

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the background of the study, the research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language plays a crucial role in the communication process. Wardhaugh & Fuller (2021) define language as a crucial tool in human life, serving multiple functions such as communication, persuasion, information sharing, negotiation, and socialization. Language functions as a communication tool used in various environments, levels, and for diverse purposes. As a form of social control, it ensures that people involved in communication can understand each other. Effective communication leads to successful message delivery. Language is often said to characterize individual identity, which influences language use, such as age, education level, gender, socioeconomic status, profession, and region of origin.

Meyerhoff (2018) highlights that language variation is an essential aspect of sociolinguistic studies, as it illustrates how speakers adapt their speech based on their environment. Variations in language can also be caused by differences in work, profession, position, and others. Like the language used by fishermen, it will look very different from the language of people who work in an agency or an office. Language variations used by a group of people related to their field of work or profession are called registers. Such occupational-based language variation is commonly referred to as a "register." Registers are specialized forms of language associated with particular professions or social groups, where vocabulary, tone, and structure are influenced by the nature of their activities. One profession that has a unique form of register is that of fishermen. Their everyday communication is shaped by specific terms and expressions related to their work, social structure, and local traditions.

In coastal communities, such as those found in Kejawan Lor, Surabaya, fishermen use a distinctive vocabulary that may not be understood by outsiders. This vocabulary includes specific terms for fishing equipment, techniques, types of fish, and even traditional beliefs. These forms of language variation are known as

occupational registers. In professional communities such as fishermen, language tends to develop into specific registers. According to Biber and Finegan (1994), registers are variations of language formed by the context of their use, including the relationship between speakers and the purpose of communication. This study explores how registers function in the everyday conversations of fishermen in Kejawan Lor, Surabaya. The register used by fishermen reflects their daily routines, occupational roles, and the relationships they form within their community. The functions of these registers were analyzed using the perspective of Biber & Conrad (2009), which focuses on how linguistic features appear in conjunction with functional purposes in specific contexts.

Some examples of vocabulary and conversations containing registers found by researcher that are commonly used when communicating with fellow fishermen are as follows: *Pecat*, *Kubunaga*, *Turus*, *Otek*. These words are often said when communicating with fellow fishermen or related to fishing operations. The word "*Pecat*" means take the fishing nets that have been stocked. Then the word "*Kubunaga*" is a tool used to catch fish but in larger size. The word "*Turus*" for fishermen refers to special net for catching shrimp. Then the word "*Otek*" for fishermen in Kejawan Lor means the term of squid. In addition to finding register vocabulary among fishermen, researcher also found several examples of conversations between fishermen that occurred on the Kenjeran coast in Kejawan Lor Surabaya.

For example, Context: a conversation between fishermen who were talking about their preparations for going to sea during the day.

P1: *Assalamualaikum* (Greeting)

P2: *Walaikumsalam* (Greeting)

P1: *Piye kang, wes siap kabeh to? Ojo lali dicek kabeh sedurung e medhun yo* (How are you, bro? Do not forget to check everything before you go down)

P2: *Siap pak. Kari cek "pukat" (jaring besar untuk menangkap ikan dalam jumlah besar. Koyok e kurang rapet senar e.*

(Okay sir. We just need to check "*pukat*" (a large net to catch fish in large quantities). It seems like the thread is not tight enough.

P1: *Yawes mas, di catat ae. Ngko kurange opo ae ben tak tukokne* (Okay, just note it down. Later if anything is lacking, i'll buy it for you.)

P2: *Siap pak.*

(Alright Sir)

Noted :

P1 : First People

P2 : Second People

From the conversation above, there is a register used by the fishermen's register in Kejawen Lor village, namely *pukat*. In the conversation, it is seen that the interlocutor gives an answer to the question asked by the speaker. The meaning of the word *pukat* in the language of fishermen is a large net to catch fish in large quantities.

There have been many studies on language registration in social media and in education, trade, and other professions. However, research that specifically focuses on fishermen's registration is still limited, especially in the Indonesian context. This study aims to complement it by investigating the linguistic variations and unique registers used by fishermen in Kejawen Lor, Surabaya. Unlike previous studies that focused on broader occupational registers, this study specifically examines the linguistic features, classifications, and functions of fishermen's registers in everyday interactions.

This study aims to enrich previous research by focusing on the analysis of the types and functions of language registers used by fishermen in Kejawen Lor, Surabaya. This study highlights how language variation is influenced by occupational and social factors in coastal communities. Although many studies have explored language registers in fields such as education, media, and trade, research specifically examining fishermen's language remains limited, particularly in the Indonesian context. Therefore, this study is expected to provide new insights for the field of sociolinguistics and help preserve local linguistic practices that reflect the social identity and environmental conditions of fishing communities.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the research background above, the researcher formulates the problem in the following questions:

1. What types of registers are found among fishermen in Kejawen Lor, Surabaya?
2. What is the function of the register used by fishermen in Kejawen Lor, Surabaya?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the research question that have been formulated, the objectives of this research are formulated as follows:

1. To identify and categorize the types of registers used by fishermen in Kejawen Lor, Surabaya.
2. To analyze the register functions used by fishermen in Kejawen Lor, Surabaya.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Research on the register of fishermen in Kejawen Lor is expected to have the following benefits:

1. Theoretical Significance

This study aims to contribute to the field of sociolinguistics by enriching the understanding of register studies, particularly those related to fishermen's language variations.

2. Practical Significance

- a) For researchers, the output of research on this Register study can be registered in national and international journals.
- b) For other readers, the results of research with this Fisherman's language register study can be used as a reference for conducting further research with different objects.
- c) For the general public, this research provides insight into the richness of local languages and cultures so that it can increase appreciation for linguistic diversity in Indonesia.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is in the field of sociolinguistics, specifically focusing on language variation through the concept of register. This study identifies the types of registers used by fishermen in Kejawen Lor Village, Surabaya, by applying the theory of open and closed registers as proposed by Biber and Finegan (1994). Additionally, this study analyzing these register functions using the register function theory proposed by Biber and Conrad (2009). The theoretical discussion focuses on how language varies based on context, accessibility, and professional exclusivity, and how each utterance serves a specific communicative purpose.

The limitations of this study lie in the scope of the data and the context of the participants. The researcher analyzed 15 selected utterances taken from spontaneous conversations among fishermen in Kejawan Lor Village. The analysis was limited to spoken language only, and specifically to registers related to fishing activities. This study does not aim to generalize the findings to all fishing communities or to include dialect differences outside the research location.