

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### I. Background of study

In this globalization era, English has become an important thing in communication. English is recognized as an international language. It means that, English is used all over the world. Therefore, learning English is essential. English is considered as an important subject to learn, since a lot of people use English as the language to communicate and to share knowledge and information.

How English is learned may become a problem for a country which does not use English as their first Language. Indonesia is one of the countries that experiences the problem since English is used as a foreign language. The importance of using English made Indonesia's government decide that English has to be one of the subjects in school. Because of that, today there are many schools that use English as the medium of communication.

People start to learn a language when they are still young. They start to learn how to interact to each other by knowing the sound of letters and words and so on. Sadida (2010) stated that it is very important to teach children from the early age. Education should be given before children are able to enter elementary level. Therefore, we can see that English has started to be taught since the early level, in this case kindergarten or even preschool.

Nowadays, there are many kindergartens that use English as their language of instruction. The growth of this kind of schools is increasing rapidly. There are two types of kindergarten school in Indonesia, first is national school and second is international school. The main difference between national and international school is national school uses English as one of the subjects to be taught whereas International school uses English as the medium of communication. However, there are schools that claimed themselves as national schools but also put emphasis on the English use as well. They are called national plus schools.

Those schools use English as their language of instruction but the teachers are local teachers. Curriculum can be the main important thing to distinguish between national plus and international school. National plus's students have to read in English and Bahasa Indonesia altogether at the same time. This makes the student confused to read and write especially for those who learn English sounds first rather than Bahasa Indonesia. Students are expected to speak English at school but not at home. Some of them will use Bahasa Indonesia to speak with their relatives at home. This phenomenon makes some of the students frustrated to differentiate sounds of each language both from English and Bahasa Indonesia. For example, when the teacher asks the students to write the word 'cup', some of them will write 'kap'. This might occur in most national plus schools, including Elyon Christian School.

Elyon Christian School is one of the National Schools in Surabaya. It is located in east and west Surabaya. English is introduced from the beginning level (playgroup) and continued to kindergarten. This school uses Phonics to teach how

to read and write in English. Phonics is a method to teach reading in English (Kieran,2012).When phonics is provided to children, they will start to use it to spell the words. The teacher will ask them to spell the words or decode the sounds.

When the students learn phonics, they will only be familiar with the sounds of each letter in English. After the students master all the sounds, they will learn simple words (containing three letters) such as **m**an, **p**an, **r**an, **c**an, **v**an, **m**ug, **r**ug, **s**un, **k**id, **p**ig, **d**ig, **j**am, **f**an, **v**an, **c**ub, **c**up, **p**en, **m**en, **l**eg, **w**eb and many more. Students are learning the next level when they are in kindergarten B, such as **f**lag, **c**lub, **t**rap, **g**lad, **s**lip, **s**lap, **s**lept, **c**lip, **f**lip , **n**est, **r**est, **l**ast, **p**ink, **s**ink , **l**uck , **d**uck, and many more. The words which end with the "e" letter, or we call it as a "silent e" is also introduced to students, such as cake**e**, pine**e**, fine**e**, time**e**, cape**e**, game**e**, cube**e**, cute**e**, slide**e**, smile**e**, glide**e**, came**e**, home**e**, rope**e** etc. At the end of the lesson they are expected to be able to read a simple paragraph.

Since most children in Elyon Christian School learn both English and Bahasa Indonesia at the same time, they may experience some confusion when reading and writing in English. This has made the writer interested in making a study about those students who are learning both English and Bahasa Indonesia especially in developing their literacy skills (reading and writing). One of the common problems is when they spell and write the words at school. There are a lot of mistakes or inconsistencies with what they have learnt.

In this study, the writer attempts to see the misspelling problems that happen to the students at Elyon Christian School. Most of them speak Bahasa Indonesia as their daily language. But for some others, some parents will speak both English and Bahasa Indonesia at home. This will influence the way the students do the spelling practice at school. Elyon Christian School' students do a written exercise every two weeks. For each week they only review some of the words that have been learnt before. All words that would be used for the exercise were taken from their workbook. They should finish all the three books before they had reviewed from the teachers. The aim of this written exercise is to know whether they know how to write the English words or not. In this case, the writer wants to see whether the number of misspelled English words is influenced by the way they are exposed to the language and the way they develop their literacy skill. The study also attempts to identify whether there are some links between the misspelled words with the students' first language, and also reading and writing skills.

## 1.2 Statement of the problem

Based on the background which has been explained, the aim of the writer is to analyze the misspelled in English words made by kindergarten students. The aim is represented by these questions:

1. What English letters and phonemes were misspelled by the kindergarteners at Elyon Christian School?

2. Why did the students misspell the letters and phonemes in English words?
3. What is the relationship between the student's reading ability and writing ability?

### 1.3 Objectives of the study

The aims of this study are to find the words that are often misspelled by kindergarteners at Elyon Christian School. The writer also tries to analyze the misspelled words and find the influence from the first language. Furthermore, she also wants to see the link between the students reading and writing ability.

### 1.4 Significance of the study

This writer hopes that this study can give contribution to English Language Teaching, especially in the context of English teaching to young learners. Next, this study can also be useful for those who use phonics in teaching English reading. The writer also hopes that this study can give knowledge to parents who have children, so the parents know better how their children condition when their children are learning English and Bahasa Indonesia at the same time particularly in recognizing their literacy development.

### 1.5 Scope and Limitations

The writer will focus on the problem that most kindergarten students face in writing English words. Most kindergarten students have difficulties to write

English word. Furthermore, the writer will focus more on the misspelled English words made by kindergarten students at Elyon Christian School. Elyon Christian School uses English as their language of instruction and phonics method to teach how to read. In this study, the writer analyzes the misspelled English letters and phonemes made by Kindergarten B only since by this time, the students should have been in the advance phonic level.

#### 1.6 Definition of key term

Misspelled : to spell a word incorrectly (Essinger,2006)

Phonics : is a method to teach reading in English (Kieran,2012)