

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter divided into five parts: the background of the study, the research questions, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, and the scope and limitations of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language attitudes refer to individuals' evaluative responses towards a language or the set of beliefs, perceptions, and judgments that people held about a language or its speakers (Dragojevic et al., 2021). It included any habitual, goal-directed activity that required the use of a particular language or several languages, regardless of whether the goal was to increase proficiency in those languages. Attitude towards language involved responsibility and accountability and appreciation of language. Attitude towards language was related to one's awareness to use language correctly and in accordance with the norms. According to Anderson (1975), language attitudes also divided into two main aspects, namely language pride and awareness of linguistic norms. Language pride motivated individuals to preserve and develop their language as part of their cultural identity, while awareness of linguistic norms ensured that the language was used correctly and in accordance with grammatical rules.

According to research conducted by Manik et al. (2023), the language attitudes of nomadic Javanese communities in Sumbul were influenced by various cognitive, affective, and conative factors. The research involves participants aged 17 to 60 years, focusing on language use in daily interactions. The results show that although Javanese people have a good understanding of their language, the use of Javanese in daily life was decreasing, especially among the younger generation who used Indonesian and Toba Batak more frequently. This research is important for

understanding how migration and inter-ethnic interaction could affect language attitudes and language use in society.

Indonesia is a multilingual country, where most of the people are able to speak more than two languages (Yassi et al., 2022). A number of countries in the world had multilingual characteristics, such as Indonesia, Taiwan, India, and Malaysia. Among these countries, Indonesia had a very high level of language diversity, considering that Indonesia consisted of various ethnic groups and cultures, each of which had a unique regional language (Cohn & Ravindranath, 2014). In a multilingual environment like this, the attitudes and practices of certain groups towards the language they used became an interesting topic to research.

One example of a multilingual region in Indonesia is Surabaya, which is geographically close to Madura Island. In the early 20th century, Surabaya experienced rapid economic and industrial development, attracting many migrants from Madura. The geographical proximity factor—about 2.5 miles from Madura—allowed Madurese to seek a better life in Surabaya without losing ties with their families and hometowns. The tradition of Madurese migration to Surabaya had been going on since the 19th century, especially in the period 1870-1990 (Samsudin, 2021). The area in Surabaya with a large Madurese population is Bulak Banteng Village. This is in line with Wijayanto's (2024) research, which states that Bulak Banteng's location near the Suramadu Bridge facilitates the mobility of the Madurese people. This has led to Bulak Banteng being dominated by the Madurese people, resulting in social interaction between the Madurese and Javanese communities.

According to Atmaja (2020), the phenomenon of interethnic marriage in Bulak Banteng has resulted in many children of Javanese-Madurese descent growing up in a multilingual environment, where they are exposed to and often speak Madurese, Javanese, and Indonesian. This linguistic situation is considered unique due to the high concentration of Javanese-Madurese descendants in the area and the influence of nearby urban centers like Surabaya, which is predominantly Javanese. The interaction between these two ethnic groups contributes to a dynamic

sociolinguistic landscape, particularly observable in the language attitudes of the younger generation in their daily communication.

This research is important because most previous studies have focused on bigger ethnic groups or general multilingual situations. Until now, there are not many studies that look closely at small communities like the Javanese-Madurese descendants in Bulak Banteng. This community actually faces special challenges in keeping their mother tongue alive in a place where Javanese is more dominant. It becomes even more interesting to study because of the location and the history of Madurese people moving to Surabaya, which makes the language situation more complex. Also, inter-ethnic marriage in Bulak Banteng has created a new generation that lives in a multilingual environment. Their language attitudes may influence not only their cultural identity but also whether or not their mother tongue can survive in the future.

Based on the background described earlier, this research examines the attitudes of the Javanese-Madurese descendants toward their local languages by considering several factors that influence these attitudes, such as age, cultural identity, social and cultural influences, and how they perceive the status or prestige of different languages.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the explanation provided in the background and the focus of this research, the researcher had formulated the following research questions to guide the study:

1. What are the attitudinal components of Javanese-Madurese descendants towards Javanese, Madurese and Indonesian?
2. What are the factors that influence the language attitudes of Javanese-Madurese descendants in Bulak Banteng?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To explain the attitudinal components of Javanese-Madurese descendants towards Javanese, Madurese, and Indonesian.

2. To explain the factors that influence the language attitudes of Javanese-Madurese descendants in Bulak Banteng.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The theoretical significance of this research is to contribute to the study of sociolinguistics, particularly in the area of language attitudes, which refers to how individuals or groups perceive, evaluate and respond to a language, ultimately influencing its use and preservation. Through examining the various factors that shape these language attitudes, this study aims to enhance existing theoretical frameworks in sociolinguistics and provide insight into the linguistic dynamics of multilingual societies.

The practical significance of this study was expected to be used as a reference source for researchers in related fields. In addition, it could provide knowledge for readers to better understand how the language attitude that needed to be shown by a speaker towards his language was essential in order to keep trying to maintain a language

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study adopts a sociolinguistic approach, with a particular emphasis on language attitudes. It focuses on examining the attitudes of Javanese-Madurese descendants in Bulak Banteng toward the three main languages they commonly use—Javanese, Madurese, and Indonesian. Specifically, it analyzes how their cognitive, affective, and conative responses to each language reflect the three components of language attitude as proposed by Baker (1992). Furthermore, the study investigates various factors that shape these attitudes, including age, gender, level of education, language proficiency, cultural background, and family environment. All of these aspects are interpreted through Baker's (1992) theoretical framework on the development of language attitudes.

The limitations of this study lie in its subject and context, as it focuses specifically on Javanese-Madurese descendants in Bulak Banteng. The study involved 10 informants aged 18-25 who were born and raised in a multilingual environment where Javanese, Madurese, and Indonesian are used in everyday

communication. Within this sociolinguistic context, this study aims to explain the attitudinal components (cognitive, affective, and conative) of Javanese-Madurese descendants toward these three languages Javanese, Madurese, and Indonesian. Additionally, this study analyzes various factors influencing their language attitudes, such as age, gender, school, ability, language background, cultural background, using Baker's (1992) theoretical framework on language attitudes.