

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

In our daily life, we need language to communicate with each other. According to Francis (1958:13) "A language is an arbitrary system of articulated sounds made use by a group of humans as a means of carrying on the affairs of their society". It means that language role in society is important in order to communicate with others in society. Without language, human beings cannot say things to each other and express their communicative needs. "Language operates with two kind of material" (Gleason, 1995:2). One of these is sound. Almost any sort of noise that the human vocal apparatus can produce is used in some way in some language. The other is ideas, social situation and meanings.

In a multilingual community, people tend to use more than one language in their daily communication. In Indonesia, for example, people tend to use Indonesian and vernacular when they make conversation. They usually use Indonesian as a formal language when they are at school, campus or office. Meanwhile, they use vernacular in informal situations such as at home, surroundings, markets or wedding parties. Holmes (1992:80) states that "In a multilingual speech community, the many different ethnic or tribal languages used by different groups are referred to as vernacular". He also explains that "Vernaculars are usually the first language learned

by people in multilingual communities and they are often used for a relatively narrow range of informal functions”.

The various kinds of vernaculars can be found in Indonesia such as Javanese, Batak language, Sundanese, Osing, Madura language, etc. Especially Javanese, is one of vernaculars still used by most people in East and Central of Java. According to History, Javanese covers the whole area of Central and Eastern Java region. Certain regions are collectively called Kejawen region. The regions are Banyumas, Kedu, Jogjakarta, Surakarta, Madiun, Malang and Kediri. Other areas are named a coastal area and the East ends. Talking about the frame of Javanese culture, two large regions (Jogjakarta and Surakarta) which were formerly named Mataram Kingdom (before separated in 1755) are the center of the culture. It means that Javanese has already been used in Central and East Java since a long time ago.

“Javanese has four dialects and thirteen subdialects”. (U.M Uhlenbeek as quoted by Baribin, 1987:2). The four dialects are Banyumas, Pesisir, Surakarta and Jawa Timur. While, Purwokerto, Kebumen, Pemalang, Banten Utara, Tegal, Semarang, Rembang, Solo, Jogjakarta, Madiun, Surabaya and Banyuwangi are subdialects. Soedjito (1986:2) points out that “Javanese dialect in East Java includes Surabaya dialect, Tuban dialect, Gresik dialect, Malang dialect, and Pasuruan dialect”. It shows that in Javanese, we recognize many kinds of dialects and subdialects. Montgomery (1995:69) states that the word “Dialect covers a broader range of differences including not only matters of pronunciation but also distinctions

in vocabulary and sentence structure”. From this statement, we can conclude that each dialect has its own pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar.

Like in Surabaya, we can find many kinds of Javanese dialects there. It happens because the amount of urban people who live or stay in Surabaya increases in every year. In daily communication, they tend to use their local Javanese dialect that they bring from their region. As a result, their local Javanese dialect shows different from Surabaya Javanese dialect. Those differences can be seen clearly when they make conversation. Each dialect above has its own vowels and consonants. For instance, the word /pitl?/ ‘chicken’, /dulŮr/ ‘relative’ and /millh/ ‘choose’ spoken by urban people from Trenggalek, Blitar, Ponorogo, etc. While, Surabaya dialect speakers use the word /pitl?/ ‘chicken’, /dŮlŮr/ ‘relative’ and /mlllh/ ‘choose’.

In this study, the writer tries to analyze vowel harmony (front and back) in Javanese used by Surabaya, Kediri and Ponorogo dialect speakers. Finally, being interested to further analyze the vowel harmony might be found between them, the writer decided to write a thesis entitled: “A Study on Vowel Harmony Used by Surabaya, Kediri and Ponorogo Dialect Speakers.”

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the background of the study, the major problem in this study is formulated as follows:

* Does vowel harmony (front and back) exist in Javanese spoken by Surabaya, Kediri and Ponorogo dialect speakers?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The study was made with the purpose to identify the vowel harmony (front and back) exists in Javanese spoken by Surabaya, Kediri and Ponorogo dialect speakers.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give contribution to linguistics, especially about vowel harmony in Javanese spoken by Surabaya, Kediri and Ponorogo dialect speakers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Considering the limited time and the big numbers of urban people from East Java, The writer decides to choose her subjects from Kediri and Ponorogo especially the ones who live in Surabaya for one year. She also realized that there are many

kinds of Javanese vowels, such as /i/, /ɪ/, /ə/, /ɔ/, /u/, /ʊ/ etc. So, in this study, the writer limited the study only for two vowels, they are /i/, /ɪ/, /u/, /ʊ/.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is based on the theories of Generative Phonology, Vowel Harmony, Dialect, Javanese Speech Level, Speech Community and Language Variation.

According to Fromkin (1974:1267) “Generative Phonology is meant to represent the knowledge that speakers bring to bear in the production and comprehension of sentence rather than the way they actually do this”. This knowledge is intricate and complex. To some extent, it can be described by a generative grammar.

“Dialects are simply linguistic varieties which are distinguishable in vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation” (Holmes, 1992:144).

Corder (1973:50) points out that the term “Speech community is a group of people who can all understand each other when they speak”.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, it would be useful to define several key terms which are used in this study. Hopefully, the readers can have a clear picture about what is presented in this study.

1. Vowel Harmony

Harmony is a term used in phonology to refer to the way of the articulation of one vowel is influenced by (is in harmony with) another vowel in the same words or phrases (Crystal, 1991:162).

2. Surabaya Javanese dialect

It is one of Javanese dialects used by Surabaya speakers when they make conversation with other people.

3. Urban Javanese dialect

An urban Javanese dialect is a dialect is used by some urban people who from out of Surabaya.

1.8 The Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. It consists of the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, the theoretical framework, the definition of key terms and organization of the thesis.

The second chapter is review of related literature and it consists of relevant theories. While, the third chapter is the research method. It discusses the research design of the study, the research instruments, the subjects, the procedure of collecting data and analyzing the data.

The fourth chapter is about data analysis, findings and discussion of findings. The last chapter is about the conclusion of the study that consists of summary and suggestions.