

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study and scope and limitation of the study. Those are important to be explained because they will describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language variations are variants in a language, each of which has patterns that resemble the general patterns of the parent language. It means that each language has duplication of words that resemble and mean the same as general patterns. The language variation occurs because language has different social function. The form of these language variations can be in the form of idiolects, dialects, chronolect and sociolect. Therefore, the language variation have their own characteristics.

Language varieties that are defined in term of geographical boundaries are called regional dialect (Thomas, 2001). On the other hand, where in region live some ethnic there must be some histories and cultures that influence their language used. The characters of language used by some different people from ethnic groups can be seen from sound pattern, vocabulary, structure, intonation,

pronunciation. Language variety can be found in almost every country, such as Indonesia.

According to ethnologue (2016), Indonesia has 707 regional languages. It means that each regional language in Indonesia has its own characteristics of language variations. One of the regional languages in Indonesia with the most speakers is Javanese. Javanese is almost known to all Indonesian people. According to Purwaningsih (2017), Javanese has a total of 84,308,740 speakers. Therefore, the Javanese has many different language variations depending on the regional dialect group that uses Javanese.

Thomas (2001) stated that dialect is variations of the language used by a group of speakers that are very different in their speech from other groups.. A group of people who speak the same dialect is known as a speech community. This can be defined in terms of a number of extra-linguistic factors, including region and ethnicity, but the factors are not based on linguistic structure. The language used depends on the function and needs of the community. In other words, there are many variations of the language used among the speakers who better understand and know each other. In addition, to observe the differences in how the language is used in speech in each region is referred to as dialect variation.

In Javanese itself, regional dialects are classified into three parts, namely western, central, and eastern. Uhlenbeck (1964, p. 63-64) categorizes Javanese dialects into three groups. The first group is the western part of Javanese or Ngapak, which consists of the dialects of Banten, Cirebon, Tegal, Banyumas and Bumiayu. The second group is the central Javanese language that consist of the dialects of

Pekalongan, Kedu, Bagelen, Semarang, Pantai utara (Jepara, Rembang, Demak, Kudus and Pati), Blora, Surakarta, Yogyakarta and Madiun. Finally, the eastern part of the Javanese language is the East Javanese pantura dialect (Surabaya, Bojonegoro, Malang, Jombang, Tuban, Tengger and Banyuwangi). Based on the dialect grouping, it means that each region has the characteristics of using different language variations.

The characteristics of language variation can also be indicated by linguistic aspects such as lexical variation. According to Wolfram and Schilling (2015), lexical variations are shown from differences in word and phrase by comparing the way language spoken in different place among different social groups. It means people speak the same language but every places and social groups have their own lexical variation. Lexical variation can be found in the form of words and phrases. Surely this phenomenon can be found in various languages in Javanese. For instance, this phenomenon can be found in several villages in Pati regency which has its own language variations.

One example of language variation in term of lexical item can be found in Pati regency in the use of intensifiers. Intensifier are words that make adjective and adverb stronger. According to Lakoff (2004, p. 48), using intensifiers seems to be a way of backing out of committing oneself strongly to an opinion, rather like tag questions. The aims of the use intensifiers is to show an emphasis in a phrase or word.

Furthermore, there are several different variations in the use of intensifiers in Pati regency. The differences in lexical variation in the use of intensifiers were

found in four villages from different sub-districts in Pati regency. They are Ngablak, Kembang, Pakem and Kebonsawahan. The four villages use the same dialect, namely Pantai Utara dialect or Muria dialect because Pati regency itself is included in this dialect user group.

The phenomenon found in the four villages proves that the use of lexical variation is not only based on the same place but can be influenced by other factors. The four villages above are in the same district, but have different intensifier uses. These differences are influenced by different social backgrounds. This is in line with the opinion of Wardhaugh and Fuller (2015).

Based on the phenomenon of language variations above, the focus of this research is to analyze the phenomenon of intensifiers use in Pati regency, especially in four villages (Ngablak, Kembang, Pakem, and Kebonsawahan). Most of the previous studies did not specify the areas studied which only mentioned the name of the district. Therefore, this research is interesting to do because the researcher analyzes the use of intensifiers inter-villages in different sub-districts but within one district.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Regard on the background of the study above, the researcher formulates the problem as follows :

1. What are the intensifiers used by people in Pati regency?
2. What are the factors that lead to variations in the use of the intensifiers by people in Pati regency?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Considering the research question above, this research is conducted to attain objectives study as follows :

1. To identify the intensifiers used by people in Pati Regency.
2. To explain the factors that lead to variations in the use of the intensifiers by people in Pati regency.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to provide theoretical and practical impact in the field of Linguistics especially in Sociolinguistics. Theoretically, this research provides knowledge of lexical variation that contains in regional dialect. This study is also expected to be able to add and deepen research within the scope of Sociolinguistics. In addition, this research can provide an additional reference in future research to find new findings related to the sociolinguistic analysis.

Practically, through this research, readers will get an understanding of language variation phenomenon. By providing definition and the example of language variation based on linguistic and social aspect in the discussion. The readers and especially students who majoring in English Department are expected to be more aware of the phenomenon of language variation in their own area.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is in the field of Sociolinguistics focusing on language variation. To make study more specific, the limitation of this study is lexical variation in the use of intensifiers found in four villages, Ngablak, Kembang,

Pakem and Kebonsawahan. The researcher also limits the participants; they are 16 native speakers because the data collection will be easy to access and will have low costs.

