Identification of Language Attitude by Non-Natives Towards Madurese Language In UTM

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research are to identify the language attitudes towards the Madurese language depicted by non native students in Universitas Trunojoyo Madura (UTM) and whether sex differences carry an impact on their attitudes. This research employed an online survey to the targeted participants. They were simply required to respond to the questionnaire designed using Likert Scale. The sample of this research the answers of the questionnaire obtained. The data were gathered by using Google Form and were analyzed by using qualitative method. The results showed that there were only 2 statements who get a positive attitude towards Madurese language and the remaining 7 statements revealed they get a negative attitude. It also displayed that female respondents have more motivation for Madurese to be as popular as Javanese, contrary to males. What we can suggest from the current research is to have further research accommodating more participants.

Keywords: Attitude, Madurese Language, Speech Community

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi sikap bahasa terhadap bahasa Madura oleh mahasiswa UTM yang berasal dari luar Madura. Penelitian ini juga melihat apakah jenis kelamin memberikan efek pada sikap bahasa yang ditunjukkan. Penulis menggunakan survei secara Dalam Jaringan (Daring) yang ditujukan pada partisipan yang ditargetkan. Data didapatkan dari sumber data menggunakan Google Form dan dianalisis menggunakan metode kualitatif. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa hanya 2 pernyataan yang mendapatkan hasil mayoritas dengan sikap bahasa positif terhadap bahasa Madura, sedangkan 7 lainnya terungkap memiliki sikap bahasa negatif. Ini juga ditunjukkan bahwa responden perempuan memiliki motivasi terhadap bahasa Madura untuk menjadi populer seperti halnya bahasa Jawa, berbeda dengan laki-laki.

Kata kunci: Bahasa Madura, Komunitas Bahasa, Sikap

INTRODUCTION

Language as the main part of communication has a big role in everyday activities. It functions as a medium for transferring information to one another. For instance, a teacher is communicating using a language towards the students—with the same language choice—which causes the addressee to understand the information given by the teacher. However, this process will be harder for people in the multilingual speech community. Multilingual speech community is a real group of people who share something about the way in which they use language (Duranti, 1997). It means the community contains people with different first languages. Accordingly, a language must be chosen so that the speaker and the addressee will understand the same thing.

According to kabarmadura.id, Universitas Trunojoyo Madura (UTM) , which is located in Madura island, is a university that holds 18.127 students from many parts of Indonesia (Yahya, 2022). Kementerian Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi (Kemdikbudristek) stated Indonesia has 652 languages which means some of them are used by students in UTM. Thus, UTM is a domain for the multilingual speech community. Nevertheless, it will be easier for the non-Madurese to use Indonesian to communicate instead of using Madurese. This is because using the national language Indonesian, is simply as effortless as learning a new language which is Madurese. However, there are some students who have studied in UTM for years and they have learned Madurese through interaction with the locals, but they are still not using Madurese on a daily basis. The reasons for this phenomenon can be understood by analyzing the attitude of the students towards Madurese language.

Attitude is a mental reaction towards a particular thing that functions as a link between opinion and behavior (Obiols, 2002). The writer has reviewed some previous studies related to this research. The first one is Alahmadi, who investigated the attitudes of Urban Meccan Hijazi Arabic (UMHA) speakers towards the dialect and whether social variables affect their perception. The results show that the speakers have positive attitudes to their dialect and (Alahmadi, 2016).

Secondly, there is Rochiyati who studied the language choice of Madurese ethnics in Jember, as an Urban area. Rochiyati found that the dominant determiner in choosing a language is the situations, the participants, and the meaning of the speech (Rochiyati, 2023). However, there is no study that analyzes the attitude and the determiner of the language choice in UTM, besides the fact that it contains people with many ethnicities. Thus, the writer chose to analyze them and find the determiner of the language they use.

This research aims to identify the language attitude and understand if sex affects their attitudes toward the Madurese language by non-native students in UTM. The writer targeted to find a) what is the attitude depicted by non-native students towards Madurese? And b) how does the sex of the respondent have an impact on the attitudes depicted by non-natives?

The writer has reviewed some previous studies related to this research. The first one is Alahmadi, who investigated the attitudes of Urban Meccan Hijazi Arabic (UMHA) speakers towards the dialect and whether age, sex, and educational level have an impact on their perception of their dialect. The study finds that overall, all groups have a positive attitude towards their dialect, but there are differences between the groups. For example, older speakers

tend to express more pride in their dialect than younger speakers, and females feel more pressure to conform to societal norms. Overall, the study suggests that age, sex, and educational level do play a role in shaping the attitudes of speakers of UMHA towards their dialect, but regardless of these factors, there is a general positive attitude and a desire to preserve the dialect (Alahmadi, 2016).

Secondly, there is Rochiyati who studied the language choice of Madurese ethnics in Jember, as an Urban area. The study explores the factors influencing language choice and the dominance of the Madurese language in the family and neighborhood domains. The research reveals that speech situations, participants, and means of speech play a role in language choice. These factors play a significant role in determining which language (Madurese, Javanese, or Indonesian) is chosen for communication in different contexts. For example, when speaking to Madurese's neighbors, the choice of language is dominantly Madurese language. However, when speaking to Javanese neighbors who are older or have a higher social status, the choice of language is more likely to be Indonesian. Similarly, in intra-ethnic relations, the use of the Madurese language still dominates, indicating a strong language loyalty for the Madurese community. Additionally, the size of the gathering can also influence language choice, larger events tend to have a higher choice of Madurese or Indonesian (Rochiyati, 2023).

The next paper was conducted by Shameem Ahmed in 2015. The study analyzes the attitudes of undergraduate EFL students in Malaysia towards learning English. The study finds that students have a positive attitude towards English language learning overall, but negative feelings towards classroom instructions. The paper emphasizes the need for the role of teachers to motivate students by using words and deeds, on the other hand, the real motivation comes from each individual (Ahmed, 2015).

Then, the last study investigated the attitudes of undergraduate students in the English Education Department of Surakarta Muhammadiyah University towards the English. This studied attitudes in terms of behavioral, cognitive, and affective aspects, and examines differences across gender and length of study. The paper used a mixed methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis. The results are that both male and female respondents have positive behavioral, cognitive, and affective aspects of language attitude. It also revealed the attitudes of male undergraduate students towards English are slightly higher than female ones (Wati, 2018).

However, there is no study that analyzes the attitude and the determiner of the language choice in UTM, besides the fact that it contains people with many ethnicities. Thus, the writer chose to analyze them and find the determiner of the language they use.

Sociolinguists study the relationship between language and society (Holmes, 2013). Thus, sociolinguistics is the study of language and how it relates to our society. As the central concept in social sciences, attitudes served as many variables in sociolinguistics studies. Unfortunately, sociolinguists had been ignored by attitude theorists though they could elaborate their works and see sociolinguistics as a rich source of data (Cooper and Fishman, 1974). Thus, a sociolinguistics study made the theoretical assumption needed to obtain attitude scales and more interpretable results.

Sociolinguistics for years has been used to study language and its correlation with society. In this research, the writer used sociolinguistics to study the phenomenon that happened in UTM (society) and the local language, Madurese. But, it's not only just a society,

the society needs to contain multilingual people. A multilingual speech community is a collection of people who speak and communicate in numerous languages in a certain social or cultural setting. Individuals in these societies are fluent in more than one language and may switch between them depending on a variety of criteria such as the setting, the people with whom they are interacting, and the topic of conversation. Multilingual speech communities can be found all over the world in various places and circumstances, and they frequently reflect the linguistic and cultural diversity of the people who live in them.

Attitude is a mental reaction towards a particular thing that functions as a link between opinion and behavior (Obiols, 2002). The students' attitude towards Madurese language can be seen through language attitude theory and it will predict: (1) students' linguistic behavior; (2) the language they choose to speak in multilingual speech communities; (3) the language prestige; and (4) language loyalty. In accordance with this situation, this paper aims to identify the attitude of the non-Madurese towards the Madurese language. Other than that, it also intends to find out the usage of Madurese by students who have lived in Madura for years. Nevertheless, attitudes to language are strongly influenced by social and political factors (Holmes, 2013). This causes the results of this study need to be analyzed further on the next research.

METHODOLOGY

The writer used a qualitative method to investigate and explain the data obtained by the survey. This method focused on data collection, analysis, and writing (Creswell, 2014). This is because the writer explained the data and interpreted it into paragraphs. After that, the chosen data became the primary data for this paper. Then, the secondary data came from books, scientific articles, and news.

The first step before beginning to conduct this study is to find a phenomenon that becomes a concern. After that, the writer reviewed some previous works that studied the same issue with the phenomenon found. This phenomenon is, nevertheless non-native students have lived in Madura for years, they are still not familiar with using Madurese or even understand Madurese when they are talking with the locals. Then after the review, the writer found that this phenomenon was linked with the language attitude of the users which determined the use of the language. The next step is designing a research followed by making the survey with questionnaires. Firstly, the survey is made by using the PsyToolKit website (Stoet, 2017) which automatically showed the result in scale to be more interpretable. However, the writer found difficulty using the website, then she changed the instrument by using Google Forms.

Then, the writer distributed the online survey (sending the link via WhatsApp) to students studying in UTM who: (a) non-natives, (b) have lived in Madura for a year minimum, (c) 18-24 years old. After two weeks, the writer investigated the data and found the results as well as the sex variable. After that, the writer collected the data from the responses and analyzed it. Before analyzing the data, the writer calculated the results of the questionnaires with the 4-point Likert Scale which measured the agreement of the respondents to the statements. According to Sugiyono (Sugiyono, 2012), Likert Scales are usually used to reveal respondent's attitudes and opinion toward a phenomenon. Most of the survey uses a 5-point scale to measure, however, there is some research that uses 4-points scale because the

respondents were forced to give their opinion even if it is just a tendency. Thus, there is no "neutral" answer.

The reason why the writer chose respondents with those criteria, is first because she will analyze the language attitude of a new language of the non-natives. If natives were included in this research, then the results must be predictable, that most of them would be loyal to their own language. It is also common knowledge that natives in an area tend to use their own language daily. Second, the respondents of this research also have to interact with the natives minimum of a year. In that way, he will get used to the language, and at least, he will know some daily Madurese vocabulary. If the respondents do not know much about the Madurese language, they will not experience the statements stated in the questionnaire that is about the usage of the language. Last, the respondents must be 18-24 years old, or in late adolescence. Adolescents experience significant changes in their capacity to think. In changing from concrete to abstract thought they are increasingly able to understand abstract ideas, think about possibilities, think ahead, think about thinking, and "put themselves in another person's shoes." (Bretl, L., & Large, R., 2023). This means people at that age have developed the ability to think about themselves, others, and the world around them.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After the questionnaire was distributed, the writer collected the participants' responses. The survey showed there are 37 respondents from 6 faculties of UTM. This survey was dominated by 23 females and 14 males. Then, the writer identified the attitude of non-native students in UTM by scores to know if it is positive or negative.

There are four categories of scores that are determined by the questionnaire from Section 2 (see APPENDIX I. QUESTIONNAIRE Section 2):

1. *Strongly Disagree scores **1 point***
2. *Disagree scores **2 points***
3. *Agree scores **3 points***
4. *Strongly Agree scores **4 points***

The Section 2 of the questionnaire contains 9 statements of positive thoughts towards Madurese language. This means the maximum score the students could get was 36 points and minimum 9 points. The points were totaled by each statement and they were calculated using formula according to Ernawati & Sukardiyono (Ernawati, I., & Sukardiyono, T., 2017):

$$Percentage = Total\ scores\ /\ Maximum\ score \times 100\%$$

Thus, by this formula, the writer found these percentages of agreement by the respondents towards the statements:

Table 1. Identified Positive Attitudes from Online Survey in Percentage

No	Item in Questionnaire	Agreement
1	I think Madurese is easy to learn.	54%
2	I know a lot of vocabulary in Madurese.	53%
3	I feel confident when I use Madurese.	47%

4	I assume people, especially non natives that study in UTM, have to use Madurese daily.	49%
5	I think Madurese needs to be used more academically.	47%
6	I think posters and decorations in UTM need to use Madurese, so the non natives will get used to the language.	62%
7	I believe Madurese can be as popular as Javanese if we keep using it.	68%
8	I am concerned that we need to maintain Madurese as part of the culture.	89%
9	I like listening to Madurese songs and I think they should be as popular as Javanese songs.	52%

After calculating the attitude from the scoring, the writer determined the interval scale that contains 2 categories, positive and negative:

$$\text{Interval scale} = \textit{Maximum score - Minimum score / Categories}$$

By the formula above, the writer found the interval scale for the survey is 37.5%. It is because:

$$\text{Interval scale} = 100\% - 25\% / 2 = 37.5\%$$

Thus, the scale for the attitude is:

Table 2. Interval Scale for Non Native Students Language Attitude

Scale	Categories
25% − 62.5%	Negative
62.6% − 100%	Positive

From Table 4.2, it is concluded that in Table 4.1 there are only two statements that received a positive attitude from the respondents. They are statement number 7 ("*I believe Madurese can be as popular as Javanese if we keep using it.*") with 68% percentage of positive attitude and number 8 ("*I am concerned that we need to maintain Madurese as part of the culture.*") with 89% of positive attitude. While statement number 8 related to language maintenance of Madurese, statement number 7 speaks about the popularity of a native language.

The data reported that male and female respondents have similar attitudes based on the 9 statements. However, there is one significant attitude shown by both sexes in statement number 7 ("*I believe Madurese can be as popular as Javanese if we keep using it.*") with a difference of 16 people. The data displayed that females tend to have bigger motivation for the Madurese language to be more popular as Javanese by using it frequently. This was shown by 20 out of 23 female respondents (86.9%) that agreed to the statement. In contrast, males

revealed much smaller motivation. This was proved by only 4 out of 14 (28.6%) male respondents who agreed to the statement.

From the survey, there are various arguments from respondents as to why they chose it (statement number 7. *"I believe Madurese can be as popular as Javanese if we keep using it."*). Female respondents always looking for the probability of the Madurese language to be more popular, such as:

1. EEG : *"In my opinion, Javanese and Madurese have some similarities in vocabulary, but they have different accents. But, this does not rule out the possibility that if one day many people use it, Madurese language could become as popular as Javanese."*
2. VNA : *"It could be, if many speakers are proud of it by using it and introducing it to other people."*
3. IL : *"It all comes back to the individual's ability to learn the Madurese language. Once you can understand it, it is possible to use the language in your daily life and how it becomes popular in your own region and others."*

In contrast with the female's opinion, males tend to see it (statement number 7. *"I believe Madurese can be as popular as Javanese if we keep using it."*) from the facts that the populations of the Javanese people are bigger or more dense from Madura island. They also stated that they feel difficulty in learning the Madurese language. the following are respondents' voices towards how the numbers of speakers of the language affect its popularity:

1. WPC : *"In my opinion, the level of popularity (of a language) depends on the number of speakers."*
2. DR : *"Considering that the area and population of people in Madura itself is not much larger than the people on the island of Java, also the language is quite difficult (in my opinion), it would probably be difficult if Madurese language would be as popular as Javanese."*
3. RR : *"I think it is not enough to popularize Madurese language because Madurese is difficult to understand and is only spoken a few times by students at UTM. The majority of those I met also always spoke using Javanese."*

The effect of the population of native speakers turned out linear with male reason. According to Kushartanti, people on Javanese Island rarely use Indonesian as their main language. In contrast, they used their Javanese daily because of their lack of Indonesian language skills. Even it is said that Javanese is included in 13 local languages in the world with the most speakers (Kushartanti, 2005).

Besides the contrast of the attitude between males and females, statement number 3 ("*I feel confident when I use Madurese.*") received the most negative attitude from the respondents. There were only 7 respondents (47%) that agreed to the statement. Some respondents said that the lack of familiarity became the main reason why they chose not to use Madurese language even if they had lived in Madura for years. There are the reasons that proved this phenomenon:

1. CIPS : *"Madurese is not my mother language or a language that I often use every day. I feel unfamiliar with the vocabulary, grammar, or correct pronunciation."*
2. FEPB : *"I am not fluent in using Madurese language. That is why, I use Indonesian a lot."*

In contrast with statement number 3, statement number 8 ("*I am concerned that we need to maintain Madurese as part of culture.*") received the most positive attitude amongst

other statements with 35 respondents (89%) agreed that Madurese language deserved to be maintenanced as part of Indonesian culture.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In conclusion, there are more non-native students in Universitas Trunojoyo Madura with negative attitudes than students with positive attitudes. This was proved by only 2 out of 9 statements that received the positive attitude with the most positive statement in number 8 being 89% about the maintenance of Madurese language. In contrast, the statement which received the most negative attitude was placed by number 3, about the confidence of using Madurese. Then, the most contrasting attitude according to sex is placed by statement number 7, which speaks about the probability of Madurese being as popular as the Javanese language. This study showed that the answers and the attitudes of female and male respondents are quite similar, except for number 7. 20 out of 23 females agreed to the statements and argued that there is always a possibility for it to happen. In contrast, only 4 out of 14 males agreed to this. Those males who disagreed say that Javanese is popular because of the total Javanese people population, and Madura is not as much as it.

The result of this study is proven by a Likert Scale scoring system after the respondent answers the questionnaire in Google Forms. The minimum point for each statement is 1 and the maximum is 4 points. Then, the points collected for each statement are calculated into percentages and classified into 2 categories, negative and positive attitudes.

The writer suggested that this study will be continued by the next researchers or students who are interested in sociolinguistics and study more about language choice. It would be better if the writer could take more samples from the population so that the results will be more valid and various answers.

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