

## JAVANESE SPEAKER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR SPEECH LEVELS IN DESA DANAU SIJABUT

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received: 17-06-2021

Revised: 06-07-2021

Accepted: 29-07-2021

Available online: 30-08-2021

### ABSTRACT

This study deals with Javanese speaker's attitude toward their speech levels in Desa Danau Sijabut. It aims at finding out what the characteristics of Javanese speaker's attitude are when they use the dominant speech level, how the linguistic realizations of Javanese speaker's attitude toward their speech levels is and why they have such attitudes toward their speech level like the way they do. This study was conducted in qualitative research of which design was descriptive a case study. The sources of data for this study were 20 Javanese speakers of second generation of migration who live in Desa Danau Sijabut; meanwhile the data were taken from the transcripts of Javanese utterances spoken during the Javanese speakers communicate in their daily life. The data were analyzed by using Interactive Model by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014). To find out the characteristics of Javanese speaker's attitude, the researcher used theory of Garvin & Mathiot (1968), to see the realizations of Javanese speech levels, the researcher used theory of Rahardi (2001), while to find out the reasons why the Javanese speakers have such attitudes like the way they do, besides used theory of Subroto (2014), researcher also asked the respondents more deeply. Based on the data analysis, the first finding shows that the characteristics of Javanese speaker's attitude when they used the dominant speech level is language pride. In which they used Javanese language based on the speech levels in formal and informal situation to show their identity as Javanese. The second finding, it was found the Javanese speakers in Desa Danau Sijabut realized their attitudes in the several domains, such as: use Ngoko speech level at home, use Ngoko and Madya at neighborhood, used Ngoko and Indonesian language at work place. In this case, they were speak based on the relationship between speakers and participants. And as the third findings, it was found the Javanese speakers in Desa Danau Sijabut have such attitudes toward the Javanese speech levels because of some reasons. Firstly, they use Ngoko to make communication clearly and easier to understand what their partner said during they have a communication. Secondly, they use Madya when to talk a secret one to their speaker partner without afraid will be known by another people of what they are talking about.

#### Keywords:

Javanese Speaker's Attitude,  
Javanese Speech Levels,  
Descriptive Qualitative,  
Interactive Model

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## **1. Introduction**

Sumatera Island is one of the biggest islands in Indonesia that has varieties culture and languages. Asahan, as a part of district in Sumatera Island, has an important role to contribute the varieties in language. Included in Desa Danau Sijabut, it is a small village in Asahan which is invites many people from different ethnics to live there. They come to live and work there because they assume that Desa Danau Sijabut is a good place to keep them survive.

In this village, it's easily to find Javanese people. One of the reason is because of the migration of Javanese people from the Java Island to other major Island, such as Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Sumatera. This due to the transmigration program held by the government or for many others reasons. Some of the Javanese migrated to North Sumatera then well-known as Pujakesuma (Putra/Putri Jawa Kelahiran Sumatera. But now days, the Javanese people who lives in North Sumatera, especially in Desa Danau Sijabut are the next generation of migrated of Javanese. Even most of them are Javanese, it means not only Javanese people who lives in this place, but also there are some people come from another ethnics who lived there. Such as, Bataknese, Mandailingnese, Padangnese (Minang), Banjar and Malay. So, this situation force Javanese people to speak Bahasa Indonesia to other people that come from different ethnics. This phenomena is called as bilingualism.

Generally, bilingualism means being able to speak two languages. As in case above, the Javanese people who are surrounded by some of people from any tribes are used to speak both Javanese and Indonesian. For example, they use Indonesian language with their friends in their environment while they speak Javanese with their family at home or to other people who come from the same ethnic.

Actually, the Javanese daily lives in communication cannot be separated from their speech levels when they speak. According to Subroto et al. (2009) giving another definition about speech levels, generally, there are three speech levels or unggah unggah basa in Javanese language, namely Ngoko, Madya and Krama. Ngoko is the lowest level or informal speech and is used when addressing someone of the same status, of the same age or of lower status, such as close friends, younger people, and subordinates. Madya is the middle level and is used when addressing someone with fairly respected such as a new acquaintance and respected younger people. Krama is the highest level and is used when addressing someone or talking about another person who is highly respected, such as teachers, parents, grandfathers, grandmothers, etc.

This study is inspired by previous research conducted by Subroto et al (2014). It is found that the use of krama inggil in Semarang is oriented on self kramanisation. The use of krama inggil in Pekalongan is oriented to the prevailing normative standards in the Javanese language.

In line with the previous studies above, the researcher found the phenomena in Desa Danau Sijabut that most of Javanese speakers in this place still use Javanese language. But most of Javanese speakers tend to use only one kind of speech level when they communicate with their family or the speakers come from the same ethnic group in family gathering, neighborhood and for their job even they understanding well of vocabulary and the rules of speech levels. Some of the example of Javanese language that often uttered by Javanese speakers in Desa Danau Sijabut in daily Communication is describe.

In refers to those examples above, it can be seen that they feel comfortable in using Javanese language when communication in same ethnic. In this case, both of them are used Ngoko speech level. Actually, based on the rules of speech levels, the second participant (Sugeng) must use Madya because he spoke to a person older than him. But in this case, he didn't use the proper speech level even he knows what kind of speech level must be used. Furthermore, he also did not have a clear reason for that, so it is still being in a big question for the researcher. Based on the situation of using Javanese speech levels in Desa Danau Sijabut, she is interested in conducting her research about "Javanese Speaker's Attitude toward Their Speech Levels in Desa Danau Sijabut".

## **2. Research Methods**

This research was based on the qualitative research design in order to describe Javanese speaker's attitude toward their speech levels in Desa Danau Sijabut. According to Bogdan & Biklen (1992: 3) qualitative research is frequently called naturalistic because the researcher frequents places the event he or she is interest in natural occur.

Qualitative research consists of two; case study and multicase study. This research was conducted as a case study. According to Bogdan & Biklen (1992: 62) case study is detailed examination of one setting or a single subject, a single depository of document or one particular event. This design was chosen because this research was conducted for one case of language in one region.

In this study, the source of data was the Javanese people in Desa Danau Sijabut Kec. Air Batu, Kab. Asahan. The researcher chose Desa Danau Sijabut as the place to conduct this research because such kind of study had never been conducted yet there. The number of subjects observed was 20 and all of them are the second generation of migration.

According to Mahsun (2005: 134) there are some criteria to get the representative data. The subject of this study was chosen by purposive sampling with the following criteria:

- a. Javanese, speakers who live in Desa Danau Sijabut.
- b. Native speaker, the person who speak Javanese language as mother tongue.
- c. The speaker come from different background of profession.
- d. The speaker can pronounce Javanese language fluently.
- e. The speaker must be the 2nd generations and the range of age is about 50 above.
- f. The minimal education is elementary school.
- g. Sex: male and female.

The data of this study were the transcripts of Javanese utterances spoken during the Javanese speakers communicate in their daily life. In this study, the researcher was collected the data by using some supporting instruments: audio recorder, interview, and questionnaire.

- a. Observation, the researcher applied audio recorder to obtain the data during conversation. In doing observation the researcher was used audio-recorder to record the conversation among them. The audio- recorder was put in her pocket, and in this case the researcher stay together with the society in a traditional shop, at home, and garden when the participants took a rest after working.
- b. Questionnaire, the researcher applied questionnaire in her research to get the real data about the characteristics of attitude and what speech level used by Javanese speakers in Desa Danau Sijabut. In this case, the researcher give questionnaire to the participants.

- c. Interview, the researcher applied interview in her research to make sure that the answer about the reasons of Javanese speakers in using the dominant speech levels of their vernacular relate to their utterances by the participants are based on the reality. In doing interview, audio-recorder was used and put in front of the participants. Then, they were asked questions based on the guided questions

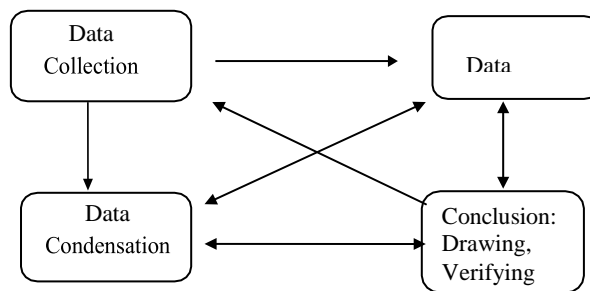
In analyzing the data, the researcher was used interactive model of Miles, Huberman and Saldana (2014: 33). Look at the figure below, it showed the process from the first into the last step.

**2.1 Technique of Collecting the Data**

The researcher uses interview and documentation to collect the data. Document is held to find and learn documents that related to the need of research. In this research, the researcher uses this technique to get the data of the students' facebook status and comments which are friend with the researcher. The documents such as capturing their status and comments in pictures form.

Then, this research use interview, because interview is one of the technique of collecting the data by doing oral interview in individual meeting. The researcher focuses on facebookers which are friends with the researcher. The researcher also uses interview to know why the students use code mixing in their facebook status and comments and what are they reasons about it. The researcher analyzed Facebook Status and Comments to collect the data which related with this research. To collect the data, the writer runs observation through these steps as follows:

- a. Read Facebookers' status and comments
- b. Select the Indonesian-English and other codes or language code mixing by capturing the status and comments.
- c. Write down the data.
- d. Interview the students and give interview list to them.
- e. Arrange data into several parts based on classification.



**Figure 1.** Miles, Huberman & Saldana's Interactive Model (2014:33)

Based on the statements and the picture above, after the data has been collected, it analyzed in four steps, they are:

- a. Data collection  
Data collection is process of collecting the data. Data collection suggested by Bogdan and Biklen (1992:64) can be done by likert scaleor questionnaire, interview, and participant observation. In this research those insruments were used to collect the data. Questionnaire was used to find out the characteristics and what speech level that used by Javanese speakers in Desa Danau Sijabut in their everyday life communication. Interview by using guided-interview sheet was used to find out how

the Javanese speaker's attitude toward their speech levels and the reasons why they have such attitudes like the way they do. Meanwhile, participant observation was done by recording utterances of Javanese speakers in order to find out what dominant speech levels that they used to communicate in their daily life.

b. Data Condensation

There were many data that had been collected in the data collection. Data condensation refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and/or transforming the data that appear in the full body (corpus) of written up field notes, interview, transcripts, documents, and other empirical materials. By condensing, the data will be stronger and easier to analyze.

**3. Result And Discussion**

**3.1 The Characteristics Attitude of Javanese Speaker's in Desa Danau Sijabut**

To find out the characteristic of Javanese speaker's attitude, the researcher used Garvin & Mathiot's Theory. In which, they classified the characteristics of language attitude into three, namely: (1) language loyalty, (2) language pride, and (3) awareness of the norms. These characteristics were elaborated bellow:

a. Language Loyalty

Language loyalty is a language that encourages the community or the speakers of language to maintain its language and if necessary to prevent the influence of other languages. In this case, the indicators of language loyalty and the respondents answer could be seen as the following Table:

**Table 1.** Frequency of Language Loyalty Indicators

No	Language Loyalty Indicators	Frequency			
		1	2	3	4
1.	Mengajarkan bahasa Jawa kepada anak anda.			7	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,1
2.	Mencampur bahasa Jawa dengan bahasa lain saat berkomunikasi.			1,8,9,10,11,1	2,3,4,5,6,7,13,16,19,20

Note:

1= Always

2= Often

3= Seldom

4= Never

Based on the table above, it can be drawn that indicator number 1 showed all of the respondents not loyal toward Javanese language. It is supported by their answer in chose number 4, it means never.

On the other hand, indicator number 2 showed that there are 10 respondents not loyal toward Javanese language. It is supported by their answer in chose number 3, it means seldom. Overall, it can be conclude that when the native speaker did not maintain their language and allowed other languages influence they language, it can be said that they have negative attitudes toward their language.

b. Language Pride

Language pride which encourages people to develop the language and use it as a badge or a symbol of personal identity and community to distinguish them from the other groups.

**Table 2.** Frequency of Language Pride Indicators

No	Language Pride Indicators	Frequency			
		1	2	3	4
1.	Menggunakan bahasa Jawa untuk menunjukkan identitas anda sebagai orang Jawa	1-20			
2.	Anda bangga menggunakan bahasa Jawa	1-20			
3.	Menggunakan bahasa Jawa dilingkungan yang mayoritas non- Jawa		2,3,4,7,8,9,10, 13,15,16,17,1	1,5,6,11,1 2,14	
4.	Merasa gengsi /malu untuk menggunakan bahasa Jawa ketika berada disituasi formal		8,19,20		1-20

Note:

- 1= Always
- 2= Often
- 3= Seldom
- 4= Never

Based on the Table above, it can be seen that indicator number 1 and 2 showed all of the respondents pride toward Javanese language. It is supported by their answer in chose number 1, it means “always”. They always use Javanese language to show their identity as Javanese, and they also proud in used Javanese language. It can be said that they have positive attitude toward their language.

In other side, for indicator number 3 showed that there are 10 respondents chose frequency 2 means seldom. The respondents keep to use the Javanese language even they are not in theirs area. And the last, for indicator number 4 showed that all of the respondents claimed never shy to use Javanese language even they are in formal situation. In which, it is strengthened by frequency number 4.

c. Awareness of the Norms

Awareness of the norm, which encourages people to use language with carefully, corrective, polite, and decent by the speakers.

**Table 3.** Frequency of Language Awareness of the Norms Indicators

No	Language Pride Indicators	Frequency			
		1	2	3	4
1.	Menggunakan bahasa Jawa untuk menunjukkan identitas anda sebagai orang Jawa	1-20			
2.	Anda bangga menggunakan bahasa Jawa	1-20			
3.	Menggunakan bahasa Jawa dilingkungan yang mayoritas		2,3,4,7,8,9,10, 13,15,16,17,1	1,5,6,11,1 2,14	

No	Language Pride Indicators	Frequency			
		1	2	3	4
4.	non- Jawa Merasa gengsi /malu untuk menggunakan bahasa Jawa ketika berada disituasi formal		8,19,20		1-20

Note:

1= Always

2= Often

3= Seldom

4= Never

Based on the Table above, it can be seen that indicator number 1 showed that 15 of 20 respondents seldom use different speech level to different person. It means that they more often use only one speech level when they having communication to different people they met. It can be said they are not aware or ignore the rules of speech levels itself.

Meanwhile for indicator number 2 it can be said that all of the respondents have positive attitude toward their language. In which, they use Javanese language correctly when communicate.

Based on the questionnaire sheet that distributed to 20 Javanese speakers in Desa Danau Sijabut, the characteristics of language attitude that they use when use the dominant speech level is language pride.

From the data displayed above, the language pride of Javanese speakers in Desa Danau Sijabut are used Javanese language in formal and informal situation to show their identity as Javanese. It is shown by the way they keep on using their vernacular wherever they go, in different place even city because their vernacular become their identity in a community.

### 3.2 The Realization of Javanese Speaker's Attitude Towards the Speech Levels in Desa Danau Sijabut

Based on the observation data transcription all of Javanese speakers used Javanese language to communicate in their daily life. In this study, it is found that Javanese speakers realized their attitude in using Javanese language based on the speech levels in some domains:

a. Use Javanese Language Based on the Speech Levels at Home

To find out how the attitudes of respondents towards the Javanese speech levels, the researcher asked them about what speech levels of Javanese language they used at home. The answer to this question is expected to reflect whether the respondents use speech level at home or not.

In this study, most of the Javanese speakers used Ngoko speech level at home, it means that they have positive attitude towards Ngoko speech level. The respondents' attitudes toward Ngoko speech level realized in data:

Researcher : Tuter bahasa Jawa apa yang anda pakai bila berbicara dengan keluarga dirumah?

R1 : Iya yang kasar. (a lower one/ Ngoko).

R2 :Ya bahasa Jawa biasa. (Usual Javanese language/ Ngoko speech level).

b. Use Javanese language based on the speech levels at neighborhood

To find out how the attitudes of respondents towards the Javanese speech levels, the researcher asked them about what speech levels of Javanese language they used at neighborhood. Then, the answer to this question is expected to reflect whether the participants use speech level at neighborhood or not.

In this case, most of the Javanese speakers used Ngoko speech level at neighborhood, even some of them also used Madya when they communicate to the older one and they friends never met. It means that they have positive attitude towards Ngoko and Madya speech level. The respondents' attitudes toward Ngoko and Madya speech level realized in data:

Researcher : Tuter bahasa apa yang anda pakai bila berbicara dengan tetangga di lingkungan sekitar?

R18 : Yo Jowo bioso ngene juga wae lah. Nek karo kawane kan kadang sering seloro- seloro ngono kan nduk, jadi ye yo pake bahasa Jowo bioso wae lah ben lebih kepenak ngono (laugh). Nek karo wong sing lebih tuo yo baru lah bahasa Jowo sing alus iku, sing engge mboten. Yo kan ben lebih sopan karo wong tuo, ngergani lah istilah ngono.

(Javanese daily speech level/Ngoko, to make easier in communication when we have chit-chat together with my friends (Laugh). But, when we want to talk to older than us, we use polite one).

c. Use Javanese Language Based on the Speech Levels at Work Place

To find out how the attitudes of respondents towards the Javanese speech levels, the researcher asked them about what speech levels of Javanese language they used at work place. The answer to this question is expected to reflect whether the participants use speech level at work place or not.

In this study, when the Javanese speakers have to speak in Javanese language, they tend to used Ngoko speech level at work place. Based on the interview transcript, they use Javanese language depend on what people speak, if the people speak in Indonesian language they will speak in Indonesian language also, and if the people speak in Javanese they speak in Javanese also. The respondents' attitude toward Javanese language realized in data bellow:

Researcher : Tuter bahasa apa yang anda pakai bila berbicara dengan teman kerja di tempat kerja?

R4 : ya bahasa Indonesia lah. (Indonesia language only). R12: Pake boso Jowo wae. (Use Javanese language only).

R16: Ya tergantung, kadang bahasa Jawa kadang bahasa Indonesia tengok- tengok orangnya aja lah.

(it's depend on the interlocutors, sometimes I used Javanese language and sometimes I used Indonesian language).

### 3.3 The Reasons for the Javanese Speakers Attitudes toward Their Speech Levels in Desa Danau Sijabut

Based on data of interview transcriptions, it is found that the respondents in this study realized their attitudes toward Javanese speech levels because of some reasons. Firstly, they used Ngoko because it is commonly used to speak in daily life, so they felt more comfortable when speak up. And also, by using Ngoko they were clearly and easier to understand what their speaker partner said during they have a communication. And the last they still aware to the rules of speech level, in which Ngoko is used when there is no distance between

addresser (first speaker) and addressee (second person) or it means that the relationship between speaker and participant are not limited (Rahardi, 2001: 59).

Secondly, they used Madya because it is commonly used to speak in their daily life. Besides, by using Madya they feel more comfortable to talk a secret one with their speaker partner without afraid will be known by another people of what they are talking about. And the last, they still aware the function of speech levels itself, in which Madya is used when an addresser considers that he/ she does not have to respect the addressee or the addressee is probably an older person (Rahardi, 2001: 61).

#### **4. Conclusion**

After analyzing the data, conclusions are drawn as the following: The characteristics of Javanese speaker's attitude when they use the dominant speech level is language pride. In which, they used Javanese language based on the speech level in a formal and informal situation to show their identity as Javanese.

The Javanese speakers in Desa Danau Sijabut realized their attitudes in the several domains, such as: use Ngoko speech level at home, use Ngoko and Madya at neighborhood, used Ngoko and Indonesian language at work place. In this case, they were speak based on the relationship between speakers and participants.

The Javanese speakers in Desa Danau Sijabut have such attitudes toward the Javanese speech levels because of some reasons. Firstly, they use Ngoko to make communication clearly and easier to understand what their partner said during they have a communication. Secondly, they use Madya when to talk a secret one to their speaker partner without afraid will be known by another people of what they are talking about. Besides, those become their habit in using speech level and aware to the rules of Javanese speech levels.

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