

THE INFLUENCE OF MOTHER TONGUE ON THE SPEAKING ABILITY OF SANGIHE ENGLISH STUDENT IN UNIVERSITAS NEGERI MANADO

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Abstract: This study aims to show how the difficulties faced by English students from Sangihe in learning English, especially in terms of speaking ability. This research was done by using qualitative method. The data comes from Sangihe students that is currently studying in English Education Department in Universitas Negeri Manado. In collecting the data the researcher used interview technique which involves 7 students that are originated from Sangihe. The data was analyzed by using Miles & Huberman's method; data reduction, data presentation and conclusion. The result of the study shows that mother tongue does affect students' learning ability especially in learning speaking of English language. It shows that mother tongue impacts students psychologically as they feel afraid and not confident in speaking English. Furthermore, it affects the student speaking ability as they find it harder to learn English grammar and vocabulary while having Sangihe as their mother tongue, and, their environment also affects them as they found people are commenting if they falsely utter an English word. It can be concluded that mother tongue does affect someone's ability in speaking English psychologically, grammatically and environmentally. Psychologically, it makes the student shy and not confident. Grammatically, it affects their pronunciation and environmentally, it affects their behavior of being criticized.

Keywords: *Mother Tongue, Speaking Ability, Psychological, Grammatical*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool used by humans to convey ideas, feelings, and information (Liando et al., 2023). Language as social behavior is used in communication because society consists of individuals, society as a whole and individuals who influence and depend on each other. In linguistics, language is also

known as a system. According to Liando et al. (2023); Liando et al., (2022); Widjono (2007: 15) language is a symbol system of speech sounds that are used to communicate by the people who use it.

Social interactions that occur between one human and another will indirectly affect the existence of language (Lumentut & Lengkoan, 2021); (Liando & Tatipang, 2022). This happens because the interaction between one human and another human who has a different background will lead to language interaction and encourage language variations. It is through this language variation that then encourages the occurrence of a choice of language.

Language choice is a social event whose influence is not only from linguistic factors but also from culture (Maru et al., 2021); (Maru et al., 2018); (Maru et al., 2020). There are four main factors as markers of language choice in social interactions, namely (1) setting (time and place) and situation; (2) participants in the interaction, (3) the topic of conversation, and (4) the function of the interaction. Background factors (time and place) and situations can be in the form of breakfast in the family environment, meetings, birth celebrations in a family, college, and bargaining in the market.

Mother tongue is the first language we learn as humans. From the moment we were born, our parents communicated with us using our mother tongue. Therefore mother tongue can also be said as our identity. Because of the use of language, we can identify the origin of a person.

Because of the nature of language, it makes language the most important aspect in studying the life and culture of the community. Language has unique properties (Lengkoan & Rombepajung, 2022); (Lengkoan, 2017); (Andries et al., 2019). Language can only be understood by the user of that language. The uniqueness of this language must be understood so that communication can run effectively. The existence of contact between one language and another can allow language interference to occur. It can also lead to new words and allow for changes in language style.

This is the problem of language choice in the multilingual Indonesian society is a complex one. In a multilingual society, there are several languages that are used side by side. For example, the use of mother tongue (Indonesian) and English. Every student does not want to choose which language he will use in certain interactions. It is this unwillingness that results in the emergence of linguistic diversity.

In connection on the statements above, the researcher has done a research in order to find out the influence of mother tongue on the speaking ability of Sangihe English students that are currently studying in Universitas Negeri Manado. In doing this research, the researcher proceed with descriptive qualitative approach. The benefit of this research is to gain insight about how mother tongue affects someone's speaking ability.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Sociolinguistics

Error Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies and discusses social aspects of language. According to Chaer (1995: 16) sociolinguistics is a sub-discipline of linguistics that studies language in relation to usage in society. It can also be said that sociolinguistics discusses the social aspects of language, in particular the differences with social (social) factors. can be defined as defying the certain language's systematical linguistics rules. It is produced by those who do not fully understand the system of a language. Error can also be defined as failing to use the correct grammatical system of a language due to lack of competence.

Language

Intralingual Kridalaksana in Chaer (2013:32) language is a system of arbitrary sound symbols used by social groups that work together, communicate, and identify themselves. As a system, language is also systematic. This means that language is arranged according to a pattern, not arranged randomly, in other words, language is not a single system, but is made up of subsystems, such as phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

Language Function

The function of language is a means of communication between members of the community. When talking about language functions, it can be interpreted how people use their language or their languages if they speak more than one language Halliday (in Chaer, 2004: 20). The language function will be seen if people use more than one language. The use of language is a function of language, if the language is used it will have a language function. According to Nababan (1984: 38-45) the function of language are divided into cultural function which means that language is a media of culture development in someone's life. Secondly, there is social function which means that language is the media of someone to communicate with the society in his life. Thirdly, there is individual function which is as a media to express himself. Last but not least, there is educational function which is used to learn, to be educated in someone's life.

Mother Language

Mother tongue is the language that a person learns for the first time since they were born naturally and becomes the basis for communication and understanding for their surrounding. It means, the language that the first time people understand and spoken is their mother tongue or mother language. For example, a person who was born in a Sanger society, their mother tongue/language is Sangihe, because its the first language that they understand and speak is Sangihe. Mother tongue/language is inherent to each ethnicity, because its the picture of their characteristic of the people in it. The explanations before make it more obvious that mother tongue can not be separated with the culture in at one place. Mother tongue become one of the sign or the identity of a society or culture in one region. The border between one ethnic to other will be shown in their mother tongue that been used in their daily life.

Language Ability

Language ability is the condition where someone masters the symbols and meaning of a language. Ability is one of the elements in maturity related to knowledge and skills that can be obtained through education, training and an experience. In another meaning ability can be obtained through various ways, including: education, training and experience. Based on some of the opinions above, it can be concluded that, "Language ability is a person's ability, maturity and skill in listening to the speech delivered by the interlocutor, talking with the interlocutor, reading messages conveyed in written form, and writing messages verbally or in writing that can benefit himself or even others. Having good language skills can provide a positive role in everyday life, a person can easily communicate his ideas, feelings, desires, opinions and needs. Without having good language skills, someone will experience difficulties in expressing and understanding the intentions of others.

According to Burns and Joyce (1997:134) there are three factors that influence someone's speaking ability; students think that learning a language is enough by listening to the teacher, understanding reading and writing from textbooks and doing exercises; linguistic difficulties, namely difficulties in understanding the difference between the mother tongue and the language being studied; and psychological factors for example, cultural factors, experience, lack of motivation, anxiety and embarrassment of speaking in class.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design used in this research is qualitative descriptive method. according to Bogdan and Taylor (1990) "*Qualitative research is a research procedure that produce descriptive data in the form of written words and from people who can be observed*". This research is done by using descriptive approach where Descriptive research aims to describe, explain, and answer in more detail the problems to be studied by studying as much as possible an individual, or group, or an event. Descriptive research design with a qualitative approach aims to explore the facts of the

Listening and speaking skills of students in the English Department, Manado State University.

In this research the main instrument is the researcher and the secondary instruments are interview guidelines, tape recorder, pen and notebook.

The population in this research are the 7 students that came from Sangihe and are currently studying in English Education Department of Universitas Negeri Manado.

In analyzing the data, the researcher used descriptive data analysis method by Miles and Huberman (1994), the steps are as follows:

1. Data reduction
2. Data presentation
3. Conclusion Drawing

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

After collecting and analyzing the data, it was found that mother tongue does influence the students; either psychologically, grammatically or environmentally. The result showed that all the students received impact in learning English especially in speaking from all three aspects.

1. Psychological Factors

The researcher found that psychological factor has an impact of how the Sangihe students speak English. This was concluded as the data found by the researcher show that the students are afraid of their ability in speaking English. As what is found in the interview, the students' answers are about being afraid, shy nervous and being less confident in speaking English.

2. Grammatical Factors

It is found that grammatical factors also affect the way Sangihe students in UNIMA speak English. This was concluded as when the researcher asked question about what difficulties they encounter as they learn English, grammar is one of their answers. Grammar, as the base requirement of learning English is one factor that affects how they learn English. it is found that the different structures, word order and

vocabularies between Sangihe as their mother tongue and English as the foreign language that they are trying to learn is the cause of their difficulty in learning English.

3. Environmental Factors

The researcher found that environmental does affect the way of how someone learn English, especially while having different mother tongue from people near them. However the way of how environment affects their learning is divided into two, the first one is that because they speak different mother tongue, and they would just speak their mother tongue in their daily life, they will comment if the Sangihe student speaks wrong about English. Moreover, the helpful environment was found in other interviewees as they said that the people around them will help them to correct if they happened to speak some wrong pronunciation in English.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that that mother tongue does impact in the ability of learning English. Mother tongue affects in several factors; psychological, grammatical and environmental. Mother tongue affects someone psychologically as it makes them afraid, shy and not confident in speaking English. The affection of mother tongue in grammatical factor is that the grammar and sentence structure is different. Environmental affection of mother tongue is that sometimes other will correct what is said by someone as they think it is different from what is said by native speakers.

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