CHAPTER II
Literature Review

In this chapter, the writer explains about phonology and phonetics, provide the theory about vowels and semi-vowels in Received Pronunciation, accent, and the previous research related to the study.

2.1 Phonology and Phonetics

Every human being has the ability to speak. Language is a tool that humans use to communicate with each other. Humans produce sounds to form words when they speak. The study of the human ability to produce and interpret language is called linguistics. In linguistics, there are sub-disciplines related to human speech sound, namely phonology and phonetics

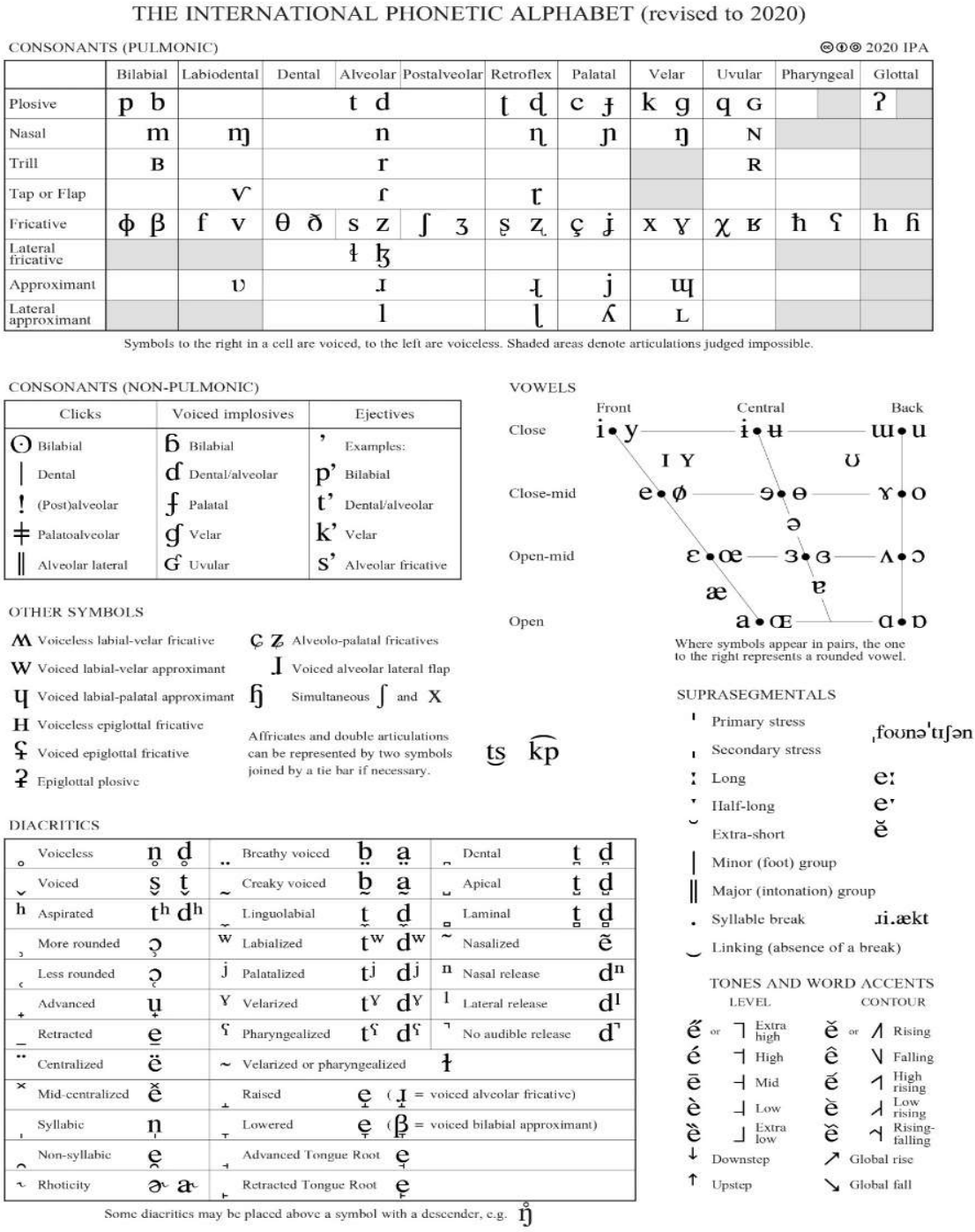
2.1.1 Phonetics

Phonetics is the branch of linguistics that deals with the physical properties of speech sounds. Phonetics is concerned with the concrete physical aspects of speech production. McMahon (2020:1) stated that phonetics provides objective ways of describing and analyzing the range of sounds humans use in their languages. The language sounds are identified by articulatory phonetics to find the speech organs and muscle that involved in the producing the different sound. Those sounds are then transmitted from the speaker to the hearer, and acoustic and auditory phonetics concentrate on the physical aspect of speech as it travels through the air in the form of sound

waves, and the effect those waves have on a hearer's ears and brain. It follows that phonetics has strong associations with anatomy, physiology, physics and neurology.

In addition, Allan (2015:62) stated that phonetics is traditionally defined as the scientific study of speech sounds, their articulation, transmission and reception. The International Phonetic Association has introduced symbols used to represent the sounds of English words and the physical aspects of the human vocal tract involved in sound production. Writing sounds using the phonetic alphabet is called phonemic transcription. Below is the IPA chart that can be accessed from the International Phonetic Association website (internationalphoneticassociation.org):

Figure 2. 1
The International Phonetic Alphabet Chart



Based on the definition above, phonetics is a linguistics branch that deals with substance – which refers to the speech organ that produces language sounds. Phonetics is often divided into the subfields of articulatory phonetics – involving the physiology of speech production; acoustic phonetics – focusing on the transmission of the speech signal through the air; and auditory phonetics – examining the speech perception by human listeners.

2.1.2 Phonology

Phonology is a study about speech sound. According to Yule (2020:45), phonology is the description and patterns of speech sounds in language. In contrast to phonetics, phonology deals with the abstract representation of sounds in our minds that enables us to recognize and interpret the meaning of words on the basis of the actual physical sounds we say and hear.

Phonology explores the systematic organization of sounds within a language, involving the abstract mental representations of speech sounds. Davenport and Hannahs (2020:3-4) defined phonology as the way the sounds we use are organised into patterns and systems; for instance: how the sounds can be combined, the relations between them and how they affect each other.

Based on the definitions above, the writer conclude that phonology is a study of the sound system of a language, focusing on the differences in sounds that can affect the meaning of words.

2.2 Vowel and Semi-vowel in Received Pronunciation

According to Roach (2009:10), vowels are sounds in which there is no obstruction to the flow of air as it passes from the larynx to the lips. Furthermore, Hughes and Trudgill (2013:38) described vowels in terms of: (a) the part of the tongue which is raised towards the roof of the mouth in producing it, and how far it is raised; and (b) how spread or rounded the lips are. The following table is a vowel sets in Received Pronunciation based on J.C. Wells.

Table 2. 1
Vowels Chart in RP Based on J.C. Wells (1982)

KIT	ɪ	FLEECE	iː	NEAR	ɪə
DRESS	e	FACE	eɪ	SQUARE	eə
TRAP	æ	PALM	ɑː	START	ɑː
LOT	ɒ	THOUGHT	ɔː	NORTH	ɔː
STRUT	ʌ	GOAT	əʊ	FORCE	ɔː
FOOT	ʊ	GOOSE	uː	CURE	ʊə
BATH	ɑː	PRICE	aɪ	happY	i
CLOTH	ɒ	CHOICE	ɔɪ	lettER	ə
NURSE	ɜː	MOUTH	aʊ	commA	ə

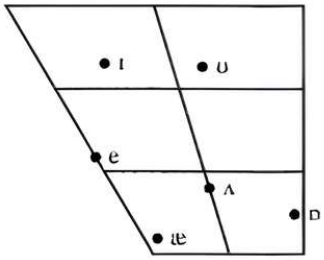
The chart above presents the short vowels, long vowels, diphthongs, and weak vowel in Received Pronunciation. Vowels can be identify according to their tongue height, frontness or backness, and the lip position. The lip position can be rounded, spread, and neutral.

2.2.1 Short and Long Vowels

a. Short vowels

From the previous explanation, it is clear that vowels can be classified by the tongue height, frontness and lip rounding. Beside those categories, vowel also distinguished by its length. Vowels can be short and long in terms of the length. Short vowel is a vowel that pronounced briefly. Roach (2009:13-14) identified seven short vowels in RP.

Figure 2. 2
English Short Vowels



1) **/ɪ/**, as in bit, pit. This vowel is front, mid-close and the lips are slightly spread.
2) **/e/**, as in bet, men. This vowel is front, mid-close and the lips are slightly spread.
3) **/æ/**, as in bat, man.This is a front, mid open vowel and the lips are slightly spread.
4) **/ʌ/**, as in cut, come. This vowel is central, mid-open, and the lips are neutral.

5) **/ɒ/**, as in pot, cross. This vowel is typically a back, open and the lips are rounded.

6) **/ʊ/**, as in put, pull. This vowel is back, mid-close and the lips are rounded.

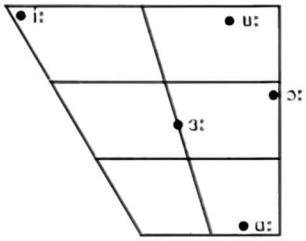
7) **/ə/**, as in about, oppose. This vowel is central, mid, and the lips are neutral.

In conclusion, short vowel consist of a single phoneme and pronounced briefly. In RP, there are seven short vowels where five of them represent the letters a, i, u, e, o. Short vowels can be identified in a pattern. It commonly occur between the consonant sounds as from the example above.

b. Long Vowels

According to Roach (2009:16), long vowel is pronounced in longer duration where the symbol is marked by two dots after the vowel. The two dots mark is not essential to use but it can help people to differentiate the length of the vowel sound.

Figure 2. 3
English Long Vowels



There are five long vowels in RP as follow:

1) **/i**:/, as in mean. This vowel is front, close, and the lips are slightly spread.
2) **/u**:/, as in food. This vowel is back, close, and the lips are rounded.
3) **/ɔ**:/, as in torn. The mouth position of this vowel is back, mid-open and the lips are rounded.
4) **/ɑ**:/, as in card. The position of this vowel is open, back, and the lips are neutral.
5) **/ɜ**:/, as in bird. The position of this vowel is central, mid-open, and the lips are neutral.

In contrast to the short vowel, long vowels consist of a single phoneme marked by two dots to indicate the length sound. The two dots in long vowels is actually not necessary since the symbol of long vowels are completely different from short vowels.

2.2.2 Monophthong, Diphthong, and Triphthong

a. Monophthong

According to Davenport and Hannahs (2020:44), monophthongs are vowels that represented by a single vowel symbol and sound relatively steady. In addition, Hughes and Trudgill (2013:48) stated that there are 12 monophthongs in RP which sometimes called 'pure' vowels, because their quality does not change over the course of the vowel.

1) /iː/, as in bee
2) /ɪ/, as in pit
3) /ɛ/, as in pet
4) /a/, as in pat
5) /ʌ/, as in putt
6) /ɑː/, as in bard
7) /ɒ/, as in pot
8) /ɔː/, as in board
9) /ʊ/, as in put
10) /uː/, as in boot
11) /ɜː/, as in bird
12) /ə/, as in father

To put it simply, short vowels and long vowels are parts of monophthongs. It also can be said that short and long vowels are part of monophthong because both are fit the definition based on the experts where monophthong is indicated by one vowel symbol.

b. Diphthongs

Based on Roach (2009:17), diphthong is a sound that consist of two vowels with a glide from one vowel to another. Diphthong is similar in length with long vowel. The first vowel sounds longer and louder than the second vowel. There are eight diphthongs consist of three centering which having schwa as the second element and the other five diphthongs are closing, with the first element in each being more open than the second.

1) **/ɪə/**, as in weird. The positions begin with mid-close front towards the mid central and the lips are unrounded.
2) **/eə/**, as in aired. This diphthong begins with mid-close front towards mid central and the lips are unrounded.
3) **/ʊə/**, as in tour. This diphthong start with mid-close back towards the mid central and lips are unrounded.
4) **/eɪ/**, as in paid. This is a mid-close front diphthong that glides to mid-close front and the lips are spread.
5) **/aɪ/**, as in time. This diphthong has an open front starting point towards mid-close front and the lips are unrounded.
6) **/ɔɪ/**, as in voice. The diphthong begins with the mid-open back towards mid-close front and the lips are unrounded.
7) **/əʊ/**, as in most. This diphthong is typically a mid central unrounded starting-point moving towards a closer and back slightly rounded vowel.

8) **/aʊ/**, as in loud. The position begin with open front towards mid-close back and the lips are rounded.

In conclusion, diphthong is a combination of two phonemes that causes change in sound quality. The sound of the first phoneme is generally more clear while the second phoneme sound subtle.

c. Triphthong

Triphthong is the most difficult sound to pronounce. Roach (2009:18) stated that triphthong is a combination of three vowels that pronounced rapidly without interruption. The formula of triphthong is the five closing diphthong and schwa added on the end.

1) **/aɪə/**, as in fire. This triphthong has an open front starting point towards mid-close front then ends with a mid-central vowel.
2) **/eɪə/**, as in player. The position begin with mid-close front towards the mid-close front then ends with a mid-central vowel.
3) **/ɔɪə/**, as in loyal. The position begins with the mid-open back towards mid-close front then ends with a mid-central vowel.
4) **/əʊə/**, as in lower. The position start with mid central towards a closer and back then ends with a mid-central vowel.
5) **/aʊə/**, as in hour. The position begin with open front towards mid-close back then ends with a mid-central vowel.

Based on the examples above, it can be concluded that triphthong is a result of Received Pronunciation as a non-rhotic accent. The word like hour does not pronounced the /r/ sound and it caused the word sound ended with vowel.

2.2.3 Semi-vowels

There are two semi-vowels in RP, mainly /j/ and /w/. These phonemes are considered as semi-vowels because they have the characteristics of vowel and consonant. More specifically, Roach (2009:50) stated that /j/ and /w/ are phonetically like vowel but phonologically like consonant. Therefore, /j/ and /w/ are known as approximants in consonant terms. Based on the IPA Chart, /j/ is a palatal sound (a consonant made with the tongue close to the hard palate. While /w/ is a labial-velar (a position that allows air to pass through the nose and the mouth). From the phonetics point of view, the articulation of /j/ is practically the same as /iː/, but is very short. In the same way /w/ is closely similar to /uː/.

1) cue – kjuː
2) quick – kwɪk

To conclude, /j/ and /w/ are categorized as semi-vowels because in terms of articulation, they sound practically the same as vowels. However, in terms of distribution, they can be categorized as consonants because they occur before vowels.

2.2.4 Innovation in Received Pronunciation

a. R Dropping

In received pronunciation, the sound /r/ is sometimes omitted. Wells (1982:218), referred the deletion of the /r/ sound in RP as R Dropping. However, R Dropping is not always applied. For instance, in the word "red," the /r/ occurred before a vowel and therefore is not dropped. There are several rules in R Dropping, including the following:

1) R Dropping is used when the sound /r/ occurs before a consonant, as follow:

   beard – bɪəd start – staːt north – nɒːθ

2) R Dropping is applied after /ɜː/ and /ə/, as follow:

   nurse – nɜːs standard – stændəd

3) R Dropping also occurs at the end of a word spoken in isolation, as follow:

   near – nɪə far – faː or – ɒː

However, there is an exception to this rule: if a word ends with the sound /r/ and the next word begins with a consonant, R Dropping still remain. But when the next word start with vowel, the /r/ is not omitted, this situation known as ‘linking /r/’.

far gone – fɑː gɒn near us – nɪər ʌs

Non-rhotic is one of the characteristics of the British accent. Non-rhotic is an act of omitting the /r/ sound, which is called R dropping. In fact

not all /r/ sounds are omitted because there are several rules in its application.

b. H Dropping

Generally, words such as happy, hit, and hedge have /h/ based on the standard accent. The /h/ is described as a range of voiceless approximant varying with the quality of the following vowel. In Received Pronunciation, Wells (1982:253) referred the deletion of /h/ as H Dropping. H Dropping occurs when a word begin with a vowel. On the other hand, pronouns (he, him, her, his) and auxiliaries (have, has, had) always lack the /h/ so it is not considered as H Dropping. Here are some example of the H Dropping in RP:

hedge – ɛdʒ over here – ʌʊvər ˈɪə

In conclusion, H dropping is a British linguistic innovation in which the "h" sound is absent and a word begins with a vowel. Furthermore, Wells (1982:253) stated that there is a principle indicating that "h" is not considered part of the phoneme system. This implies that the words "hedge" and "edge," as mentioned in the previous example, are homophones.

c. Glottalization

According to Wells (1982: 260) glottalization refer to the use of the glottal stop [ʔ] to reinforce consonant such as /p/, /t/, /k/, and /tʃ/. In RP the use of glottal stop is more common to replace the /t/. The T Glottalization only occurs when /t/ is preceded by a vowel, a liquid, or a nasal. For instance, water and bottle are pronounced as [ˈwʌʔə] and [ˈbɒʔo].

T glottalization is one of the characteristic features of the British accent. In addition, Wells (1982:261) also stated that T glottalization also known as Cockneyism. The use of T glottalization is indeed more common in Received Pronunciation compared to other accents, including American English. While it does occur in certain regions and social contexts within American dialects, it remains less prevalent overall than in RP.

2.3 Accent

2.3.1 The Definition of Accent

Some people who have English as a second language might able to notice on how native speakers sound different when they pronounce the words when learning the language. For example, a native speaker pronounce door as [dɔ:] or even [dɔ:r]. The difference on how to pronounce a word is what we called an accent. According to Yule (2020:280), it is impossible that some speakers have an accent while others do not. It is because of some speakers have a very distinct way to pronounce a word which make it easier to recognize the type

of their accent. Still, on some cases English speakers have less noticeable accent so it is hard to figure out what kind of accent they use. But it is clear that every language-user speak with an accent. Wells (1982:1) also had the same opinion that every speaker has an accent. Geographical region, social class, sex, age group, or level of education are the characteristics that affect every speakers with an accent.

Hughes and Trudgill (2013:3) referred accent only as variations in pronunciations. Sometimes people are confused to differ accent and dialect. It is important to remember that those terms are different. Dialect is a variety of language that distinguished by grammar and vocabulary while accent is only involves in pronunciation.

Wells (1982:1) defined accent as a pattern of pronunciation used by speaker whom English is the native language or, more generally, by the community or social grouping to which he or she belongs. Furthermore, Wells also refer an accent as the use of particular vowel or consonant sound and particular rhythmic, intonational, and other prosodic features; to the syntagmatic (structural) and paradigmatic (systemic) interrelationship between these, and to the more abstract (phonological) representation which can be seen as underlying the actual (phonetic) articulations, together with the rules which relate the one to the other; and to the relationship between all of these and the individual words or other items which constitute the speaker's mental lexicon or vocabulary.

Based on the explanation above, the writer concluded that accent is something that every English speaker has. It is a unique way to pronounce a word. Accent is influenced by several factors, ranging from geography to age. As a result, a person's pronunciation can reveal their regional or social background.

2.3.2 The Aspects of Accent

The differences in pronunciation among speakers are influenced by several aspects. These aspects can provide the information such as the region of the speaker. Based on Wells (1982:8-23), there are various aspects contribute to the pronunciation variations as follows:

1. **Geographical Variation**

   Accent is the powerful indicator of geographical identity. Through the speakers' speech, we are able to know about where they come from or even where they live at the moment. Generally, people distinguished the accent by the regionality such as Australian accent or American accent. The amount of the speech familiarity on certain area increase the ability to recognizing the regionality of the speaker's from their accent.

2. **Socio-economic Class**

   A speaker's words, construction, and pronunciation can reflect the social position. There are some terms to classified the speaker on social

scale. For instance, William Labov's research on the social dimension of accent variation using the term lower class, working class, and middle class. The finer socio-economic classification, the finer sociolinguistics stratification is expected to be reveal.

3. Sex and Ethnicity

Men and women tend to have a different way to speak a language since the biological affect their mean pitch and voice quality. Actually, there is no rule that men should talk differently from women. In fact, there is a subtle differences of accent between men and women which make it difficult to notice it. As for women, the way they speak a language is more proper and precise.

As for ethnicity, it does not affect the way an individual speak, but the geographical is. In reality, the London-born and London-raised children will sound like other Londoners since they acquire the accent from their peer group. But it is possible that the children have an additional accent from their parents that can be used for a specific occasion.

4. Age

It is obvious that the speech of young people is different from the older people. The main reason is because the older people already experience the change in physiological which affect their speech organ. The young people might have an unclear pronunciation because of that. The gap of knowledge and understanding also causes the young people to have an errors in the

grammar use since they proceed by making inferences on the basis of the language they hear around them.

Regarding the four aspects mentioned previously, it can be concluded that the geographical aspect is the most influential in shaping the speaker's accents. The speakers who do not use English as their first language tend to have more noticeable accent than the native speakers.

2.3.3 Types of Accent

Recently, most of people use English to communicate internationally. English is considered as an international language. For those whose English is a second language, they learn the American English. But these days the use of internet introduce the various types of English accent. A non-native speaker somehow will notice that there is a difference in pronouncing the English words. American accent and British accent are the most well-known English accent around the English language learner. Here are the explanation about the two popular English accents:

1. **Received Pronunciation**

According to Hughes and Trudgill (2013:3), Received Pronunciation is the accent used by those at the upper reaches of the social scale, as measured by education, income and profession, or title. RP has been traditionally the accent of those educated at public schools. Moreover, RP is different with the prestige accents in other countries because RP is not

the accent of any particular region. Moreover, Wells (1982:117) stated that RP is also known as the BBC accent. In the early 1970s, RP was the accent spoke by the announcers of BBC. Furthermore, RP is often use as a model for teaching English since it has a specific consonant sounds and vowel pronunciations which differ from the other accents.

2. General American

General American accent is a default form of pronunciation in the United States. According to Wells (1982:118), General American is a term that has been applied to the two-thirds of the American population who do not have a recognizably local accent. American English is the type of pronunciation taught to the English learner as foreign language.

2.4 Previous Research

The writer conducted this research according to several previous studies which have a similar theme, namely about English pronunciation and accent. The first study is conducted by Dian Oktavia entitled "*The Pronunciation of English Consonants in Rihanna's Songs Entitled Work and Man Down*". The research discusses about Rihanna's pronunciation of consonants in two of her songs. The writer also explores the potential factors that affecting her pronunciation.

Another research by Psaridhanti entitled "*English Monophthong and Diphthong Vowel Accuracy of the Hostel Managers at Daarul Ukhuwwah Putri 2 Islamic Boarding School Singosari, Malang*". This research analyzes the

accuracy of the hostel manager's pronunciation of monophthongs and diphthongs when pronouncing words and sentences in English.

The last one is Puspita's research entitled "*An Analysis of Joko Widodo's English Vowel and Consonant Sounds in His Official Speeches: Phonological Approach*." The aim of this research is to describe English vowel and consonant sounds mispronounced by Mr. Jokowi's speech in APEC CEO Summit 2014, The World Economic Forum on East Asia 2015, and The World Press Freedom Day 2016 based on the standard of Received Pronunciation (RP) and factors influencing the incorrect English vowel and consonant sounds.