech organs. From these parts we know bilabials, labiodental, palatal, etc. The second element is the manner of articulation which informs us about how those consonants are created in our speech organs. All these phoneme parts are different from their creation of one. They are plosive, fricative, affricate, and nasal. In these consonant terms, voicing is known as the consonants which are created through obstructions, there are voiced and some are voiceless. The voiced ones or Vd which is known that these phonemes are obstructed, voiced mean if the vocal cord together the air stream forces its way through and causes them to vibrate. And the voiceless ones or Vs known as these phonemes are not obstructed, voiceless means if the vocal cords are apart, the air stream is not obstructed at the glottis and it passes freely into the supra glottal cavities. Effects from those obstructions are known as lenis from the voiced ones and fortis come from the voiceless ones.

Talking about vowels, several steps which are the prerequisite for vowel creation must be understood by the learners. Vowels need speech organs like tongue and lips, mean tongue height, and three lips positions, like rounded, unrounded, and spread. The researcher must understand that vowels

are created without any structures or obstructions. Vowels are speech sounds formed by a relatively open configuration of the vocal tract, with vocal cord vibration but no audible friction, and form the nucleus of a syllable in a language's sound system. A vowel is a sound created by the passage of air from the lungs through the mouth, which functions as a resonance chamber in human speech.

Based to Carr (2013) to understand all vowels, the learners must understand the functions of the two axes, their functions are different but are unity for vowel creations. They are: First is known as the axe of horizontal. This axe gives three parts of vowel kinds, they are front, central, and back vowels. This axe possesses the unction as how far our tongue is in our mouth, in this case, our ability to know: e.g front vowels mean our tongue is located beneath the hard palate. Back vowels mean our tongue is located beneath the soft palates, and the central vowels mean our tongue is located beneath the meeting between the hard and soft palates in our mouth. (p.60)

There are four points on the vertical axis that are referred to as close, half-close, half-open, and open. This axis indicates how loud the hum is. If it is raised high, it is "close" to the roof of the mouth, while the other three points are further away from the roof and more "open." English learners need to know in what ways English vowels differ from others. There are two kinds of vowels, Diphthong and Monophthong.

The vocal sound known as a monophthong is relatively absolutely pure and only needs the pronunciation of one vowel, requiring no changes in the

talking instrument's position. The English language has represented general sounds such as [i, e, a, ɔ, u]. For instance, readers will be able to identify the sounds [I] of the word hit, [e] of the word let, [a] of the word cut, [ɔ] of the word lot, and [u] of the word good.

Besides monophthong, there is diphthong. Diphthongs are syllable combinations in which the two different vowels appear in about the same syllable. Diphthongs are similar to long vowels in length. The first part of every diphthong should be much longer and stronger than the second part, which is possibly the most significant distinction to keep in mind. For example, most of the diphthong əI (as in the word “ take”, “I”) consists of the ə vowel, and only in about the last quarter of the diphthong does the glide to I become noticeable.

As the glide I happen, the loudness of the sound decreases. As a result, the /I/ part is shorter and quieter. The foreign learner must always remember that the last part of English diphthongs must not be made too strongly. The characteristic that all closing diphthongs require is a glide towards a closer vowel. The second component of the diphthong is poor, therefore most frequently fails to get to what may be considered a close position. The crucial aspect is the production of a glide from a somewhat more open to a considerably more close vowel.

The most complex English sounds of the vowel type are the triphthongs. These can be highly challenging to identify and somewhat challenging to pronounce. A triphthong is the quick, uninterrupted transition

from one vowel to another and subsequently to a third.

Tense and lax as terms used to describe the degree of tension in the tongue muscles, when we articulate a tense vowel, the tongue and other parts of the vocal apparatus are relatively tighter, whereas when we articulate a lax vowel, the tongue and other parts of the vocal apparatus are relatively loose. In general, the terms tense and lax describe how tense vowels are longer than lax vowels, implying that tense is a long vowel and lax is a short vowel.

According to the description above, linguistics is the scientific study of language and plays an important role in other fields. Linguistics encompassed physics and chemistry as well. Linguistics and phoneticians, want to understand the human language works systematically. Learning linguistics and phonetics focuses on learning how to analyze the structure of language (for example, grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary) as well as the physics of speech, as well as investigating how language is acquired, processed, and implemented by different people in different contexts. It entails performing details analysis work on data derived from languages all over the world, including searching for similarities and differences between languages to discover the core characteristics of human language.

As stated in Bauwer (2007), in addition to having a connotation related to linguistics, the word “linguistics” also has a meaning related to language. According to Bauwer’s definition, it may be inferred that linguistics and language are intimately related. Language and linguistics are concepts that are interconnected. Thus, neither of these can be inferred. If we’re discussing

linguistics, then we are discussing them.

In the other book, linguistics help to understand more about the structure of the language because language is a complex thing. The difference between a language, a dialect, and an accent what languages have in common and how they differ, and what is the relationship between language and culture, the answer can be found in linguistics studies. Linguistics is a wide discussion and linguistics is a discipline that studies language, and there are words in the language that are used in many songs.

A song is a musical arrangement that is meant to be sung by the human voice. This is often achieved at distinct and set pitches (melodies) using sound and silence patterns. Songs contain a variety of forms, such as those that include section repetition and variation. On other hand, a song is a simple object and easy to find. As we know the song does have limitations because the song is one of the most art that affected. So it makes it easy for the writer to analyze tense and lax back vowels.

The writer gives one sample of the data above, taken from the Lips are movin song of the title album by Meghan Trainor.

“ Boy, look at me in my face.....” (L. 5)

In the above word look, it is / o o / / lɒk / has short back vowel phonemes, that is / ʊ /. This / ʊ / phoneme is included in the horizontal axis as the back vowel, which means it is produced in the back part of the mouth by raising the jaw or raising the body of the tongue. While / ʊ / phoneme is included in the vertical axis, too. Due to the tongue position of the / ʊ /

phonemes in the upper tongue surface is close to the roof of the mouth. So that is not quite so back nor so close, and the lips are only moderately rounded.

Meghan Elizabeth Trainor was born on December 22, 1993. She is an American singer, songwriter, and record producer. Born and raised in Nantucket, Massachusetts, Trainor wrote, recorded, performed, and produced three independently-released albums between the ages of 15 and 17. Trainor Release her major-label debut studio album *Title* (2015). The album debuted domestically.

Trainor got many achievements, she has won three ASCAP Pop Music Awards, two Billboard Music Awards, a People's Choice Award, and received one Grammy Award. she also was named the "Breakthrough Artist of the Year" by the Music Business Association in 2014. And among her achievements, Trainor became the 21st woman to land her debut single at the top of the Billboard Hot 100, and the fifth female artist to follow up her chart-topping debut single with another top 5 release. On the Billboard Year-End Charts for 2015, Trainor was listed seventh on Top Artist and second on top Female Artist.

From all of the above examples, the writer concludes that Tense and lax vowels are a part of Linguistics, which is a science that studies language, and that the song's most important element is built from a word and language that is connected to Tense and lax vowels, which is divided into several sections, such as Back vowels. This paper attempts to identify tense and lax variations

in back vowels that may occur in Meghan Trainor's albums.

The title of the research that the writer observed is Tense and Lax Differences of Back Vowel in “Title” Albums of Meghan Trainor. Similar to the intent of this paper, the writer wishes to look up and examine words that may contain Tense and Lax of Front Vowel, and to try to identify and classify the differences that will be discussed in Chapter 4 regarding Data Analysis.

B. Questions and Scopes of the Research

1. Question of the Research

According to the background above, the writer would describe the problem that exists in this research. To limit and focus on what the writer wants to analyze, some questions are related to the research which are as follows:

- a. How to produce the back vowel in the whole lyrics of Meghan Trainor's album?
- b. What kinds of back vowels are found in the songs?

2. Scopes of the Research

The objective of this research focuses on the back vowel kinds whether they are tense or lax and what are the differences. The theories are used: 1. Peter Roach (2009) 2. Philip Carr (2013) 3. Henry Rogers (2013). The object data are taken from the song set by Meghan Trainor. By classifying and analyzing those data we can understand what are the tense and lax back vowels phonemes.

C. Objectives and Significance of the Research

1. Objectives of the Research

- a. The writer wants to find back vowels in the whole lyrics of Meghan Trainor's songs.
- b. The writer wants to find out what kinds and differences of those back vowels that found in the songs.

2. Significance of The Research

The findings of this research are meant to bring benefits to the reader, both intellectually and practically. Academically, the researcher expects that this research will provide knowledge and information on the tense and lax differences of a back vowel in a song and that it will serve as a source of inspiration for another researcher to do a deeper analysis on a similar or even different object.

Practically, this research is expected addition to providing references that may be utilized in future research on tense and lax distinctions in back vowels, particularly for English literature students at STBA JIA who choose to write research using this type of linguistics. This paper can also be used for comparison by another researcher or persons interested in linguistics. It also believes that persons in public should have a better understanding of linguistics, particularly tense and lax vowels.

D. Operational Definition

The writer will define or explain the context of key terms or phrases used in this research that may be useful in locating a keyword. There are the following:

1. Linguistics

Linguistics is the study of language. Linguistics, often known as general linguistics, refers to the study of all aspects of a language in addition to evaluating linguistic proficiency. Humans can learn how language works methodically by studying linguistics. The four branches of linguistics are phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. We understand how human language functions and how to examine the language's structure due to linguistic research. Language is a complex thing, thus studying linguistics can teach us more about how language is structured.

2. Phonology

The study of sound patterns within and across languages appears to be phonology. A division of linguistics called phonology would study how languages or dialects systematically organize their sounds. The term may also refer to a particular language variety's sound system. Before, just the study of phonemes was included in the field of phonology.

3. Phonemes

The smallest unit of sound is a phoneme, which can modify the meaning even though it has no inherent meaning. Phonemes are one of the

phonological studies, and minimal pairs are concepts having different units. Primary and secondary phonemes are the two categories of phonemes (prosody). Phonemes are seen through sound, but letters are seen through orthography or realizations. All letters are phonemes, but not all phonemes are letters.

4. Vowels

Vowel production process just minimal airflow restriction from the lungs out the mouth and/or nose. The form of the vocal tract as air goes through depends upon the quality of the vowels. Various tongue portions may be high or low in the mouth. The velum can be lifted or lowered, and the lips can be spread out or pursed. Vowel duration can vary when shouted because vowel sound carries pitch and intensity. Vowels can be generated without a consonant coming before or after them.

5. Back vowels

Any of the vowel sounds used in spoken languages are produced by a back vowel. A back vowel can be identified by the fact that the highest point of the tongue is somewhat deeper back in the mouth than a consonant would be without generating constriction. Because they are considered to sound deeper than front vowels, back vowels are also referred to as “dark vowels”. No language is known to distinguish between the back and near-back vowels purely on the basis of backness, near back vowels are simply a subset of back vowels.

6. Tense

Tense vowels are also called long vowels; this name is slightly misleading because, in RP English at least, the tense vowels have variable lengths there are five long vowels these are the vowel that tends to be longer in a similar context the length of all English vowel sounds varies very much according (such as the type of sound that follows them) and the presence and absence of stress.

7. Lax

Short vowels another trait of lax vowels is that they always operate as an obstruction when stressed, meaning that they never appear by themselves at the endings of words but always require a consonant to follow them.

8. Song

a song appears to be a piece of music created specifically for the human voice to sing. This is usually accomplished utilizing sequences of sound and predetermined pitches (melodies). Songs can assume many diverse shapes, including those with section repetition and change.

E. Systematization of the Research

The systematization of the research means presenting the research well-edited composition. This research is divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I is the introduction. It explains the background of the research, the questions and the scope of the research, the objective and significance of the research, operational definitions and the systematization of the research.

Chapter II is Theoretical Description. It consists of the definition of Analysis, Phonology, Vowel, and Song.

Chapter III is the Methodology of the research. It contains the method of the research: 1. Time and place of the research, 2. Kind of the research, procedure of the research, technique of the data collection, technique of the data analysis, and sources of the primary and secondary.

Chapter IV analysis data. It shows the data description, data analysis, and interpretation of the research finding.

Chapter V is the Conclusion and suggestion. It gives the summary of all chapters and some suggestions.

