

## Student's Perspective On Learning English Phonemes

**Dini Mutia Havid**

Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara

**Iren Adina Rahmadani Tarigan**

Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara

**Yani Lubis**

Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara

Jl. William Iskandar Ps. V, Medan Estate, Kec. Percut Sei Tuan, Kabupaten Deli Serdang,  
Sumatera Utara

[dinimutiahavid16@gmail.com](mailto:dinimutiahavid16@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** Studying phonemes is a part of phonology, so writing this article is about learning basic phonemes. Phonemes are the basic level of phonological learning because phonemes are the smallest basic units that form the elements that make up speech sounds. Therefore, in this article we will study the basic phoneme which is the smallest functional unit of language. a phoneme cannot stand alone because a phoneme has no meaning, but its role is very important because a phoneme can distinguish meaning. For example, the phonemes [l] and [r]. If we separate these two phonemes, we will definitely not understand their meaning. A phoneme has an identity basis which is called the meaning distinguishing function of the sound units of language. The method used in this article is a method that collects information through questionnaires to analyze students' understanding of phonemic learning and draw conclusions about basic phonemic learning, whether learning is important and easy to understand.

**Keywords:** Phonology, Phoneme, Basic Phoneme.

**Abstrak.** Mempelajari fonem adalah bagian dari fonologi, jadi menulis artikel ini adalah mempelajari fonem dasar. Fonem merupakan tingkat dasar pembelajaran fonologi karena fonem merupakan satuan dasar terkecil yang membentuk unsur pembentuk bunyi ujaran. Oleh karena itu, pada artikel ini kita akan mempelajari fonem dasar yang merupakan satuan fungsional terkecil dari bahasa. Sebuah fonem tidak dapat berdiri sendiri karena sebuah fonem tidak memiliki arti, namun peranannya sangat penting karena sebuah fonem dapat membedakan makna. Misalnya, fonem [l] dan [r]. Jika kita memisahkan kedua fonem ini, kita pasti tidak akan mengerti artinya. Sebuah fonem memiliki dasar identitas yang disebut fungsi pembeda makna dari satuan-satuan bunyi bahasa. Metode yang digunakan dalam artikel ini adalah metode yang mengumpulkan informasi melalui angket untuk menganalisis pemahaman siswa terhadap pembelajaran fonemik dan menarik kesimpulan tentang pembelajaran fonemik dasar, apakah pembelajaran ini penting dan mudah dipahami.

**Kata kunci:** Fonologi, Fonem, Fonem Dasar

## **INTRODUCTION**

Phonemes are the smallest sound units in a language that can produce certain meaningful communications such as s from sing and r from ring. phonemes are special languages that are functionally linguistic. examples of phonemes such as /b/ and /p/ are evident in English perhaps not so in other languages. (Phonemes are usually written between italics, so they become /b/ and /p/.) Different languages use different phonemes. Phonemes are known as the smallest components of letter sounds that can distinguish the meaning of one word from another. For example, consider the words "big" and "bag." The letters I and A are phonemes (Wahyudi, 2020).

Example:

Take and cake

See and sea

But and bit

Pick and pack

Cut and cat

Safe and save

Tower and towel

All native speakers of a language or dialect recognize phonemes, which use certain categories of sounds that can be compared with one another. for example the first is pronounced with more ambition while the second sounds like two sounds for example the sound of the letter [k]. However, even though phoneme is a category that is not a real sound they are not a real thing. On the contrary, both are associations or ideas that have only an abstract or psychological basis. In other words, because of the way speakers organize sounds in language, we can perceive phonemes even when we cannot hear them (Thomas E. Muarry, 1995).

Phonemes are created from certain speech variations or language accents, because their difference from other phonemes in the system is their most significant characteristic. any valid word in any language must contain some accepted sequence of language phonemes, regardless of the number of phonemes each language can identify (Routledge, 2004). The phonemes of language are meaningless elements. Phonemes consist of: Letters Vowels are the sounds produced when air leaves the lungs without encountering obstacles. for example the letters a,

i, u, e, and o. Consonants When the air coming out of the lungs experiences obstacles or challenges, consonants are produced. the following examples: b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, and z. Diphthongs are two vowel mixtures that produce double sounds, for example: ai,ou and oi. (Rizqia et al., 2018).

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

In this paper, problem solving requires a certain process or method proposed in research. Therefore, a research method is needed to overcome this problem. The research method used in this work is a qualitative research method. According to (David Williams, 1995), qualitative research is a researcher's attempt to collect data from the natural environment. Of course, because it occurs naturally, research results are also scientific and considered. (Danim's, 2002) qualitative research method, on the other hand, means that qualitative involves constructivism, which assumes that reality has multiple and interactive dimensions. It can also be interpreted as an attempt to exchange social experiences which can be defined by research findings.

Qualitative research methods are used because they aim to help researchers better understand what they are studying. And qualitative research methods can also help minimize unwanted limitations. This method focuses more on the participants' perceptions or experiences, so it is subjective. Because there are so many types of qualitative techniques, this article uses grounded theory qualitative techniques. Because this type is a complex iterative process. Research begins by asking generative questions that guide research, but are not static or limiting. Once the researcher begins to collect data, the main theoretical concepts are identified. The data collection process requires a design that exploits the relationship between the various stages of data collection and review and the categories of information obtained (Charmaz, 2006; Corbin and Strauss, 2007 in Creswell, 2016). This design, carried out as part of the data collection process, consisted of asking three questions in a questionnaire created via the Gform form and asking participants to complete the quiz. The content of the quiz is to agree on the use of basic phoneme learning, and consists of three questions: "Agree" and "Disagree". The next draft is to make a report or data analysis that must be filled out by the participants regarding their agreement to learn the basic phonemes.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The following are the results of data research that has been conducted on 25 students via Google from in the form of questions that have been answered:

Question 1 : Do you agree phonemes are a difficult subject?

Of the 25 students examined, 19 students answered agree and 6 students answered disagree. From this statement it can be concluded that there are still more students who are studied think phonemes are something that is difficult to learn rather than disagree. This happens because phonemes are something in the form of sounds from a language that can still show different meanings, so that there are still many students who find it difficult to understand it than those who easily understand it.

Question 2 : Do you agree that phoneme is very important in learning English?

Of the 25 students examined, 21 students answered agree and 4 students answered disagree. From this statement it can be concluded that more students who were studied thought that phonemes were something that was important to be learned in English rather than disagree. This happens because the phoneme is a sound that has meaning. Studying phonemes in English aims to improve reading skills so that the sounds of the speaker's language produced can be understood and its meaning is easy to understand. if, we do not study it is likely that there will be difficulties in understanding the meaning that comes out of the speaker.

Question 3: Do you agree that phonemes have to be learned starting from the basics?

Of the 25 students examined, 17 students answered agree and 8 students answered disagree. From this statement it can be concluded that there are still more students who are researched in the opinion that phonemes must be studied starting from the basics rather than disagreeing. To learn in English phonemes are an important part to learn so to start it is better to learn phonemes from the basics first so you can understand further learning. if, don't start studying it from the beginning maybe we won't be able to easily understand further learning.

## **CONCLUSIONS and SUGGESTIONS**

After conducting data research on the results of student answers through the questions that have been given it shows that students refer to more positive things, namely more students consider learning phonemes to be very important in English, this is because studying phonemes can improve the quality of reading and listening of students so that by Phonemes make it easier

for students to understand the meaning of what they hear from speakers. students also think that phonemes are something that needs to be learned starting from the basics, the intention is that students can more easily understand what will be learned next. In this study, students also have opinions that lead to negative things where students think that learning phonemes is something difficult, that happens because phonemes are something in the form of sound so that maybe many students have not been able to understand them.

After knowing the final results of the research, the authors propose that in order to develop and improve students' English skills, students are expected to learn phonemes starting from the basics in learning English to improve the quality of their English speaking. although, phonemes are something that is difficult to learn but phonemes can improve the quality of our English. in learning English phonemes have an important role in it where by studying phonemes students can easily understand and understand the meaning of a sound that they hear through speakers.

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