

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes several sections such as the background of the study which explains the reasons for taking this research. Apart from that, there are research questions which serve as a guide in answering the problems in this study. The objectives of the study explain what to be achieved in this research. This chapter also explains the significance of the study in theory and practice. The last section is scope and limitations of the study to clarify the limitations of this research.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the system of spoken or written communication used by a particular country, people, community, etc., typically consisting of words used within a regular grammatical and syntactic structure (Trousdale 2010). Language does not only function as a means for communication but also reflect the culture and identity of a group or country. Language, customs, and traditions can be passed on from one generation to the next. Language also plays an important role in social and cultural interactions in a region or a country. The language used in one region to another is sometimes different depending on social and cultural factors.

Language and society have a close relationship where language functions as communication tool that allows individuals to interact and provide ideas in society. Instead, people maintain language through daily use so that it can reflect their identity. According to Wardhaugh and Fuller (2015) Sociolinguistics focus on investigating the relationship between language and society with the purpose of having deeper understanding about language structure and how its function in communication.

The languages in Indonesia are very diverse, including on the island of Madura. Madura has cultural diversity which is reflected in the use of language by its people. The languages used in various regions of Madura show certain differences according to social and geographical conditions. Madura as one of the

island in East Java use Madurese to communicate. Madurese is a regional language as a means of daily communication by the Madurese ethnic community, both those residing on the island of Madura and the surrounding small islands and overseas (Sofyan, 2010).

Dialect is a combination of regional pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar and can be used at those three levels (Hodson, 2014). For example the difference in the vocabulary of “you” in several areas in Madura, Bangkalan use word “*be’eng*” or “*hedeh*”, Sampang use word “*kakeh*”, Pamekasan use word “*be’en*”, and Sumenep use word “*be’na*”. Dialect has its own attraction in linguistic research because dialect can reflect the diversity of language which are influenced by various factors. Dialect does not only act as communication but also show the identity of a community. In this research, dialect was chosen because it can reveal how people use their language to express their identity. Dialect analysis will enable to understand lexical variation that indicate the characteristics of a region, especially in coastal areas. Chambers and Trudgill (2004) states that language is the variety of standardized linguistic form and has its own orthographies, history, geography and politic aspects; while dialect refers to the varieties which are grammatically, lexically, and phonologically different from each other and usually is not standardized. According to Smakman (2018) dialect typically refers to a language from a certain region, city, town, or village.

Sumenep is a region located at the eastern tip of the island of Madura. Sumenep Regency consists of 27 districts and 334 villages/ urban wards (BPS Kabupaten Sumenep, 2024). This region is famous for its polite language compared to other regions on the island of Madura. Each dialect has different intonation characteristics, for example in Bangkalan and Sampang, the intonation may be higher and firmer, while in Pamekasan and Sumenep, it may be softer and smoother (Fudhaili, 2024). The differences in intonation reflect the level of refinement of the language in each region, which shows that the further east Madura goes, the softer the language used. Hasanah et al., (2022) states that people who live in Sumenep will have a smoother language accent than in the Pamekasan area; the Pamekasan area is smoother than Sampang area, and the Sampang area is smoother than Bangkalan area.

Coastal communities are people who live in coastal areas. Fatmasari, (2016) states that coastal communities are a group of people (fishermen, fish farmers, fish traders, etc.) who live together in coastal areas to form and have a unique culture related to their dependence on coastal resource utilization. Most of the coastal communities work as fishermen as a form of utilizing existing natural resources. The socio-economic characteristics of coastal communities make their living in the sector marine activities such as fishermen, fish farmers, sand mining and sea transportation. Coastal communities have unique social and cultural characteristics, often different from mainland communities. Life dependent on the sea and other natural resources creates a distinctive vocabulary and expressions, reflecting the experiences and traditions of these communities.

Kalianget District is a coastal area in Sumenep region. This area has the head office and Kalianget salt factory. In this area there is also a port which is usually called kalianget port as a means of connecting sea transportation. Kalianget has 7 villages including Kalianget Barat village, Kalianget Timur village, Kalimook village, Karanganyar village, Kertasada village, Marengan laok village and Pinggir Papas village (BPS Kabupaten Sumenep, 2024). Many dialects in Indonesia including in Kalianget are facing the threat of extinction. By conducting linguistic analysis in Kalianget district, researcher can contribute to efforts to preserve language and dialect that may be threatened with extinction, as well as document the existing linguistic wealth.

This research aims to find out the dialect variations that exist in Kalianget district and the factors that influence these variations. The researcher chooses to analyze the dialect in Kalianget district because this area has a unique social and cultural characteristic that need to be analyze. So that, there are no misunderstanding between coastal communities that use different dialects. Therefore, researcher will analyze the dialect used by each village in Kalianget district.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on background of the study, it is formulated the following research questions.

1. What are the lexical variations in the dialect of coastal communities in Kalianget district?
2. What are the factors that influence the lexical variations in the dialect of coastal communities in Kalianget district?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions, the objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the lexical variations in the dialect of coastal communities in Kalianget district.
2. To explain the factors that influence the lexical variations in the dialect of coastal communities in Kalianget district.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research provides two benefits, they are theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, this research contributes to the development of dialectological studies, especially in understanding the dialect variations used by coastal communities in Kalianget district.

Practically, this research can provide additional insight for students who want to deepen their understanding of the phenomenon of language variation and it can be a reference for further research that examines Madurese dialect variations.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is in the field of Sociolinguistics in particular dialect. The research uses the theory by Chambers and Trudgill (2004) in dialect variation and the factor that influence dialect variation. This research only focuses on the dialect of coastal communities in Kalianget district and is limited to the lexical aspect. So that, other aspects such as phonological and grammatical aspects are not analyzed in this research.