

**Interference of the Student's First Language in Pronouncing English Vowels in Drama
Performance Video at English Department Andalas University**

A Thesis

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for the Degree of Sarjana Humaniora*

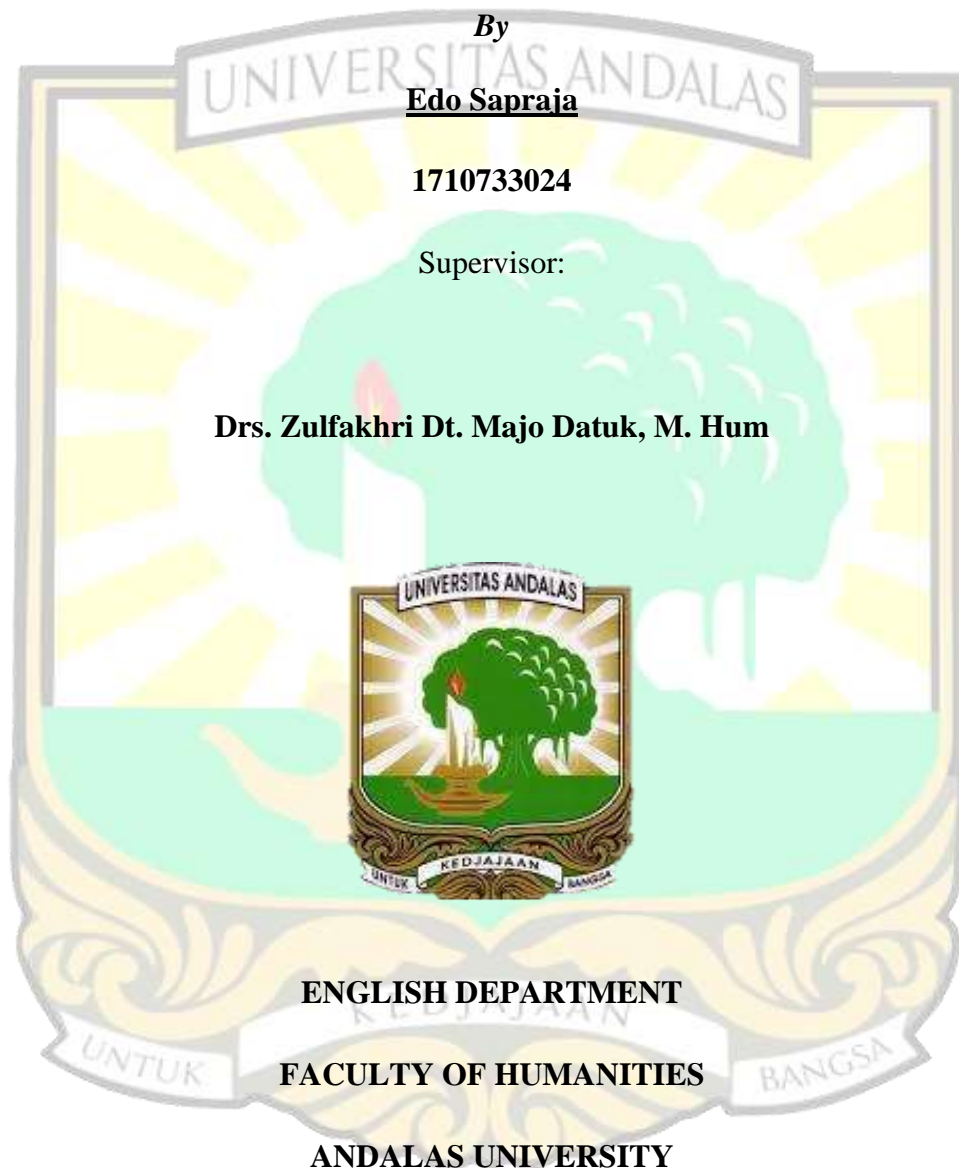
By

Edo Supraja

1710733024

Supervisor:

Drs. Zulfakhri Dt. Majo Datuk, M. Hum



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
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ANDALAS UNIVERSITY**

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Edo Sapraja

ABSTRACT

Pronunciation is a critical aspect of language learning, essential for effective communication and comprehension. This study explores the impact of Indonesian native language (L1) on the pronunciation of English vowels by students at Andalas University, particularly in the context of drama performances. Despite being a major global language, English presents unique challenges for Indonesian learners due to significant differences in vowel systems. Indonesian has seven vowels, whereas English has twelve, including six vowels that are absent in Indonesian. This research aims to analyze how these differences influence pronunciation errors, specifically focusing on six challenging English vowels: /æ/, /ʌ/, /ɛ/, /ɔ/, /ɑ/, and /ɒ/. Data for this study were collected from video recordings of drama performances by English department students. The analysis, guided by the Markedness Differential Hypothesis (MDH), revealed two primary types of pronunciation errors: assimilation and dissimilation. Assimilation errors, where students align unfamiliar English sounds with closer sounds from their native language, were observed in all six vowels. Dissimilation errors, where students substituted English vowels with more familiar sounds, occurred in four of the vowels. These findings underscore the complexity of English vowel sounds and the challenges posed by their absence in the Indonesian phonetic system. The study concludes that the difficulties in English vowel pronunciation are rooted in the markedness of English sounds compared to Indonesian. The results support Eckman's MDH, which posits that learners encounter more difficulty with features that are less common or more complex compared to those in their native language. By understanding these pronunciation challenges, this research aims to inform and improve teaching strategies for English language learners in Indonesia.