

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

It is important to pronounce words correctly especially in building a successful communication. In other words, there will be unexpected misunderstanding if there is a single word that is pronounced incorrectly. However, in some languages, especially regional languages or languages that are not used formally, the proper pronunciation of words is not taught formally in school. The language users simply learn the rules or acquires the language by imitating their former language user, unconsciously. This happens naturally in almost all language according to language acquisition theory. However, this has caused confusion amongst the language users. For example, in Gresik district, though the regional language which is Javanese language is taught at school formally, the syllabus does not teach about the phonology of the language itself which mainly concerns the pronunciation of the words of the language. This sometimes, at particular occasions, especially in conversation causes confusion and misunderstanding between the speakers because of the high differences between the written forms with the actual pronunciation forms.

As a language, Javanese language also has its own distinct phonology rules as cited in Panenová & Hana (2010) that any different language has its own rules that are certainly different from other languages. Javanese language has its users spread wide mostly in Javanese island to the other islands of Indonesia and even in Suriname Island. Yet, Javanese language has three levels of formality depending on the occasion or situation where it is being used. The three levels are *Krama*

Inggil (high level), *Ngoko Alus* (medium level), and *Ngoko Biasa* (low level) (Sumani, 2018). Additionally, there is a common language phenomenon in Javanese language when it speaks about pronunciation; phonological processes. A phonological process is a systematic sound change that affects classes of sounds or sound sequences and results in a simplification of production (Lowe, 2010). During the process the word

is modified and produces a new sound. As Leung and Brice argues that there are classes of phonological processes including epenthesis, final consonant deletion, cluster reduction, voicing, labial assimilation, alveolar assimilation under assimilation process. In contrast, Pandey (2015) classifies them into two main parts; the whole segment processes and modification type processes. The parts of the whole segment processes include insertion, deletion, syllabication, desyllabication, coalescence, and metathesis. However, most people don't learn the process consciously, or just learn it from their habits of speaking.

In this case, the researcher finds the processes occur in Javanese language when it mentions place name, especially people from Gresik region. This is very interesting to the researcher, the sounds of the words are often pronounced extremely different from the spelling due to the phonological processes of the word. For example, the word "Tebaloan" is pronounced [baloan]. The first syllable of the word is omitted. This process is also known as "deletion" process. Another example is the multiple processes within one word "Kedungbanteng" is pronounced *Dongmbanteng*, the first syllable is deleted and there is the insertion of consonant /m/ before the sound /b/. To sum up, it will not be bothering when all of the speakers in the conversation knows the reference of the word. In contrast, it will be confusing

when someone doesn't have sufficient knowledge about the place being mentioned. In addition, the unique phenomenon and variety of phonological process which occur in place-name pronunciation also makes this study interesting to be conducted. As Adha (2011) states in his/her study of Gresik dialect, the majority of Gresik citizen pronounce place name obviously in their daily life. For example: *Benjeng*, *Duduksampeyan*, *Dukun*, *Driyorejo*, and *Bungah* become, consequently, *mbenjeng*, *nduduk*, *ndukun*, *ndriyo*, and *mbungah*. The place names are only pronounced the way it is when it comes to formal events.

The Gresik dialect is a dialect varied form Javanese language which is primarily spoken by the people who live in Gresik region. Gresik dialect is considered to be a geographical dialect which is a dialect based on its geographical condition (Adha, 2011). Gresik dialect mainly speaks the *Ngoko Biasa* or the low level of Javanese language. Thus, the speakers can speak with less restraints that can make the speakers easier to be closer to others (Adha, 2011). Adha (2011) also claims that Gresik dialect differs from other variations of Javanese language by its distinctive features such as morphology, phonology, morphophonemic, and semantic feature.

The data of this study will be taken by observation of how the Gresik dialect users pronounce the sounds of place names especially villages, districts, and cities which is in the Gresik region. The researcher decides the citizens of Gresik as the source of data to limit the studies so it can be more focused and clearer to carry out.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

In accordance to the background study written previously, there are the statements of problems as follow:

1. What are the categories of phonological processes occurred in the Gresik place names?
2. How does the phonological process occur in the place name pronunciation?

1.3 Objectives of the study

1. To identify the categorization of the phonological processes occurred in the Gresik place names.
2. To explain the types of the phonological process which takes place in the pronunciation.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are two significance of this study; theoretical significance and practical significance. Theoretically, this study gains broader knowledge and insight about the phonological processes in Javanese language such as the insertion, deletion, and assimilation processes which the speakers are not aware of.

Practically, this study expects language users to pronounce the place names in Javanese correctly based on the daily language used Gresik dialect. In addition, this study can be used as reference for those who are conducting research about phonological process of Javanese language in the future.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is the phonological processes theory of phonology which studies the pattern of speech sounds as a part of a language proposed by Fromkin which fits best with the study being conducted. Additionally, the researcher avoids vague unnecessary discussion; the researcher uses the source of

data only from the place named by Gresik citizen (Gresik dialect) in which the phonological process occurred.