

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Human beings use language as a tool of communication. Using language successfully is a very complex enterprise. As it is known, all languages constitute a sequence of sounds that make up words, then words form phrasal units, these units form sentences. In this case, there are systematical rules of word formation and grammatical construction. Because of that, in the using of language, we must know the characteristics of that language in order to produce and recognize the elements of the language. All of these features of language are seemingly obvious, but it is our problem in the understanding of language.

However, the process of understanding and mastering of language can be preceded by word learning. Word is one of the most fundamental units of linguistic structure (Akmajian,1984:54). Because words are made up of sequences of sounds, part of knowing the word is knowing a certain sequence of sounds. In the studying of speech sounds, we learn how speech sounds are produced and combined according to regular rules. Consequently, we can know how speech sound patterns look like and how certain sounds change in different environments.

Then, part of knowing a word is knowing something about its internal structure. It means that we have to know the features or units of words and certain rules for combining those features or units. Specifically, we should learn morphemes and their distributions in forming words. The understanding of morphemes can influence us in the using of language successfully.

Generally, words can be categorized into two classes, that is, simple and complex words. A Simple word is a word that just consists of one free morpheme. Simple words cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts. On the other hand, a complex word is made up of some morphemes in combination. Thus, complex words can be divided into two or more meaningful parts.

The creation of new words by combining some morphemes, sometimes, causes a change of phonemes. The change of phonemes can be in the form of addition, deletion and suppletion. This problem is found in morphophonemics. Morphophonemics deals with the variations in the phonemic structure of allomorph which accompany their grouping into words (Francis, 1958:110). The changes of allomorph from the base form into the other allomorphs in settable condition are called morphophonemic changes.

The English morphophonemic changes are rather complicated subjects. For example, the phoneme /f/ is a fusion of two morphemes /s/ and /j/ such as in the word *pressure*. The morpheme /pres/ *press* is combined with /jɔr/ {-ure} to result *pressure* /pre ɔr/. Here, the two phonemes /s/ and /j/ are interlocking.

Another complexity of the English morphophonemic changes can be seen in the morpheme *go* /gou/. The morpheme *go* and the past morpheme {ed} are combined to result *went* /went/. The new morpheme is completely different because the form of the base, *go*, does not appear in the form of *went* /went/

Further, a morpheme *leaf* /li:f/ changes into *leaves* /li:vz/ to form plural noun of *leaf*. Here, the phoneme /f/ changes into /v/ when the plural suffix {es} is added to the base morpheme /li:f/. In other words, phoneme /f/ changes to /v/ when *leaf* is pluralized. But, this kind of change does not occur to all words that ends with phoneme /f/. The plural form of *oaf* is not *oaves* but *oafs*.

Besides that, in the study of morphophonemic changes, a shift of stress can occur when the process of affixation causes the change of vowel sounds. The verb *prefer* /pri<sup>ˈ</sup>fər/, for instance, changes into *preference* /ˈprefərəns/ to form a noun. Here, the stress moves from the second to the first syllable. The shift of stress is caused by the change of phoneme /i/ into /e/.

The morphophonemic changes can also be found in Indonesian. If morpheme {*meN-*} is combined with {*karang*}, the morpheme /*məN-*/ changes to /*məŋ-*/. While the phoneme /*k/* of base morpheme /*karaŋ/* is lost. So the result of combination is *mengarang* /*məŋaraŋ/* not *menkarang* /*mənkaŋaraŋ/*. But, in other contexts, the combination of phonemes /*N/* and /*k/* just changes the prefix. For example, a word *mengkaji* /*məŋkaji/* consists of morphemes {*meN-*} and {*kaji*}. Here, the change only takes place in the phoneme /*N/*, namely /*N/* into /*ŋ /*.

Then, another Indonesian morphophonemic change occurs when morpheme consisting of one syllable such as {*cat*} is combined with {*peN-*}. The result is *pegecat* /*pəŋətət/*. So there is the addition of phoneme /*ə /* and phoneme /*N/* changes into /*ŋ /*. Meanwhile, the morpheme /*məN-*/ assimilates to /*mən-*/ when it is combined with a morpheme which is preceded by phoneme /*tʃ/*. For example, when the morpheme {*meN-*} is combined with /*tʃari/*, the result of this combination is /*mənʃari/*.

The morphophonemic changes as result of the combination of some morphemes are the phenomena of language. There are some similarities and differences between English and Indonesian morphophonemic changes. Therefore, it is considered as a relevant study to compare English and Indonesian morphophonemic changes.

## 1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

Morphophonemic changes are considered as a complicated problem, so they are very important to discuss. The aspects of the problem are often found by many students. Because of that, this research may contribute something valuable for the readers to solve the problem concerning morphophonemic changes in the two languages : English and Indonesian.

As has been stated earlier, morphophonemics concerns with the change of phonemes caused by the combination of some morphemes. This topic has a lot of problems challenging to discuss, that is why, the researcher wants to analyze this topic deeply in order to get some alternative solutions.

In addition, morphophonemic changes is never discussed as a material of thesis in the English Department of Widya Mandala University. Therefore, it is considered necessary to do research on the topic intended.

## 1.3 The Statements of the Problem

In relation with the morphophonemic changes, this study is concerned with some problems. They are stated as follows:

1. What English morphophonemic changes take place in *The Jakarta Post* ?
2. What Indonesian morphophonemic changes take place in *Kedaulatan Rakyat* ?
3. How are English and Indonesian morphophonemic changes similar in the two newspapers ?
4. How are English and Indonesian morphophonemic changes different in the two newspapers ?

#### 1.4 The Objectives of the Study

In line with the statements of the problem, this research aims to answer those questions, namely:

1. To identify the types of English morphophonemic changes found in *The Jakarta Post*.
2. To reveal the types of Indonesian morphophonemic changes found in *Kedaulatan Rakyat*.
3. To search the similarities of English and Indonesian morphophonemic changes found in *The Jakarta Post* and *Kedaulatan Rakyat*.
4. To find out the differences of English and Indonesian morphophonemic changes found in *The Jakarta Post* and *Kedaulatan Rakyat*.

#### 1.5 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this research may stimulate the readers to study morphophonemics. In addition, hopefully the result of this research may contribute something valuable for the learners in understanding morphophonemic changes in both English and Indonesian. Then, this research can be used by other researchers as a reference for further research on morphophonemic changes.

#### 1.6 The Scope of the Study

Morphophonemics is the study that involves morphology and phonology. Specifically, morphophonemics deals with the variations in the phonemic structure of allomorphs which accompany their grouping into words (Francis, 1958:110). In accordance with the topic, the discussion of morphology is focused in the combination of morphemes. While, the discussion of phonology deals with the

alternation of phonemes as the result of the combination of morphemes only. Therefore, it does not discuss the production of sounds and distinctive features. Furthermore, the discussion of morphophonemic changes is limited on their types and their similarities and differences in both English and Indonesian.

### 1.7 The Meaning of the Key Term

For the sake of clarity, some key of the terms will be given below:

1. Morphology : the study of word formation and the internal structure of words (Fromkin and Rodman,1993:27)
2. Phonology : the study of the structure and systematic pattern of sound in human language (Akmajian. et al,1984:55)
3. Morpheme : the smallest meaningful unit in the structure of language (Gleason,1961:53)
4. Allomorph : a variant of morpheme which occurs in certain definable environments (Gleason,1961:61)
5. Phoneme : the smallest contrastive sound unit in the structure of language (Bloomfield,1955:77)
6. Morphophonemics : the study of phonemic differences between allomorphs of the same morpheme.

(<http://www.Sil.Org/GlossaryOfLinguisticsTerm/WhatIsMorphophonemics.htm>)