

CHAPTER III

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE RESEARCH

As determined in the national curriculum 1994, many elementary schools teach English as a subject. This rule, then, results in the establishment of English learning programme in some kindergartens in Surabaya. It is supposed to introduce English to its students and prepare them when they enter the elementary school.

Learning another language means learning another phonological system. Therefore, the students who is learning English have to learn English phonological system. There is, of course, several similarities and differences between the system between the native and the English.

Because of the difference, i.e. phonetical inventory, there will a kind of problem concerning with pronunciation. The students may make mistakes in pronouncing the English sounds which some of them do not exist in the students' repertoire. This condition may cause segmental substitution whenever the students is attempting to pronounce the English sounds which do not exist in

their phonetical inventory.

According to this, the writer is interested to find out whether there is segmental substitution done by the kindergarten students in pronouncing English sounds, i.e. consonant sounds. She also wants to find out the difficult sounds and the substituting sounds, if the segmental substitution occurs.

The students observed here is the second-year students of TK Mojo Indah Surabaya. There is 19 students, who are between 5 and 6 years old.

TK Mojo Indah has been holding English learning programme since 1989. The teaching material in this school consists of English vocabulary, for instance numbers, nouns, colors, and accompanied with some popular English children songs.

The technique of teaching English seems to be appropriate. The students have text-book, containing pictures and their names. First, the students are asked to mention the name of a picture in Indonesia, then, the English name is mentioned by the teacher, who, after that, ask the students to repeat it. Second, the students are ordered to rewrite or thicken the letters which consist of dots. Finally, they may color the picture.

