

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents brief enlightenment of the background of the study, statements of research problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation and definition of term.

1.1 Background of the Study

This current study is concerned with sound in linguistics. Sound is important to be analysed because the people produce sounds when they are speaking. This assertion is supported by the statement from McMahon (2002) that “people also use sounds for linguistic signalling” (p. 1). In producing sounds, there are some phonological rules in every language. Different languages have their own rule that is certainly different from other languages (Panevová & Hana, 2010).

Regarding with phonological rules, there is a case in which the people sometimes are confused and misinterpret to identify the sounds that they uttered or heard. In fact, when the speakers produce sounds that are uncomfortable to articulatory ease, the people create sounds more alike. Thus, people have to be able to recognise and identify sounds in a language, for instance: in English, [t] in *stop* and [t^h] in *top*. The two sounds are similar yet unidentical (Verhaar, 2012). This occurrence leads them to the vagueness of utterances, in particular, in quick speech.

One of the phenomena in linguistics related to this issue is the replacing of one phoneme to another phoneme. This phenomenon exists in almost many languages, for instance: in Dutch, /ik eet vis/ ‘I eat fish’ pronounced /ik eet fis/. It can be seen in this example that /v/ is changed into /f/. This phenomenon is the so called assimilation (Verhaar, 2012). This assertion is in line with the statement from Flynn (2012) that “assimilation refers to instances where one part of a word (say, the onset of syllable) becomes more like another in terms of one or more distinctive features” (p. 29).

Subsequently, to make easier to understand and identify sounds in fast speech, people have to be able to recognize the phonological rules in a precise language. For this reason, assimilation is worth to be studied. The phenomenon of assimilation, on the other hand, is interesting to be investigated profoundly because of the unique occurrence which is frequently obtained in quick speech rather than in slow speech.

Many languages carry out assimilation process in producing particular sounds, specifically, in fast speech and in connected speech as well. In English, for instance, ‘*incoherent*’ is an example of assimilated sounds. Concentrate on the first consonant *n*, people are not producing /n/ but /ŋ/. It is because there is feature that affects /n/ to be assimilated (McMahon, 2002). Madurese, a vernacular language that is the subject of the study, also has many assimilated sounds. One of the examples is in pronouncing /seg.k^hut/. This word becomes assimilated sound because /g/ which is voiced meets /k^h/ which is voiceless aspirated. In this case,

/k^h/ affects /g/ to be voiceless as well. Thus, /g/ assimilates into /k/. This data is found in the presenter's speech on "*Pojok Madura*" on april, 28th 2015 edition.

Regarding with the issue, a number of researchers so far have conducted studies related to assimilation as the phonological rules in linguistics sphere. Linda Lombardi (1995), Sidney A. J. Wood (1995), M. Gareth Gaskell and William D. Marslen-Wilson (1996), Edward Flemming (1997), Holger Mitterer and Leo Blomert (2003), John J. McCarthy and Norval Smith (2003), M. Gareth Gaskell (2003), David W. Gow Jr. and Aaron M. Im (2004), Kholisin (2005), Dilley and Mark A. Pitt (2007), Karita M. Guzik and Jonathan Harrington (2007), Péter Helgason and Catherine Ringen (2007), Natalie D. Snoeren et al. (2008), Radoslav Pavlík (2009), Gunnar Ólafur Hansson (2010), Pierre A. Hallé and Martin Adda-Decker (2011), Tuba Demirkol (2011), Chiara Celata et al. (2012), Sharon Rose (2012), Števan beňuš and Marián Trnka (2014) were the researchers who also conducted studies of assimilation in linguistics domain but none of them studied assimilation in Madurese. A local language is chosen to be the subject of the study used by the researcher. Thus, this analysis gives attention to assimilation on "*Pojok Madura*"

"*Pojok Madura*" is quite unique and different program from other programs in Jtv. This program is chosen to be the subject of the study because the presenter uses Madurese when presents the news. The presenter also produces quick speech when the program is broadcasted. For the reason that assimilation is in connection with fast speech and connected speech, this program is suitable to be the source of the data. "*Pojok Madura*" is broadcasted by Jtv – an official local

channel that conveys a lot of information occur around East Java, including Madurese island as a part of its neighbourhood.

1.2 Statements of Research Problem

Corresponding to the background of the study, this research discusses assimilation in the presenter's speech on "*Pojok Madura*". The questions formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of assimilation found in the presenter's speech on "*Pojok Madura*"?
2. What are the features that affect the words or phrases which turn out to be assimilated sounds?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study will portray the answers of questions revealed in the statements of the research problem. The objectives of the study are:

1. To explain the types of assimilation in the presenter's speech on "*Pojok Madura*".
2. To discuss the features that affect the words or phrases which turn out to be assimilated sounds.

1.4 Significances of the Study

The significances of the study are to convey benefits either theoretically or practically. Theoretically, the results of this analysis are able to give a better understanding about assimilation in Madurese. This study is also expected to give contribution for scholars to be the reference for further research related to phonology and phonetics, particularly, assimilation.

Practically, the aim of this research is to assist people, in particular, the people who wants to study Madurese to be able to identify how one phoneme is replaced into another phoneme. When the people are able to identify sounds, they can apply it in speech production. Not only identifying sounds in Madurese but the people are fully expected to be able to distinguish the types of assimilation and the features that affect the words to be assimilated sounds when they conduct a speech, particularly – but not solely – in rapid speech production.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

With the intention of specifying and avoiding broad investigation, the research deals with the theory related to Phonetics and Phonology in which both the two diciplines focus on sounds production. Besides, the researcher limits the data from the utterances that contain assimilation sounds uttered by news reporter that is broadcasted by “*Pojok Madura*”.