

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human have an ability to sense what is happening around them. With the use of their auditory system, they are able to hear useful and useless sound. Useful sounds are desired sounds while useless sounds are unwanted sounds named noise.

The easiest way to understand the term useful sound is to see it as a unit of speech which is produced by the human speech organs. The sounds are represented by symbols as in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). International Phonetic Association (Ann, 1999: 3) states that IPA refers to a set of symbols which would be convenient to use, but comprehensive enough to cope with the wide variety of sounds found in the languages of the world in written form. For example, the symbol /i:/ represents the vowel sounds in the following words see (/si:/), sea (/si:/), and bee (/bi:/). In a contrast, noise (ambient noise or background noise) is a distraction and is also often meaningless.

Human need an action of identification process in order to know something new. They will not know the word 'bang' until they know about the context it refers to. In English, the word 'bang' can be used to represent a harsh noise as in the sound gun made, and the sound produced when people hit table or door.

In English, the sound /miaʊ/ (meow) can be used to imitate the sound of a cat, the sound /baʊwəʊ/ (bow-wow) can be used to imitate the sound of a dog, as well as the sound /mu/ (moo) can be used to imitate the sound of a cow. Those examples

show us that human use sounds to imitate the sound of something. This sense, where human use natural sound to name something, is considered as onomatopoeia.

Onomatopoeia is generally known as a branch of linguistics related to the study on how people imitate the sound. Pharies in Sobkowiak (1990: 16) describes Onomatopoeia as a word that is considered by convention to be acoustically similar to the sound, or the sound produced by the thing to which it refers. Further, Bredin in Dofs (2008: 1) states that onomatopoeia is a universal possibility in all languages. As in Indonesia, the sound of cats can be imitated by the word 'meong' while in the US, cats can be imitated by the word 'meow'. Moreover, a word which straightly reflects the concept it convey is considered to be iconic.

Iconicity refers to a certain condition when sounds and meaning are identical, when there is a natural resemblance between a sign and the concept it refers to. Moreover, full iconicity will be a word which can be recognized by everyone despite languages. There is an exception towards iconic named arbitrary.

The simplest way to know arbitrary is to see it as the words which are used only have meaning for other speakers of the same language. For example, the animal which is called "frog" by English native speaker would be "grenouille" for a Frenchman and "katak" for an Indonesians, and none of these words would make sense for speaker of German.

As far as the researcher's knowledge, research that analyzes the sounds of the animals in different countries is still difficult to find. Based on those idea, the writer comes to conduct an investigation related to the onomatopoeia, in this case, the animal sounds imitated by English native speakers and Indonesians.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

In order to make a systematic approach to solving the problems, the statement of the problem are further formulated into the following questions:

- 1.2.1 How are twenty animal sounds imitated by Indonesians and Englishmen?
- 1.2.2 How do the two imitations differ from each other?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In relation to the question as in the statements of the problems formulated above, the research will be conducted to:

- 1.3.1 Describe the way both English and Indonesian imitate the twenty animal sounds.
- 1.3.2 Describe differences between the two imitations from each other.

1.4 Significances of the Study

The study about the similarities in how English native speakers and Indonesians imitate the sound of the same animal hopefully will be useful as a reference in the study of linguistics in general, and in the study of phonology and sound in specific.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Since the study deals with the issue on how Englishmen and Indonesians imitate animal sound they hear, it seeks to reveal whether or not there is similarities in how English native speakers and Indonesians imitate the sound of the same

animal. Therefore, it is limited to analyze twenty animal sounds both in English and Bahasa, and the theory used in the study is the theory of phonetic and phonology.

1.6 Definition of Special Terms

1.6.1 Animal Sound

Based on Macmillan Dictionary (Macmillan, 2015), animal sound refers to sounds made by animal as in ‘bark’, ‘bellow’, and ‘bleat’. ‘Bark’ is the short loud sound that a dog makes, ‘bellow’ is the deep sound that a bull and some other large animals make, and ‘bleat’ is the sound that a sheep or goat makes. Moreover, The Free Dictionary describes animal sound as sounds emitted by animals and used as a means of intraspecies, more rarely interspecies, communication, or for purposes of echolocation. From the idea above, it can be concluded that animal sounds refers to any sound made by animal whether it comes from their voice apparatus or any other part of animal body.

1.6.2 Imitation

Based on Meriam Webster Dictionary (Webster, 2015), imitation refers to the act of copying or imitating someone or something. Furthermore, Collins Dictionary describes imitation as the act of imitating. Based on those definitions, it can be concluded that imitation can be clearly understood as the act of imitating something such as sounds animal made in this case.

1.6.3 Onomatopoeia

Pharies in Sobkowiak (1990: 16) describes Onomatopoeia as a word that is considered by convention to be acoustically similar to the sound, or the sound produced by the thing to which it refers. Further, Oxford Dictionaries (Oxford, 2015) describes onomatopoeia as the fact of words containing sounds similar to the noises they describe, for example hiss. Based on those definition, onomatopoeia can be defined as imitative words that are used to represent the sounds of the nature.