

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Language is a miracle. Therefore, the study of language is very fascinating. It happens because of the uniqueness of language. First, it is a precious blessing from God because people cannot live and interact with others without using language. In this sense, language and humankind cannot be separated. Second, language has many functions and benefits for humankind. People can use language to share information and also build relation with others. In maintaining the relationship, people should build a communication with others. Other people here refer to the people that live around us or live in the same society. Since we use language to communicate with others in a particular situation, we cannot deny the existence of social factors. Therefore, in the face to face communication or interaction among people, it involves setting and topic that the participants share to each other.

Kupang as the capital city of East Nusa Tenggara is a residence of people who use Kupang Malay as their ethnic language. Since the need to communicate is not just limited to the people who come from the same ethnic group, people have to learn or acquire other languages. This phenomenon happens especially to the people who migrate to other places outside their hometown. There are several reasons for people to migrate to other places especially to a big city like Surabaya. One of the main reasons is to get a much better education, because in Java Island as the center area of Indonesia, the education quality and facility are better than the one from other islands. Therefore, as one of the outstanding universities in Surabaya, Petra Christian University becomes one of the most destined universities for people from outside Java to continue their education. Hence, there are students from various ethnic groups in Petra Christian University and one of them is students from Kupang. In order to fulfill the need of communication, those students have to learn Suroboyoan as the majority language used by the community in Petra Christian University. As a result, whether they like it or not,

they have to interact with the speakers of Suroboyoan, or even use Suroboyoan in the conversations.

Based on the phenomenon above, the writer is interested to know more about how those students from Kupang can acquire Suroboyoan. These particular students from Kupang become more interesting to be investigated because of two reasons. First of all, the writer found two awkward phenomena on students from Kupang. The first awkward phenomenon is based on her preliminary observation on students from Kupang, she found out that not all of them could understand and speak Suroboyoan well. Even for the students who have studied for three years or more, it is still difficult for them to understand and speak Suroboyoan. The second awkward phenomenon is the writer found that this minority community has a tendency to be exclusive. They like to have a friendship or socialize with the students from the same ethnic background. Therefore, logically, they have limited friends from other ethnic groups especially people who speaks Suroboyoan. Surprisingly, some of them have good proficiency in Suroboyoan. The second reason is the writer itself is also a student from Kupang who has understood the social condition and the background of students from Kupang in Petra Christian University. The social condition and background refers to their network, native language, and their residence in Siwalankerto. Therefore, it will be easier for the writer in doing her research especially in collecting the data. There may be one important reason that causes those awkward phenomena, it is about the frequency of using Suroboyoan. In this case, each student may have different opportunity in practicing Suroboyoan. This opportunity relates to those students' interaction with the Suroboyoan speakers. In this case, the students can use Suroboyoan in the interaction.

Suroboyoan as the majority language mostly used by the community in Petra Christian University and also society surroundings makes the students from Kupang being forced to learn it. Therefore, there are several reasons for the writer to investigate listening comprehension in Suroboyoan. First, Suroboyoan is really a new language for them. The second, Suroboyoan is a language for communication among most people in Surabaya. Third, Suroboyoan is the

language that cannot be avoided by those students in most interactions around them.

Interaction always employs two participants, listener and speaker. In this case, the existence of gender in an interaction cannot be avoided. As the most glory creation, God created human into male and female. Therefore, gender differences always become an interesting phenomenon in a society. In a relation to her research about the frequency of language use, the writer is also eager to know gender differences on this field because she wants to prove whether or not the male who often use vernacular (Suroboyoan) can achieve higher scores in Suroboyoan rather than female. Hence, in a relation to her research, the writer can assume that the male students will use Suroboyoan more consistently than female students. On the other hand, female students will use more Indonesian as a standard form language than the male students. Therefore, language proficiency of male students is higher than female students. Hopefully, the listening comprehension score in Suroboyoan of male students is also higher than female students

The process of interaction with Suroboyoan speakers covers two main factors related to the acquisition process. They are input and interaction (Hass & Madden, 1985, p.16). Input is the syllabus taught or the language exposes to the learner of a target language. On the other hand, interaction is a face to face communication which becomes a continuing process that allows acquisition to take place. Face to face communication here emphasizes more on the use of the target language by the learner.

When someone learns a particular target language, it is not merely the process of speaking because “language proficiency means the ability to listen, write, read, and write as a result of learning process” (Richards, Platt, Weber., 1992, p.159). Since a communication happens if there is a process of listening, the writer will only focuses on this initial phase of language learning. Therefore, the writer wants to investigate the listening comprehension scores because of two important reasons. First of all, the normal people can speak if they can hear. It means that listening ability is the initial phase of speaking ability. Therefore, by seeing those students listening comprehension scores at least it can measure the

Suroboyoan level of proficiency of each student. The second reason is because Suroboyoan is a vernacular that mostly uses in informal situation. It means that the use of Suroboyoan clearly seen in speaking and listening not in reading or writing.

Moreover, when the learners have enough frequency of using a particular target language, hopefully, their mastery in that language will develop rapidly. Research in this field becomes fascinating because without using a target language or interact with the speakers of the target language, how someone can know or learn that language.

Therefore, the relation between frequency of language use and listening comprehension becomes interesting because this relation can show the fact how the second language acquisition takes place in a society. Moreover, this relation also can measure the mastery of learners in a second language.

Based on her preliminary observation on phenomenon of students from Kupang and also the supported theories from the experts, it inspires the writer to conduct the research on the relationship between the frequency of using Suroboyoan and the Suroboyoan listening comprehension scores of students from Kupang in Petra Christian University

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study that has been explained before, this research main problem is to discover Suroboyoan listening comprehension scores of Petra Christian University students who come from Kupang. Moreover, the writer tries to reveal whether their listening ability in Suroboyoan is related to the frequency of using Suroboyoan. Besides, she also wants to reveal which gender group produces higher scores. This problem is elaborated mainly on the following two research questions:

1. What is the relationship between the frequency of using Suroboyoan of students from Kupang and their Suroboyoan listening comprehension scores?
 - a. Do the students who have a higher frequency of using Suroboyoan achieve higher listening comprehension scores?

- b. Do the students who have a lower frequency of using Suroboyoan achieve lower listening comprehension scores?
2. Which gender group produces higher Suroboyoan listening comprehension scores?

1.3 Purpose of the study

By doing this research, the writer wants to achieve a goal to reveal the Suroboyoan listening comprehension scores of students from Kupang in Petra Christian University. Moreover, the writer wants to prove whether or not the students who have a higher frequency of using Suroboyoan achieve higher listening comprehension scores and the students who have a lower frequency of using Suroboyoan achieve lower listening comprehension scores. Besides, the writer is also eager to know which gender group produces higher Suroboyoan listening comprehension scores, the male or the female students.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Through this research, the writer hopes that the findings will give valuable contributions to people in understanding the relationship between the frequency of using Suroboyoan and the Suroboyoan listening comprehension scores of students from Kupang in Petra Christian University. Therefore, hopefully, this study can be a reference or a comparison for other researchers who have interest to make further studies in sociolinguistics and second language acquisition fields especially about the relationship between the frequency of language use and the listening comprehension scores of a target language.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

The scope of this study is focusing on the sociolinguistics and language acquisition study. Both of them are closely related because the acquisition of a particular second language is also affected by social factors. The sociolinguistics study is emphasized on the theory about social factors and interaction. On the other hand, language acquisition is focused on the acquisition of Suroboyoan as a

second language. Besides, the writer only takes Petra Christian University students who come from Kupang as the subjects. In this case, their mother tongue is Kupang Malay. Furthermore, the writer also limits this study on the listening comprehension of Suroboyoan which is mastered by the students from Kupang. She classifies those thirty male and female students into two groups based on the frequency of using Suroboyoan. In this case, there are several students who have a high frequency of using Suroboyoan and some of them have a low frequency of using Suroboyoan. Since this research is focusing on the listening comprehension scores, the writer will not take into account the students' speaking, writing, or reading ability. Moreover, she also disregards age, length of stay, attitude, and social status of the respondents because those factors are not giving significant contribution to the writer's thesis.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

There are several key terms which are significant for this research. Therefore, in order to help the readers in understanding her research, it is important for the writer to explain the definition of those terms.

1. Language use is equated with performance. Performance is the actual use of language in concrete situation (Pugh, Lee, Swan, 1997, p.91&95).
2. Listen is to make an effort to hear somebody or something (Hornby, 1995, p.687).
 - a. Listening comprehension is the process containing at least two major stages. First, the apprehension of linguistic information; and second, relating that information to a wider context. (Kennedy, 1978, p.30).
 - b. Listening skill is the ability which covers receptive (ability to accept new idea) and reflective skill (ability to distinguish main ideas from subordinate ideas and draw justifiable inferences) (Kennedy, 1978, p.29).
 - c. Listening test is a battery of examination that includes word meanings, syntactic rules, recall of details, and inferencing (Kennedy, 1978, p.30).

3. Language proficiency refers to the degree of skill with which a person can use a language, such as how well a person can read, write, speak, and understands language (Richards, Platt, Weber, 1992, p.159)
4. Suroboyoan
Suroboyoan is one of the Javanese dialects which are used by Javanese people who live in Surabaya (Hardjoprawiro, 1993, p.8).

1.7 Organization of the study

This study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter includes the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitations, the definition of key terms, and also the organization of the study. The introduction is followed by the second chapter, the review of related literature which consists of the review of underlying, supporting theories, and also review of related studies that can help the writer in doing the research especially in analyzing the data. The third chapter covers methodology used by the writer to collect and analyze the data. Methodology includes approach of the study, the subjects and the data, the instrument, the procedures of data collection, and the data analysis. The fourth chapter consists of data analysis which also covers the findings, the discussion, and the interpretation of the findings. After the analysis, in the fifth chapter, the writer concludes her thesis.