

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Language is a tool for communicating to communities around the world. Specifically, the language can also be interpreted as a symbol system of sound produced by the vocal organs. According to Bolinger (1981), language has the system of phonemes which form is distinctive sound features. From the above statement we can know that the spoken language the symbol system of sound has the phoneme system.

Phoneme is the smallest sound unit that causes a difference of meaning, it is produced by the vocal organ, and it plays a role in language. Wijana (2009) said that “phonemes are sounds that have the potential to differentiate meaning” (p. 22). One way of determining a phoneme in a language system is with a minimal pair. Minimum pairs are two words that have a different sound. For example the word ‘*light*’ and ‘*right*’. In both words there are two distinct sounds [l] and [r]. Thus the sounds [l] and [r] are phonemes. In linguistics, writing or transcript of the phoneme is usually denoted by two slashes: /.../. So, the phoneme is the object of study of the phonemics. “Phonemics is a study about sounds of language that distinguish the meaning only” (Soeparno, 2013, p. 67).

Moreover, Madurese language also has unique phonemes. The uniqueness of phonemes in Madurese language is divided into two. The first phoneme "aspirated" is phonemes pronunciation of the word exhaled. As for the phonemes

that aspirates are: /p^h/, /t^h/, /k^h/, and /c^h/, for example, the word *bhabang* [p^hɣbɣŋ] ‘onion’. Second, phoneme unaspirated is smooth heavy phoneme pronunciation, such as *baba* [bɣbɣ] ‘bottom’. Misnadin (2017) said that “Madurese also has three stop categories, namely voiced, voiceless unaspirated, and voiceless aspirated” (p. 140). Phonemes in the Madurese is not only unique but also varies, and the variation of the phoneme is called allophones. Phonemes pronounced in one or more ways, depending on the number of allophones.

Voiceless unaspirated and voiceless aspirated stops in Madurese seem similar to voiceless aspirated and unaspirated stops in English, which are allophonic. “In contrast, English voiceless unaspirated stop can be followed by any vowel type but their occurrences are not as free as those in Madurese particularly in terms of position in word” (Misnadin, 2017, p. 143).

Chaer (2012) stated that “an allophone is a realization of a phoneme; it can be said that the phoneme is abstract because the phoneme is simply an abstraction of the allophone or another allophones” (p. 128). From the statement above, it can be concluded that the concrete unit in a language is allophone, because the allophone is spoken in a phoneme or a word in the language.

Allophones are differences in the pronunciation of the two or more phoneme sounds for different positions in the word. The allophone of a phoneme also has similarities in the phonetic system and sound similarity. The allophone is written between two brackets: [...]. “In Madurese there are six vowel, that is /a/, /i/, /u/, /ɛ/, /ə/, and /ɔ/. As indicated here, there is variation in the realization of

some vowels depending on whether they occur in open or closed syllables” (Davies, 2010, p. 19).

Madurese language has its own uniqueness in the eyes of people from various cultures, traditions and languages. But, the characteristic of the Madurese is language, because if the Madurese people talk must have such distinctive rhythmic accent.

Madurese has many songs ranging from themed romance, jokes, and social activities. Teenagers now prefer the romance-themed songs. Different from Madurese themed song about the social, in the lyrics of the song can be a lot of benefits we can, because the songs are a lot of positive advice and also tells the existing tradition in Madurese. Usually a song on the social-themed can be found in the Madurese traditional songs.

Here are some examples of Madurese traditional songs on the theme of social, *ollè ollang*, *pajjâr lagghu*, and *tandu' majâng*. Madurese songs are unique, they also contain vowel allophones. That is why the writer chooses the songs for object allophones research.

The reason why the writer chose these songs as research object because in the songs there are a lot of variations of phonemes or vowel allophones found, which makes it easier for writers to get a data for analysis.

In addition to the uniqueness of the words in Madurese that is found in many variations vowel allophones on the various sentences. As an example, vowel /a/ that include variations of vowel allophones [a] is “*paraona*”, a vowel allophones [a] pronounced when joining the voiceless consonants like (/c/, /f/, /k/,

/h/, /m/,/n/, /ŋ/, /p/, /q/, /t/, /t/, and /s/) but it could occur in the position of beginning, middle and the end.

From the examples, the words contained in traditional songs Madurese would be very interesting if the topic is analyzed using the theory of phonology by Cohn (1994). The reader can know what the phonology is especially in vowel phonemes and their allophones in Madurese.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problems

From the explanation of the background of the study above, the writer formulate the problem as follows:

1. What are the types of vowel allophones found in the Madurese traditional songs?
2. What the phonological environment determines the vowel allophones in Madurese traditional songs?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

According to the statement of the problem formulated above, the main objectives in this research as follows:

1. The first is that the reader can know the number of vowel allophones were found in three traditional songs Madurese after reading this research and can know the category in a word in the three lyrics of the songs.
2. The second is that the writer explains in the context of what a pronounced vowel allophone or how to pronunciation vowel allophones in a word or phoneme.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes this study can be useful to the reader who wants to do research in the study of phonology especially on phonemes and vowel allophones. Besides, the study is also expected to give some significance as follows:

1. Theoretically: the final results of this study can give a positive contribution to the reader. This research can be used as an additional reference for the next researcher, especially those who are interested in the study of phonology that explain about phonemes and vowel allophones.
2. Practically: after reading this study, the writer hopes that the reader gets a more understanding about allophones and vowel allophones, and also the reader understands and know the vowel in Madurese languages have different vowel allophones.

1.5 Scope and limitation

The scope of this study is phonology and this study also focuses on types of phonemes especially vowel phonemes which found in Madurese traditional songs. While the limitation of this study, the data only on song lyrics of Madurese traditional songs.