
THE ROLE OF THE SURABAYA JAVANESE DIALECT (SUROBOYOAN DIALECT)

PROCEEDING
REINFORCING EDUCATION,
LANGUAGE, AND SOCIO-
CULTURE

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ABSTRACT

Language is the most communication tool for human. Language can express our thought and what in mind. Various language in the world, especially Indonesia. There are many kinds of language in Indonesia. Surabaya is the one of the big city in Indonesia. Located in East Java, Surabaya is the capital city and the second largest city in Indonesia. Surabaya have a authenticity language and dialect. The language using Javanese but the dialect sounds different with other Javanese language. Surabaya dialect considered harsh and heavy when spoken. this study provide with descriptive qualitative research. The data collection technique was an observation and conversation method. The subject were taken of the people who lived in around researcher. The result shows that the role of Surabaya dialect is very influenced people character and culture. Surabaya people often talking with informal language or called "ngoko" rather than refined speech level "kromo". Young generation shows their friendships commonly with talking in Surabaya dialect that sounds harsh for other people who not used to listen the sentence. Even though they more often using Surabaya dialect, doesn't mean that Surabaya resident cannot use Indonesian. They understand very well in Indonesian. Also Surabaya resident looks so proud of their dialect. That prove with there are many digital advertisement, social media accounts, banners, tv shows using Surabaya dialect.

Keywords: *language, dialect, Surabaya residents, young generations.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is the most important communication tool. Language cannot be separated in everyday life. Language can influenced socially, culturally, and habits. With language can unite a differences understanding. Language also a reaction of the nervous system which want to convey something which becomes a language. According to Pangabean (1981:5) argues that language is a system that expresses and reports what happens to the nervous system¹. So many kind languages in the world, Indonesia especially. Javanese is one of the languages in Indonesia. In the island of Java, there are many Javanese dialect in various regions. Dialect (Javanese in particular) can be identity or characteristics of an area.

Dialect is a part of the language used by people to communicate. Indonesia has many cities where every city of Indonesia has a different dialect. Dialect is used here to refer to any regional, social, or ethnic variety of language. The language differences associated with dialect may occur on any level of language, thus including pronunciation, grammatical, semantic, and language use differences. At first glance, the difference between "dialect" and "language" seems fairly straightforward dialect are subdivisions of language (Coulmas 2007:75). Dialect is differentiated by the vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Especially in Java Island, there are many dialect in each city. According to Jie (2001:132) stated that dialect

¹ Pangabean, Maruli. Bahasa Pengaruh dan peranannya. Jakarta: Gramedia. 1981.

are different ways of saying the same thing and tend to differ in phonetics, phonology, lexicon, and grammar.

Javanese language is the language with the most users compared to other languages in Indonesia. Many people make Javanese the main language for communication. It is a language with large speakers, as it is used mostly by the people in central Java. Yogyakarta and East Java. Many of Javanese language speakers use Indonesian language as their second language in turns with Javanese language. Therefore they can be called as bilingual speakers (Abdulhayi et. Al., 1985: 1)². Many people use Javanese language as their main language.

Surabaya is one of the city in Indonesia which use Javanese language as communication tool in daily life. Surabaya is the capital city of East Java, East Java is one of the province in Java island where the most people have been using Javanese language to communicate in daily life. There are many kind of Javanese language such as the *ngoko* (informal) and the *krama* (deferential) styles. When neither of these is suitable, the *madya* (middle) style is used. Other styles, less often used, are the *krama inggil* (highly deferential) and the *basa kedaton* (palace language)³. The residents in Surabaya use Surabaya dialect or more commonly known as *boso Suroboyoan* and the dialect used can also be known as *ngoko*.

The Surabaya dialect also used in around Surabaya (Surabaya Raya) and Malang. Surabaya raya consist of Surabaya, Sidoarjo and Gresik. In that city are usually used the dialect that similar with Surabaya dialect. The dialect commonly called dialect "*arek'an*" that used at Surabaya raya. If we are observant to hear it, the listener will have difficulty of knowing the speaker from which area. But although have the same dialect, the most known by people is that Surabaya dialect.

This research will be find out about the role of the Surabaya dialect (Suroboyoan dialect). This research will be focus on the role of Surabaya dialect in daily life on the people in Surabaya. Hopefully this research can give information about Surabaya dialect that a little bit different than others Javanese dialect and it's effect to the people in Surabaya.

METHOD

This research is conducted by qualitative research. Qualitative research is an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem. The researcher builds a complex, holistic picture, analyzes words, report detailed views of information, and conducts the study in a natural setting⁴. Qualitative research collecting with non-numerical data. Qualitative research is commonly used in human activities including human behavior that a part of social science.

The study was descriptive qualitative research, a qualitative descriptive design used uncomplicated description that focused in details of what, when, why, and where. Descriptive qualitative research method is a method that researches the status of human, an object, a set of condition, a system of thought, or even a class of phenomenon at the present⁵. The researcher collecting data on this research by observing and make conversation with the local

² Wati, Mei Rita. Grammatical Interferences of Javanese Language in Indonesia Language By Kindergarten's Children. Semarang: Faculty Of Humanity Diponegoro University. 2015.

³ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Javanese language." Encyclopedia Britannica, Invalid Date. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Javanese-language>.

⁴ <http://www.sarjana123.com/2017/07/penelitian-kualitatif-definisi-menurut.html>

⁵ Nazir, Moh. Metode Penelitian (Bogor: Ghalia Indonesia, 2005), p. 54

people to find out how they talked and dialect in daily life. The researcher will make some conversation with residents.

Data collection is collecting, analyzing, and measuring data as the evidence of researcher result and activities. The data collection component of research is common to all fields of study including physical and social sciences, humanities, business, and others⁶. In this study, researcher used observation method and conversation method. Conversation method is carried out to find out what dialect is used by the community on a daily basis. With conversation, researcher can see how local resident sound when they use the Surabaya dialect to communicate. The observation method is used to find out the dialect used by the community from concentrations with local residents. Observation also can see from the researcher side how local resident feel more comfortable whe use their own dialect.

Data analysis defined as a process of cleaning, transforming, and modeling data to discover useful information⁷. In data analysis researcher have elaborated their finding that can increase understanding that can reach the informatin to others. This study being analyzed with some steps; 1). Make conversation with local residents, 2). Observing the dialect of local residents and how it roles in daily communicate with others people, and 3). Make conclusion from the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

Language is communication tool used by human. Language can express different thought from people and to deliver something. So many kinds of language that human use, different area can affect the way of using the language. Dialect is how people sounds when they speak. In Indonesia many dialect are use. The one of the most known is Surabaya dialect. Surabaya dialect is basically use Javanese language for communicate, the difference is the Surabaya dialect sounds different from other Javanese language. Many people say that Surabaya dialect sound impolite.

Based on observation that has been conducted by researcher to local residents of Surabaya who live around the researcher. Researcher have found some information related to the role of the Surabaya dialect. The points is here as follows:

1. Surabaya Dialect (Javanese Surabaya Dialect)

The regional of Java separated in 3 region, such as West Java, Central Java, and East Java. Javanese dialect in each region is different, including Surabaya which is located in East Java. Surabaya dialect usually called as *boso suroboyoan*. People called that because the dialect of Surabaya people is different from other Javanese dialect. If we compare others dialect of Javanese language with *boso suroboyo* it's sound differents, altought the language some are the same. Surabaya dialect produce a distinctive dialect, the researcer ever heard the Surabaya people talking in bahasa but thats not remove their distinctive dialect or commonly called *medok*. Even the "*medok*" of the Surabaya people is sounds different from other Javanese dialects, even though they are still in the same city, in East Java.

The Surabaya dialect considered very impolite. Because Surabaya dialect sounds harsh and heavy when spoken. Surabaya people rare to use refined speech level when talking (*kromo*), they are more often use the low level of speech (*ngoko*).

⁶ https://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/n_illinois_u/datamanagement/dctopic.html

⁷ <https://www.guru99.com/what-is-data-analysis.html>

Talking with *ngoko* is commonly situation in Surabaya. Often using *ngoko* and usually considered harsh dialect it doesn't mean Surabaya people are cannot using *kromo* language. They are commonly found talking with refined speech level when talking to older people or strange. The opposite is Surabaya residents rarely found talking with refined speech level with young generation. Young generation usually speak with Surabaya dialect or *ngoko*.

The Javanese dialect in Surabaya is not limited using with friends, and family. Younger speakers are often use *ngoko* or *slang* languages resulting in the loss of polite vocabulary among young speakers. They are used speaking with dialect that sounds harsh because it is a culture that has been cultivated. Surabaya dialect when used in Surabaya city it will look normal, nothing wrong. People around researcher are commonly using their dialect without being offensive. Some people who not used to using and heard that dialect would think it's the language of anger. The dialect of Surabaya people used might be not easy to heard for people who from outside of Surabaya. Not only the dialect but their facial expression and gestures follow the dialect. It applies the opposite, if Surabaya people are outside the city. They will avoid using their language or dialect. Because it feared that the interpretation would be different from other people due to using a different accent.

The Surabaya dialect is very widely distributed, especially in Surabaya itself. Not only used by ordinary people but Surabaya dialect is also commonly used Universities, Offices, and also schools etc. Certainly used for casual and informal conversations. However the Surabaya dialect among young speakers has been heavily influenced by Indonesian. But that's not loss the culture, because so many people that are still used the language and dialect. Using the dialect all the time for Surabaya residents doesn't mean they cannot use or understanding Indonesian. Many residents in Surabaya are understand very well Indonesian. When residents asked in Indonesian they know very well the meaning and not misunderstanding, but they would prefer answer with their dialect or language. Which is that's a quite good for out of town people they no need to worry about language barrier when it comes to Surabaya.

Speakers of Surabaya Javanese are proud of their dialect. Many evidences shows that Surabaya language is often in public place and media. Promoting and show dialect in media for example; television shows in local show (*pojok kampung*), *ludruk* (*kartolo*), youtuber from Malang (Bayu Skak), youtuber (*Londo Kampung*) Australian citizen Dave Jephcott grown up in Surabaya, also songs (*rek ayo rek*). Not only from digital media, often found that there are advertising banners or campaigns along the road that use the Surabaya dialect.

2. Speech Variety

The majority of Surabaya's residents are of Javanese ethnicity, which is different from Javanese, and Jogja, who have a harsh accent and sound harsh to the people of Central Java. Javanese in Surabaya has a different vocabulary, they usually say the word *arek*, *cak* and so on.

Surabaya Javanese dialect there are some language that influenced by *Sundanese*, *balinese*, and *madurese*. With the neighbors Central Java, in fact the dialect is much different. These the researcher will give some example Surabaya Javanese dialect;

2.1 Conversation With Local Resident

Conversation 1

This conversation made by reseacher and local resident in around researcher's home.

- (1). Researcher: "*arep nangdi rek?*"
(where are you going, guys?)
- (2). Residents: "*arep nak Indomaret iki toko jajan*"
(I'll going to Indomaret, buying some snack)
- (3). Researcher: "*oalah yowes ati-ati*"
(I see, take care on the way)

Conversation 2

This conervation found in market in Surabaya.

- (1). A: "*piroan cak lombok e iki?*"
(how much is this chili?)
- (2). B: "*sekilo satus ewu buk*"
(one kilos costs one hundred thousand rupiah)
- (3). A: "*cek larang e*"
(why it's so expensive?)
- (4). B: "*iyo e buk pancen mundak regane lombok saiki*"
(indeed the price of chili is rising now)
- (5). A: "*ealah, yowes seperapat kilo ae aku*"
(okay then give me a pound)

The characteristic of Surabaya dialect are often using the word *rek* (guys) and *cak* (dude). In Central Java *rek* = *cah* and *cak* = *mas* / *pak*. Even though in the same Java island, they have different dialect and language.

2.2 Comparison Between Surabaya Javanese and Central Javanese

Researcher made this comparison so that the reader have imagine the differences between them.

- (1). Surabaya Javanese: "*Kopral Marsono ditemoknomatek nang ruang penyidik intel*"
- (2). Central Javanese: "*Kopral Marsono dipunpangguhaken sampun tilar donya wonten ing kamar pamriksa intel*"
- (3). English: Chief Marsono as found dead in the investigators' room of Intelligence.

From example above, the difference between two langauges is more clear. Researcher just compare with Central Java because it the languages is close.

2.3 The Expression In the Surabaya Dialect

Every city have their own characteristic of language. Surabaya the one who have expession of the words. As mentioned below:

1. There some addition "*pek*" in sentence

"*Eh gendeng pek, iku Rosa karo mantan e*" (unbelieveable, that's Rosa with her ex-boyfriend).

"iyo pek sumpah" (that's true, I'm swear)

"gendeng pek" (that's crazy)

The word *pek* it just addition to make listener more believe what the speaker have said. Researcher think that there are not te sure meaning *pek* in english.

2. If talking looks stubborn

"KON TAU YOO, pacaran karo arek iku" (have you ever been in relationship with that person?)

"SUMPAH?" (really?)

"KOK ISO?" (how can?)

Sounds harsh but actually that just the expression of the word. Not the sign of the angry but the intonation of Surabaya people is used high note.

3. The expression with friends

"kon yaopo kabare?" (how are you?)

"nangdi ae awkm, cok?" (where have you been, dude?)

That's the expression when with close friends. In Surabaya saying that word doesn't mean harsh or bad feeling. Friendship in Surabaya can seen by the word *"cok"* when they are talking with each others.

4. Always have addition "ta" in sentence

"kon pacaran mbek Rama ta?" (do you have relationship with Rama?)

"lhoo, seng ghenah ta?" (don't joking)

In Surabaya that can be sign of question sentence. If heard the word *"ta"* in the last sentence can be sure they are asking.

5. Use the word "rek"

"ayo rek" (come on guys)

"rek onok pengumuman iki" (guys there are announcement here)

Rek is commonly word in Surabaya. You can called icon of Surabaya is *rek*. There is a popular song that entitled "*rek ayo rek*".

DISCUSSION

Dialect of language is important tool to communicate. Every region have their own dialect. Even though the language is quite the same but the dialect is different. East Java, Central Java, and West Java in the same island but their language is different, especially the dialect. East Java have the characteristic of strong dialect, such as in Surabaya raya, and Malang. West Java have characteristic of soft language, usually called *krama inggil*. West Java used Sundanese for their daily communicate.

Surabaya residents always used the Surabaya dialect for communicate. It sounds harsh when it talking because Surabayan people usually pressured their voice, so it make the sentence sounds impolite. Talking with Surabaya dialect is not limited, people can used it with family members or friends. The people in Surabaya are commonly heard the word that sounds harsh. But the fact is the word is not harsh that's because of expression, gestures, and pressured of the voice. Surabaya people always have pressured on their voice when saying words. For strange people it might be sounds not good to hear. If there people who gonna come to Surabaya no need to worry, because Surabaya resident can understand well Bahasa when communicating. Eventhough they will answer it with their authentic dialect.

Surabaya Javanese dialect has been influenced by Indonesian. That's cause many young generation make conversation mix both of Javanese and Indonesian. Usually happen in universities that the students are from many region in Indonesia, they make a conversation with Bahasa rather than Javanese to avoid misunderstanding. In finding researcher have found that Surabaya resident when they out of town, usually do not use Surabaya Javanese dialect to avoid misinterpreted to the listener. So both of a newcoer or Surabaya resident who is outside the city, they both used Bahasa when communicating to avoid misunderstanding.

Another finding is non-resident when they come to Surabaya will have a culture shock because of differences in culture, especially in language and dialect. For people who not get used to Surabaya dialect they will assume that Surabaya dialect is harsh and stiff. If we compared with other dialect such as Central Java, Surabaya dialect will sounds impolite. Surabaya has a unique language for communicate. There are some words looks so impolite, but the fact is they used it to their friends as a sign of closeness. Young speakers often used the sign to shows their friendship with some words that cannot be considered polite but it's culture. For them that's commonly to do. As the own experience of researcher, Surabaya residents especially young speakers they will not said an impolite words to strange people, such as "*cok*", "*kon*", etc. They usually doing that to their friends.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research finding, the researcher conclude that. Surabaya Javanese dialect considered very impolite and that's the culture. Surabaya dialect sound harsh and heavy to spoken. Because they more often to use "*ngoko*" than "*kromo*", but they still can use the refined speech level "*kromo*" when talking to the older people. Young speakers very rarely found using "*kromo*" when talking, almost never. Young generation usually using the words slang considered "*dudish*" language. If they not talking with Surabaya dialect, they will talking with Bahasa instead. Many authenticity of the sentences in Surabaya, many words that wouldn't using at other region.

Surabaya resident looks proud of their dialect. The evidence is many found a lot in public space banner or advertisement using Surabaya dialect. Not only in public space but also in digital media, such as television shows and there are some youtubers using Surabaya dialect for their shows on youtube. But even though they are proud, still if Surabaya resident out of town they will prefer using Bahasa to communicate because it is feared that it will cause misunderstanding if continue to using the same language.

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