

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of the Study

People tend to have their own language even their own style in expressing the language. It leads to the existence of language variation. This happens because of some factors such as the different areas or region, different society and community, and other different contexts in which the language is expressed. These variations could be seen from some linguistic aspects: the sounds (relate to the phonetics), the word choice (relate to the lexical items), and larger the grammatical structure. For this reason, the social distribution could be associated and analyzed with other non-social linguistic theories (Hudson, 1996)

Specifically, as stated by Hudson (1996) sounds and syntactical structure are treated differently in each theoretical models of how language 'works' rather than the sociolinguistics is concerned. In the field of sociolinguistics, there are no important differences among the variations – it is just the social contexts that influence the language variation. However, by approaching the theory of sounds, it could generate the language variation. Further, it may become a unique challenge to have the complicated relation between sounds and variations.

By looking at the perspective of the sounds, each sound could be phonemic or allophonic, depending on some environmental factors. Phonemics relates with the phonemes that distinguish meaning while allophones deals with phones or physiological sounds that has no difference in meaning (Ladefoged & Johnson, 2011). These terms is related to the language variation. Because of that, the study of sounds could be associated with the social linguistic field.

Phonetic realization, as one of the study of sounds which investigate the actual speech based on the underlying phonological rules. This means that the realization is the sound production that could be analyzed by looking at the acoustic properties. This point which brings up non-linguistic concept become an interesting research throughout the language phenomenon.

In a case, vernaculars exist in all over the world especially in Indonesia where many different regions, ethnics, cultures, and religion exist in this country. This diversity influences the language as stated before. Mostly, language variation is clearly known by society; the society consciously knows that the different languages are such a language variation. However, unconsciously, there are still language variations that are not recognized even are not known that it is kind of language variations. This may happen because there is almost no linguist who has analyzed it.

One of the languages, Madurese is spoken by Madurese people on Madura island. This language has many variations. It has different dialects based on the different regencies. The regencies are Bangkalan, Sampang, Pamekasan, and Sumenep. Not only the word choice, but also the accentual items differences show

their own identity. Although there are four regencies, this study only compares two regencies: Bangkalan and Sumenep. Bangkalan is one of the regencies that is different from the other regencies especially Sumenep particularly in the aspect of language - it is known when Bangkalan and Sumenep people talk to others. The most noticeable difference is on the lexical items or word choices that they use in their daily speech. The example is the word *ngantok* that is usually used in Bangkalan and *katondu* that is usually used in Sumenep. These two regencies are different not only in the lexical items but also in the pronunciation. For instance, the word *bârâmpa* which means *how many/much* in English is pronounced [bɤrɤmpah] in Bangkalan. It is different from Sumenep where the word *bârâmpa* is pronounced [bɤrɤmpa]. Unconsciously, based on the surface observation, there is a different phonetic realization of /h/ which appears in Bangkalan in particular words in which the original word does not have it except the loanwords such as the word *hol* (haul in Arabic), *hadirin* (audience), and *hotel*. These examples are the borrowings which contain the phoneme /h/ and become the entries in Madurese dictionary. Further, the speech perception of the realization of /h/ could be investigated and analyzed through the acoustic phonetics of the phoneme.

Related to the pronunciation, to reach the idea of language variation, the approach of phonetics is being used. The phonetic realization is analyzed further. Besides, social factors become another consideration to come into a better understanding – whether it is phonemic or allophonic, it is dialectal or accentual or maybe other contextual environment. The relationship between phonetic and social information during speech perception is not unidirectional; the phonetic

variants perceived can affect what characteristics are attributed to a speaker, and the characteristics attributed to the speaker can influence how sounds are perceived (Drager, 2010)

1.2 Statement of the Problems

- 1.2.1 What are the acoustic characteristics of the phoneme /h/ produced by speakers of Western and Eastern Dialect?
- 1.2.2 How are the phonetic realization of the phoneme /h/ produced by speakers of Western and Eastern Dialect based on certain phonological environments?
- 1.2.3 How are the phonetic realization of phoneme /h/ used to signal language variation of Madurese language?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Madurese language is one of language that has many variations. One of the phenomena that is found in Western dialect is the phonetic realization of phoneme /h/ in which it is different with the original words that is usually spoken in Sumenep. The objective of this study is to analyze the acoustic characteristics of phoneme /h/ in the Western Dialect spoken in Bangkalan. Then, the result leads to know whether the realization of phoneme /h/ distinguish meaning or not.

Besides, this study is further to understand two factors of the realization of phoneme /h/. The two factors are related to the position of phoneme /h/ and the ages of the speakers. The analysis of position is to know whether phoneme /h/

occurs in utterance final position or utterance medial position. Additionally, the age of the speakers becomes another consideration to understand the social factors of the realization of phoneme /h/.

1.4 Significance of the Study

In accordance with the problems and the objectives of the research, the findings of this research are expected to give both theoretical and practical contribution on the area of sociophonetics, particularly on analyzing the phonetic realization of phoneme /h/ and the relation to the society.

Theoretically, this study is expected to enrich the knowledge about sounds. Specifically, it is expected to make the readers comprehend that the speech sound that used in daily speaking reflects to the society. This study helps the reader to understand what acoustic features of the realization of phoneme /h/ and whether it could distinguish meaning or not.

Practically, this study is the basic foundation for Madurese people when they want to talk with others because this study is not only analyzing the speech sound but also finding the relation to the society. The speech is shaped by the society and shapes the society. So, it also relates with the politeness in society. In addition, for other researchers, the findings and the discussion of this study are expected to be used as reference for further study.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is in the field of sociophonetics. It discusses the language variations through the approach of phonetics especially the phonetic realization of phoneme /h/ that occurs in Western Dialect and Eastern Dialect.

This study uses some theories such as language variations theory, dialect and accent theory, and some phonetic theories emphasized on consonant /h/. The participants are from Bangkalan and Sumenep. Six people are from Bangkalan and the rest are from Sumenep. The participants who are from Bangkalan consist of 3 males and 3 females between the ages of 20 – 24. The participants who are from Sumenep consist of 3 males and 3 females between the ages 20 – 24. They utter some sentences that are given by using their casual speech in Madurese in two different contexts. Their utterances are the source of data. Then, the realization of phoneme /h/ becomes the data that is analyzed further.