**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

* 1. **Background of the Study**

Pronunciation is the way in which a word is pronounced. In my opinion, Pronunciation is very important because different pronunciation will have different meaning. *”*. For example: **Pet /pet/** (Animal) with **Fat /fæt/** (Body) or **Elephant** /**ˈeləfənt** /(A big animal) with **Eleven /əˈlevən /**(Number). According to Hornby (2000, p.1257) *“Pronunciation is the way in which a language or particular word or sound is pronounced.”*

English College students must know how to correctly pronounciate a word. Considering they have been at the Intermediete level in learning English, in this context they must have a strategy in pronouncing sibilant sounds. As we know, Pronunciation is an integral part of foreign language learning since it directly affects learners’ communicative competence as well as performance. Richard et al (2002, p.429) states that *“English pronunciation is a basic and essential skill to use English as a means of communication.”*

For EFL Learners, one of the important need to learn from pronunciation is sibilant sounds. Sibilant is which the tip of the tongue is brought near the roof of the mouth and air is pushed past the tongue to make a hissing sound. In English [s], [z], [ʃ], [ʒ], [tʃ], and [dʒ] are sibilants. According to Gilbert (2005, p.57) *“The term sibilance refers to the hissing sound that accompanies certain English consonants.”* For EFL learners, they need to learn how to pronouncing sibilant sounds because as we know Indonesian language don’t have a sibilant sounds ([s], [z], [ʃ], [ʒ], [tʃ], and [dʒ]).

* 1. **Research Question**

Based on the background of the study above, the research questions is:

What is the EFL learners most widely used strategies in developing sibilant sounds pronunciation.

* 1. **Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem of the study, the study will do through purposing to get explanation about EFL learners’ strategies in pronouncing sibilant sounds, the objectives to find out:

To describe the strategies that EFL students in Jambi University use in pronouncing sibilant sounds.

**1.4 Limitation of the Study**

The target of this study is investigating the EFL learners’ strategies in pronouncing sibilant sounds where the limitation of the study are:

1. The research subject is limit to the Sixth semester of English study program in Jambi University.
2. The research object is limit on the EFL learners’ strategies in pronouncing sibilant sounds

**1.5 Significance of the Study**

The researcher believe that this study will help the teachers of English language to achieve the right way to teach pronouncing sibilant sounds.

**1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

In order to have concept of the key terms used in this research and to avoid misinterpretation or misunderstanding to the reader, the writers should involved in this study are define as follows:

1. Pronunciation is the act or result of producing the sounds of speech, including articulation, stress, and intonation, or the way in which a word is pronounced.
2. Sibilant Sounds is which the tip of the tongue is brought near the roof of the mouth and air is pushed past the tongue to make a hissing sound.
3. In English there is six sibilant sounds, that is: [s], [z], [ʃ], [ʒ], [tʃ], and [dʒ]