

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter outlines the rationale behind conducting this research. It includes several key sections: namely the background of the study, the research question, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, and the scope and limitations. Each of these components will be described and explained in detail as follows:

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is one of the fundamental things in humans that has a function not only as a means of communication, but also as a representation and identity of social groups. Additionally, language and dialect can reflect the identity or uniqueness of the cultural and historical values of the communities they speak (Safira, 2016). However, in the current era of globalization and modernization, the pressure of a more dominant language often causes language shift, so that the use of certain regional languages or dialects is reduced. Therefore, there is an awareness of the importance of language maintenance as an effort to maintain the existence of a particular language or dialect so that it does not become extinct or shifted.

Language maintenance is an important aspect in showing the existence and identity of a tribe or nation. The survival of a language is highly dependent on the attitude of its speakers, because the use of the language in everyday life plays a significant role in maintenance efforts (Hariyanto et al., 2023). Moreover, according to Kusumaningrum et al., (2024) language maintenance refers to efforts to maintain the existence of a language through its consistent use, even though the language competes with other languages in a community. Language maintenance becomes increasingly crucial when the number of speakers is declining, especially as the younger generation tends to prefer using the more dominant language in the community. Thus, language maintenance is needed to prevent the shift of a language into a minority in a community.

Language maintenance refers to the effort of a speech community to maintain their local language. It occurs when a community continues to use their local language even in an environment that encourages language shift. In such cases,

members of the community often become bilingual, adapting to their surroundings by using both the dominant language and the minority language (Susanty & Simanjuntak, 2021). Language maintenance is crucial when the use of a home language is restricted to specific domains, while a stronger language becomes more prevalent. It emphasizes the balance between minority and majority languages, ensuring that the minority language remains valued and actively used within the community (Riadiani, 2019).

According to Fishman (1991), a language domain is a set of situational aspects or a social context in which a particular language is used, or where one language variety is considered more appropriate than another. Examples of language domains, as identified by Fishman, include home/family, friends, neighbors, community, religion, education, and media. These domains depend on where language maintenance takes place. As mentioned by Holmes (2013), a minority language community is more likely to maintain and preserve their language if it is used in various domains. Forms of language maintenance exist across different domains. For example, in the family domain, parents might continue using their local or regional language with their children, even if they live in an urban area or an environment where a national or international language is more dominant. Furthermore, Holmes (2013) states that the factors that influence language maintenance are school administration, migration, employment, news media, language attitudes, identity, participants, contacting family back home, domain, intermarriage, and television.

Language maintenance is important in social life, involving not only a language but also its variations, including dialects. According to Yule (2010), dialects are specific variations of a language used by specific groups within a community and shaped by geographical or temporal factors. Furthermore, the term "dialect" originally referred to a language system used by a community that was different from neighbouring communities while still maintaining linguistic ties. In contrast to accent, which focuses only on pronunciation and indicates the speaker's regional or social origin, dialect includes grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. For example, Javanese, one of the most widely spoken languages in Indonesia, has

various dialects, such as *Arekan*, *Osing*, *Mataraman*, *Aneman*, *Banyumasan*, and *Solo*.

Bojonegoro is a region in East Java that directly borders Central Java. Geographically, Bojonegoro consists of around 28 districts, including 11 urban villages and 419 rural villages. The Bojonegoro Regency is also bordered by several other regencies: to the north by Nganjuk and Ngawi, to the east by Lamongan, to the south by Tuban, and to the west by Blora in Central Java. The majority of Bojonegoro's population speaks Javanese, specifically the *Jonegoroan* subdialect of the *Aneman* dialect. Historically, Bojonegoro was part of a residency or a former administrative division in the Dutch East Indies and later Indonesia until the 1950s therefore the subdialect of *Jonegoroan* dialect can also be found in former Bojonegoro residency areas such as Bojonegoro, Tuban, Lamongan, Blora, and parts of Nganjuk.

Jonegoroan Dialect is predominantly spoken by the people of Bojonegoro. It shares similarities with the dialects used by the people of Blora and Rembang but has its own distinct differences. This variety is often referred to as the *Aneman* dialect. The *Aneman* dialect spoken in Bojonegoro differs from that used in other regions. *Jonegoroan* Dialect has unique characteristics in vocabulary, meaning, affixation (morphology), and pronunciation (phonology) (Hardiana, 2020).

The research by Hardiana (2020) provides examples of unique *Jonegoroan* dialect forms are as follows for example, some vocabulary differences compared to Standard Javanese include words like *petil* (take), *jengker* (talking), *lebi* (close), *nayoh* (easy), *kol* (car), *jember* (disgusted), *ngamok* (it's up to you) and *genyo* (why). In terms of morphological affixation, examples include *nayohmen* (very easy), *ngakno* (open it), *jemberen* (disgusting), *bukunem* (your book), and *petelotem* (your pencil). Reduplication in morphology can be seen in words like *therek-therek* (neatly lined up), *inthik-inthik* (walking around), *ilikithik* (tickling), *jinjang-jinjing* (lifting repeatedly), and *genyo-genyo* (repeatedly asking why). In terms of phonology, a notable feature is the change from the suffix "-uh" to "-oh," as in *sepuloh* (ten), *rusoh* (dirty), *butoh* (need), and the shift from "-ih" to "-eh" in words like *puteh* (white), *muleh* (go home), *sugeh* (rich), and *bateh* (fast). These unique

characteristics make *Jonegoroan* Dialect an interesting subject for linguistic research.

Language maintenance is an effort to maintain the continuity of a language so that it continues to be used in society. The positive attitude of speakers towards language has an important role in language maintenance, which is closely related to the development and potential extinction of a language (Damayanti & Mintowati, 2024). Furthermore, according to Wirajayadi (2021), language use reflects the identity of a community, in the form of the speakers' socio-cultural background which is a distinguishing characteristic from other language communities. Therefore, the *Jonegoroan* dialect as the cultural identity of Bojonegoro must be maintained and widely introduced to build positive language attitudes, especially in multilingual situations, thus supporting efforts to maintain the language.

In the view of Sociolinguistics, the linguistic situation in bilingual and multilingual societies is characterized by the use of several languages in verbal interaction and language development in society. Therefore, Sociolinguistics research is important to do in order to reveal or find unique and interesting linguistic phenomena to study (Mahsusi et al., 2017). In the research of Fishman (1996) states that language maintenance is related to the stability and changes in language use which are the result of various social, psychological, and cultural processes in a community of speakers. Language maintenance refers to the combination of ideas and beliefs held by a community, as well as the use of the language in everyday life (Suharyo & Nurhayati, 2020). The steps taken by language groups or communities to maintain the continuity and existence of their local languages are referred to as language maintenance efforts.

This research focused on COBS administrators as they take an important role in the organization. These administrators directly influence the use and maintenance of the *Jonegoroan* dialect on campus by making decisions and implementing work programs. They also interact regularly both formally and informally with individuals inside and outside the organization. Therefore, they represent the *Jonegoroan* dialect maintenance dynamics within the multicultural environment of Universitas Trunojoyo Madura.

Based on the description of the background of this research, language maintenance plays a crucial role in maintaining regional linguistic heritage and cultural identity. This research examines language maintenance and attitude among Bojonegoro students studying at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura. Thus, the researcher is motivated to raise the title “Language Maintenance of Jonegoroan Dialect by Community of Bojonegoro Students (COBS) at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura”.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background that has been stated, the research questions in this study are as follows:

1. What are the forms of language maintenance of Jonegoroan dialect among the members of the Community of Bojonegoro Students (COBS) at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura?
2. How is the language attitude of the members of the Community of Bojonegoro Students (COBS) at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura towards the Jonegoroan dialect?
3. What are the factors that influence the maintenance of Jonegoroan dialect by the members of the Community of Bojonegoro Students (COBS) at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the stated research questions that has been stated, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To identify the forms of language maintenance among members of the Community of Bojonegoro Students (COBS) at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura?
2. To explain the language attitudes members of the Community of Bojonegoro Students (COBS) at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura towards the Jonegoroan dialect?

3. To explain the factors that influence the maintenance of *Jonegoroan* dialect by members of the Community of Bojonegoro Students (COBS) at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura towards the *Jonegoroan* dialect?

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writers hope that this research can contribute to several parties. This research has two main significances: theoretical and practical significance.

1. Theoretically, this research is expected to contribute to the development of sociolinguistic studies, especially in the field of language maintenance. Furthermore, by examining the efforts of a particular speech community in maintaining its local dialect, this research can support the continuity and relevance of theories related to language maintenance, as well as provide contextual examples that can be referred to in further academic discussions.
2. Practically, this research is intended to help students or other researchers who are interested in conducting similar research, especially in the field of language maintenance. This research is also expected to raise awareness among members of the Community of Bojonegoro Students (COBS) and the Bojonegoro community in general of the importance of maintaining local languages as part of their cultural identity. In addition, the findings of this study can serve as input for educational and cultural institutions in promoting regional language maintenance.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research uses a Sociolinguistics approach with a focus on the topic of language maintenance. This research examines the form of language maintenance of the *Jonegoroan* dialect in communication between the administrators of the Community of Bojonegoro Students (COBS), their language attitudes towards the dialect used, and the factors that influence the maintenance of the *Jonegoroan* dialect among the administrators of the community.

The limitation of this research is the subject and object used. The subjects that be used in this research are the administrators of Community of Bojonegoro

Students (COBS) for the period 2024/2025 which consist of 50 students from Bojonegoro. This research aims to identify the forms of *Jonegoroan* language maintenance by referring to the word class theory of Norlina et al. (2014). In addition, this study also explains the language attitudes of the Community of Bojonegoro Students (COBS) administrators towards the *Jonegoroan* dialect using Holmes' (2013) theory of language attitudes. Furthermore, this study analyzes the factors that influence language maintenance among COBS administrators based on Holmes' (2013) theory of language maintenance.