

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are five subchapters in this chapter. The subchapters of this chapter are the background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitations of the study.

1.1. Background of the Study

In communicating with each other we need language to understand one another and to make interaction with someone else. Every speech community has their own language. If someone from one speech community is talking to someone from another speech community, they will use another language that is understood by the other participant. There will be a process of choosing language in this interaction. the process of choosing language called language choice.

The phenomenon of language choice is common appear in the environments with diverse backgrounds. Language choice simply refers to the selection of a language for communication purpose. Based Fasold (1984), Language choice is the entire process of language selection in a communication. Language choice can be different from one situation to another, even if it is from the same speaker. The speaker that do language choose process is someone that can speak more than one language or bilingual and multilingual.

The language that individuals choose can be their mother language or the language they learn. Some people can also choose to use two or more languages in the same situation. There are three forms in making language selection such as; single language variation, code mixing, and code switching. Code mixing is an activity when someone mixes two or more languages in a language act (Nababan, 1984). Code switching is a phenomenon where a speaker switches from one language to another in the same communication context (Heller, 1988).

In communities composed of individuals from diverse backgrounds, it is common to encounter people who possess the ability to speak and understand multiple languages. Individuals often seek to learn new languages to facilitate communication with others from different regions. The selection of a particular language or code for communication is influenced by various factors that guide their choice of language or code.

According to Holmes (2013), there are several factors that influence an individual in choosing language in multilingual speech community. These factors are participant, topic, setting, and function. Additionally, there are several interactions that play a key role in the language selection process, they are known as domain. Domains can include family, friendship, religion, education, and many others.

Madura is a multilingual speech community, characterized by a variety of local languages as well as languages from other regions. Madura has different language compared to other areas in East Java. Each regency in Madura has its own dialects, such as those from Bangkalan, Pamekasan, and Sumenep. The variety of languages in Madura includes not just dialects but also other languages spoken by the people living there. Additionally, many individuals from different ethnic backgrounds come to live, study, or work in Madura, which adds to the number of language speakers on the island.

Universities serve as prime examples of environments that host individuals from diverse backgrounds, including various ethnicities, religions, and cultures. Many individuals attend university to pursue their studies and engage in meaningful interactions that foster connections with others. In Indonesia, most universities, particularly state universities, accept students without regard to their racial or ethnic backgrounds. State universities are managed by public authorities, which enables them to welcome students from across the country. Students enrolled in these institutions employ a language choice process to determine the appropriate language for communication with their peers and university staff.

Universitas Trunojoyo Madura is one of the universities organized by the government. There are so many people from all over Indonesia who study here. The students who study in this university is not only from Madura or East Java but also from island outside Java. For example, like Kalimantan, Papua, Sumatera, and any other regions. It may cause the students to choose specific language to have an interaction or to be able to communicate with their friends, lecturer, or even strangers they encounter on campus or outside campus.

In multilingual areas such as Madura and Universitas Trunojoyo Madura, individuals often form communities with others who share similar backgrounds.

These communities provide a sense of familiarity and comfort, allowing members to communicate freely in their native language. Additionally, these communities play a crucial role in preserving their language, helping to prevent language shift within the group.

There are many local communities at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura, consisting of university students from across Indonesia. The university hosts over ten local communities, including IKAMASU (North Sumatera Student Association), JCOS (JaBoDeTaBek College Students), COBS (Community of Bojonegoro Students), and more. These communities provide a space for students from the same regions to connect and interact. Members often communicate in their respective local languages.

One of the student communities at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura is the Ikatan Mahasiswa Sumatera Utara (IKAMASU). This organization serves as a gathering for students from North Sumatra who are pursuing their studies at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura. IKAMASU boasts a significant membership, with over one hundred students participating in its activities. The members of this community represent a diverse range of regions within North Sumatra, including Medan, Tebing Tinggi, Pematang Siantar, and several other areas. The community is highly active in organizing events, which facilitate opportunities for students to engage with individuals who share similar regional and cultural backgrounds.

Members of the IKAMASU community mainly speak the Bataknese language to communicate with one another, and all members are fluent in it. This local language, from North Sumatra, helps them feel connected to their cultural roots. When interacting with people outside their community, they switch to Indonesian or sometimes Javanese. This ability to change languages shows their adaptability. Several factors, such as the setting, the topic and the people they are speaking to, influence their language choice in different domains.

The way students from IKAMASU community choose their language during interactions makes the researcher interested in researching the phenomenon of language choice that appears in them while they interact with people.

1.2. Research Questions

Based on the background of the study there are two research questions that the researcher considers to solve in this thesis.

They are stated in the following number:

1. What language is chosen by Bataknese students of Universitas Trunojoyo Madura in different domains?
2. What factors determine the Bataknese students of Universitas Trunojoyo Madura in choosing language?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

In accordance with the research question of this study. There are two objectives of this study.

They are stated in the following number:

1. To examine and describe the language used by Bataknese students from Universitas Trunojoyo Madura in different domains.
2. To identify the factors determine the bataknese students in choosing the language.

1.4. Significance of the Study

According to the objectives of the study, this study is significant for the expansion of sociolinguistics study specifically in the field of language choice. The researcher hopes that this research's result can develop the collection of the research of sociolinguistics particularly in language choice area.

For the reader, the researcher hopes this study can give more knowledge, information, and understanding of the material that regarding with sociolinguistics especially language choice. The researcher hopes that this research can also be beneficial to the next researcher to become a reference for the next researcher that want to research the same topic and material with this thesis.

The researcher hopes this research can be beneficial in understanding cultural and diversity in an area. The researcher hopes that this thesis can be an example of the differences of language that exist in Indonesia. Therefore, the diversity of language that appear in this study expected to become the supports to unite the differences in our country.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on the language choices made by ten Bataknese students at Faculty of Social and Cultural sciences (FISIB) Universitas Trunojoyo Madura, who are also members of IKAMASU (the North Sumatera Student Association). The scope of this research is situated within the field of sociolinguistics, with a particular emphasis on language choice. The objectives of this study are to analyze the languages used by the speakers and to investigate the factors that influence their language choice. To narrow the focus of this study, the study specifically involves ten students from Faculty of Social and Cultural sciences (FISIB) Universitas Trunojoyo Madura and the North Sumatera Student Association. The researcher only examines the languages that these students will use in various domains of interaction, including friendship, religion, education, trade-domain, and neighborhood. Additionally, this study only seeks to identify the factors that influence the students' decisions when choosing a language in these different domains by using the theory from Holmes.