

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background, research question, objective of the study, the significance of the study, and the scope and limitations of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language as the main part of communication has a big role in everyday activities. It functions as a medium for transferring information to one another. For instance, a teacher is communicating using a language towards the students—with the same code choice—which causes the addressee to understand the information given by the teacher. However, this process will be harder for people in the multilingual speech community. Multilingual speech community is a group of people who share something about the way in which they use language (Duranti, 1997). It means the community contains people with different first languages. Accordingly, a language must be chosen so that the speaker and the addressee will understand the same thing.

Native speaker stated by Crystal (2003) is a term used in linguistics to refer to someone for whom a particular language is a first language or mother-tongue. For example, people whose first language Madurese is called Madurese. Another example is a person who has lived in the United States of America (USA) since they were born and accept English as their first language is called native-English speaker.

Universitas Trunojoyo Madura (UTM), which is located on Madura Island, is a university that holds thousands of students from many parts of Indonesia. According to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (2018), Indonesia has 652 languages. This means some of them are the first language of students in UTM. UTM holds students from various cultures and backgrounds. There are students that are native Madurese and students that are non-Madurese whose Javanese, Batakese, Betawinese, or other languages other than Madurese as their native language. According to the definition of multilingual speech community by Duranti, UTM is a multilingual speech community.

There are some phenomena in UTM that occurred amongst the multilingual speech community. The first one is when Javanese use Javanese to Madurese people. This phenomenon could happen because the Javanese assumed that the Madurese people already understand and are capable of speaking using Javanese. This is supported by research done by Ulya (2017). She found that people who live at Kampung Kejawan, a hamlet in Kamal, use three languages to communicate daily. Those three languages are Madurese, Javanese, and Indonesian. In UTM, Javanese students have two language choices to use when they are speaking with their friends, Javanese and Indonesian. However, sometimes they automatically start using Javanese when they talk to Madurese which causes the native to use Javanese despite both of them being fluent in Indonesian.

Another evidence shows through small interviews with several non-Madurese students. They think because there are a big number of Javanese people in Madura Island, especially at Kamal, they assume Javanese language is well known to the locals. Some of them also stated that it depends on the person they are talking to. For example, the native Javanese students use Javanese only to several close native Madurese, but he keeps using Indonesian to other Madurese friends. However, this student interaction affects the native Madurese in using Javanese more frequently than using their own Madurese language.

Other than the phenomenon above, there is the most unique one that also occurred in UTM. Javanese student uses Javanese when he is talking to his native Madurese friend. Unexpectedly, his friend answered him by using Madures. Both of them were speaking using their own first language, but surprisingly they understood each other. This phenomenon is different from the others where the non-Madurese and Madurese students keep using Javanese. However, the Javanese student has two first languages which are Javanese and Madurese. It is because he has family members who are native Madurese in where he lived. However, his friend who is a Madurese student naturally grew up in the Madurese family and learns Javanese through her interaction with Javanese friends.

According to the phenomenon above, non-Madurese students in UTM have several languages to use in a conversation since many of them have a different first

language. In conversation, there are many possibilities for one or more languages being used. The speaker and the listener need to have the capability to master the languages that they used in their conversation. This is because both people need to understand the utterance from other people in order to have a conversation.

Choosing a language to communicate is not as simple as who is the addressee. In fact, language choice for bilingual or multilingual people is determined by many factors. Variables such as when the conversation happens, where it took place, or what purpose are also big factors of language choice (Wardaugh, 2006).

Holmes (2013) stated a study about the relationship of social and language is called Sociolinguistics. This field of study concerns knowing the social functions of language, identifying the social context provided by the language, finding a community's social relationship, and the way social identity is constructed through language (Holmes, 2013). According to that, this field of study is appropriate for studying the language choice of non-Madurese students in UTM.

However, based on brain activity, people who live in communities where multiple languages are spoken can identify words in yet another language better than those who live in a monolingual environment (Bice and Kroll, 2019). In UTM, there is a special major which the class is conducted by using two or more languages, it is the English Study Program (ESP).

In ESP, students are taught by English as the main language, then followed by Indonesian, and/or other languages. According to Bice and Kroll (2019), people in this domain are capable of identifying foreign languages better than other people that are not studying in ESP. Hence, this research will study the ESP students of 2022 that are non-Madurese.

1.2 Research Questions

From the background of the study above, it is formulated as the following research questions.

1. What language is used by non-Madurese English Study Program (ESP) students for daily conversation at UTM?
2. Why do they choose the language to communicate with the interlocutors?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study proposes to know the following objectives.

1. The language used by non-Madurese ESP students in daily conversation.
2. The reason for choosing the language by the non-Madurese ESP students for communicating with the interlocutors. This included open answers, so that the students could give as much reason as they wanted. Some of them may state a reason related to their background or some facts that they know.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this research contributed to the language choices study in Sociolinguistics. This research also explained the factors or determiner in choosing Madurese as a local language for daily use.

Furthermore, practically, this research discovered the reason behind the minimal usage and understanding for Madurese language amongst the non-Madurese students.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is linguistic study, specifically Sociolinguistics. This research focused on the dominant language that is being used for daily conversation and the Madurese usage of ESP UTM students of 2022. Participants may include students from different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds who are not native Madurese speakers. This study covers conversation in daily communication. The options for the language choices are English, Indonesian, Javanese, and Madurese.

Furthermore, this study only includes non-Madurese students from the ESP UTM of 2022, which may not represent all students at UTM. The non-Madurese students mentioned are those whose first language or mother tongue are not Madurese. This is according to the definition of native speaker stated by Crystal (2003) which stated that a native speaker is a term used in linguistics to refer to someone for whom a particular language is a first language or mother-tongue. Other than that, the research is conducted only within ESP UTM, limiting generalizability to other universities in Madura or Indonesia. Furthermore, this research does not

analyze language choices of Madurese-speaking students, but only focusing on non-Madurese speakers.