CHAPTER I
Introduction

The first chapter discusses the research background, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, research problem, objective of the study, and the significance of the study.

1.1 Research Background

English has become an international language used to communicate in various fields. In addition, Crystal (2019:112) stated that English is also the primary language of popular music. Many singers' viral and famous songs use English lyrics, regardless of the singer's native language. In fact, the American-centered music industry encourages singers to use English in their song lyrics to reach a broader audience.

The widespread use of English leads to a diversity of English accents. According to Wells (1982:1), an accent is a pattern of pronunciation used by the speaker for whom English is the native language. Singers from the UK are known for their unique accents, which add a special charm and character to their music. Some British singers, such as Adele, Ed Sheeran, Lily Allen, and Yungblud, are known to retain their original accents.

When singers perform using their original accent, it can significantly affect the overall sound. The unique pronunciation of each word can add character to the singing voice, which can represent authenticity and become a signature of a

singer's performance. However, listeners may find the lyrics unclear because of the use of an original accent. For listeners who use English as a second language, the pronunciation might differ from the standard or more universally recognized pronunciation. Therefore, those differences can lead to misinterpretation or difficulty in understanding the song lyrics.

This phenomenon encouraged the writer to conduct research on accents. Pronunciation can always be studied from two perspectives: phonetics and phonology. Allan (2015:62) defined phonetics as the scientific study of speech sounds, their articulation, transmission, and reception, while phonology studies how speech sounds are used in language. Speech sounds are divided into two categories, namely vowels and consonants. Vowels are an important component in constructing a word. Vowel sounds can be used to identify a speaker's accent. For example, the vowel in the word "dance" is pronounced /æ/ in the American accent but /ɑː/ in the British accent. The example shows differences in vowel length, mouth position, and lip rounding. Thus, the research focuses on the pronunciation of vowels and semi-vowels in song lyrics by a British singer.

In this research, the writer chooses a British singer called Yungblud, who sings with his original accent, to analyze his pronunciation. Dominic Richard Harrison, also known as Yungblud, is a 27-year-old singer, songwriter, and actor. He was born on August 5, 1997, in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, England. Yungblud has become a rising star in the music industry since 2017. He gained popularity when his song "I Love You, Will You Marry Me" went viral on social

media. Most of Yungblud's music contains various genres, such as rock, punk, pop, alternative, and hip-hop. The theme of Yungblud's songs has caught the attention of the young generations because his lyrics include mental health and social issues. Apart from his music, Yungblud is also known for his strong presence in real life and on social media.

The writer focuses on one of Yungblud's song entitled "I Love You, Will You Marry Me." Many of his fans notice his strong British accent in every song. However, some listeners who speak English as a second language tend to mishear the lyrics because they are not used to hearing the British accent. This study highlights the use of vowels and semi-vowels because these sounds have a major contribution to accent variation. In addition to his strong accent, the writer chooses Yungblud for this research because his music has a great positive influence on the youth.

In conclusion, based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in conducting the research entitled **"An Analysis of Vowel and Semi-vowel in Yungblud's Song I Love You, Will You Marry Me from Phonology Perspective"**

1.2 Identification of the Problems

Based on the background above, the writer found that a singer who retains an original accent has its own characteristics when singing. However, music

listeners who are not native speakers and are not familiar with various English accents may have difficulty understanding the song lyrics. For this matter, a British singer named Yungblud becomes the subject of study. Yungblud sings with a strong British accent, which is rare in the music industry. In this study, the writer analyzes the aspects that influence the variation of English accents, namely the pronunciation of vowels and semi-vowels.

1.3 Limitation of the Problems

In this research, the writer focuses on analyzing the vowels and semi-vowels in Yungblud song lyrics entitled I Love You, Will You Marry Me from the 21st Century Liability album. Among the ten albums released by Yungblud, the writer selected the song because it has a strong message for the society.

1.4 Research Problems

Based on the background research above, the writer analyzes the research problem into the two following questions:

1. What are English vowels and semi-vowels in Yungblud's song I Love You, Will You Marry Me?
2. What are the mouth positions of vowels and semi-vowels found in Yungblud's song I Love You, Will You Marry Me?

1.5   Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the English vowels and semi-vowels in Yungblud's song I Love You, Will You Marry Me.

2. To identify the mouth position of vowels and semi-vowels found in Yungblud's song I Love You, Will You Marry Me.

1.6   Significances of the Study

The writer hopes that this research give some benefits to the readers, other researchers and the writer herself.

1. Theoretical benefit

This research can be used as a reference for other researchers who conduct similar research, especially regarding accent, vowel, and semi-vowel sounds in English. The writer also hopes that this research can provide further understanding about British accent for the general public.

2. Practical benefit

- The research can provide understanding and references for further research about vowels and semi-vowels in Received Pronunciation.

- The readers are able pronounce the vowel and semi-vowel sounds based on British accent.

- Improve the pronunciation skills of readers who are learning a British accent.