

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Language is a part of sound that people use to communicate and get information. In this life, language is the most important element for human to communicate and gain. When spoken, the sound of language is produced by the human vocal organs. The sound is not always the same as when it is in written form, but it often produces a new sound and becomes similar. This happens because the sound changes into another of adjacent phoneme. In English, the sounds change because one phoneme influences the adjacent phoneme and become similar sounds. There are some aspects of connected speech that the native speakers of English use to speak well, glottalization is a type of lenition in which the oral gesture of a stop is removed. This aspect it is a common phonetic evolution for oral stops to develop a glottal point of articulation. Basically, glottal stops are common allophones of /t/ in most varieties of English.

There appears to be a large amount of variation when it comes to English t-glottalization. The use of this process can vary by geographical region, social factors, and by phonological position—moreover, the phonological positions vary depending on these other factors. Ladefoged 2006 states that one common position is before /n/ within the word, as in *beaten* [biPn]. Many varieties of English, including American and British varieties, have glottal stop in coda position in general. For instance, Roberts 2006 provides data on t-glottalization in Vermont English. She finds that the phenomenon is found in speakers of all ages, and that it often occurs at the ends of words, especially pre-pausally. Some varieties allow glottal stop to appear intervocalically as well (which is the case for Cockney English). Docherty & Foulkes 2005 look at glottalization in the English of Tyneside (in northern England). They find that t-glottalization is found in many environments, but only rarely in intervocalic position or pre-pausally. Most of the research on t-glottalization focuses on social factors (age, gender, class, and register