

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, and scope as well as limitation of the study. Those are important to be explained because they will describe this generally.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an expression used by humans to convey something. What is conveyed can be some form of information, ideas, and feelings. It also can be categorized as cultural heritage. Language also has uniqueness, which includes affixes, the level of words, and the level of politeness used in language delivery. Language also has a close relationship with culture, whereby the language is within the scope of culture. If viewed from a cultural perspective, language includes cultural ideas that originate in the minds of community members. The number of languages that exist in a place reflects the cultural richness of its language users.

The characteristics of a language are shaped by the country where native speakers of that language reside. In Indonesia, most native speakers are bilingual or can communicate in more than one language. Indonesia is a country that has two languages: the national language and regional languages.

The first is national language, which is called a unified language and the function of communicating with other Indonesian citizens from other regions. The position as the national language has several functions: First, the national language has the function as a symbol of national pride. Second, the national language as a unifying tool for various ethnic groups with different socio-cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Based on the opinion of Chairunnisa, et al. (2022) stated that Indonesia is known as a multicultural as well as multilingual, because it consists of many tribes with diverse traditions and languages. The languages of these tribes are better known

as regional languages, which are supported by the number of speakers and a variety of numbers.

The second is regional language, which is a language understood by one tribe it is tighter than national language. Based on information from the Language Development and Bookkeeping Agency through the website *petabahasa.kemdikbud.go.id* stated that Indonesia has 718 regional languages from 2560 verified observation areas spread throughout Indonesia. The diversity of regional languages has brought Indonesia to second place as the country with the most languages in the world. Regional language is a language used by some people who live in a certain location.

Javanese language is the most widely used language in Indonesia because Java is a province with many languages. The island of Java is separated into three parts, which are: East Java, Central Java, and West Java. Each section has language characteristics, in East Java has a similar language vocabulary to Central Java, but West Java is different.

Javanese has a very complex level of speech or linguistic manners, with three levels: *ngoko* (low), *madya* (middle), and *krama* (high). Each level has some function for communicating: the *ngoko* level (low) is used in communication between peers or at the same age; the *madya* level (middle) is used for communicating with older people or people who are just known; and the *krama* level (high) is used to communicate in formal events or in dialogue with parents, in Javanese language can be categorized as “*sepuh*”. It is supported with Ovinna (2018, p. 29) who states that the language used in interaction is Javanese with all variations. Usually, the language “*krama*” is used to communicate with older people as a form of respect and appreciation, whereas the language used by old to young people in Javanese is called “*Ngoko*”. In some various *ngoko* and *krama* have different word changes. While *madya* is considered an intermediary language. This is related to the opinion of Robson (2002:12) that *krama* contains certain words in the form of abbreviations and affixes *ngoko*.

Javanese politeness is reviewed in terms of the details of the situation and conditions of each activity or interpretation of speakers, which are included in the variety of regional languages. Language variations arise because of social diversity and the function of language in society. The diversity of speaker interactions results in changes in word structure.

There are some cases of language extinction, especially the regional language because this language is not as formal as the national language and is used by a small population. This case occurred in Gresik, East Java, Indonesia. The language used in the area is known as the "*Nggresikan language*".

Nggresikan language has its own characteristics that make it different from other Javanese dialects, especially the *Mataraman Javanese* dialect. According to Rohmadi (2018) *mataraman* community group is a term for Javanese people who have the advantage of being obedient to the values of Javanese life and have a high position in society. The most visible thing about this dialect is the use of the *Mataraman Javanese* dialect in intonation by placing stress on the first syllable, for example "*Byuh-byuh, uayuné cah iki*" (Wow, this child is beautiful). It is different from the *nggresikan* language when in context the meaning of "*uayune*" in English is (very beautiful), interpreted as "*ayu seru*". In context meaning of "*cah iki*" in English is (this child), interpreted as "*arek iki*". while "*Byuh-byuh*" in the *nggresikan* language is called "*Bokk-bokk*". So, the sentence above in *nggresikan* language becomes "*Bokk-bokk, arek iki ayu seru*".

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of study above the research problems are:

1. What kind of Javanese lexical variation are found in Gresik?
2. How ages, sex, and educational background can influence the lexical variation?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Related to previous problem, the objective of this study are:

1. To find lexical variation that used by the people in Gresik region.

2. To obtain the descriptive knowledge about the factor that influence language.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study can be seen as follow:

1. Theoretical benefit

The results of this research are expected to contribute the study of language variation in terms of increasing understanding of the differences in meaning of lexical variation in the *Nggresikan* language.

2. Practical benefit

The results of this research are expected to be a provision for readers in dealing with the phenomenon of regional languages which are increasingly rare in daily life, in order to enrich their knowledge about the meaning of Javanese language.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is a sociolinguistic study that focuses on lexical variations regarding meaning in Javanese language. The theory of Dirk Geeraerts (1994) varieties of lexical variation and Wardhaugh (1972) about factor influence language variation is applied in this research. The limitation of this research is that the researcher only examined the language spoken by two speakers, namely native *nggresikan* speakers and mixed Javanese languages.