

LEXICAL AMBIGUITY CAUSED BY DIFFERENT ACCENT AS A PART OF SPEECH STYLE IN SPEAKING JAVANESE

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3 LEXICAL AMBIGUITY CAUSED BY DIFFERENT ACCENT AS A PART OF SPEECH STYLE IN SPEAKING JAVANESE

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Abstract: This research was aimed at observing whether different accent as a part of speech style in speaking Javanese might cause lexical ambiguity or not. In general, the accent of one language does not change meaning, and neither does it make ambiguous. It is only concerned with the differences in pronunciation between one variety of a language and another. Moreover, even though a word is spelled one way, it may be pronounced differently in the various sections of a country. In other words, one word still has the same meaning even though it is pronounced differently, or phonemically different. In English for example, the word 'class' is pronounced either [klAs] or [kl æs]; 'but' is pronounced either [bAt] or [bæt]; etc. Meanwhile, in Javanese language, some various pronunciations also occur such as in the words: [linggih], [lungguh], and [longgoh] that mean 'to sit'; [durung], [dorong], and [gorong] that mean 'not yet'; and many others. On the contrary, there are two phonemes that the writer finds that might cause lexical ambiguity if they are pronounced differently. Those two phonemes are /th/, and /d/. Some societies of Surabaya, Sidoarjo, and Gresik tend to pronounce /th/ becomes /t/, and /d/ becomes /dh/. Eg: The words 'thuthuk' that means 'hammer' is pronounced [tutuk], which can be interpreted as 'mouth'; and 'wedi' that means 'afraid of' is pronounced [wedhi], that may be interpreted as 'sand'. This might be due to the fact that those people were not used to speaking Javanese that has (th) and (d) sounds as their first language. However, the effect of lexical ambiguity does not seem to influence significantly on the communication between the speaker and hearer.

Key words: lexical ambiguity, accent, speech style.

I. INTRODUCTION

All languages exhibit internal variations (Wardough: 1997). This means that each language has its own typicality, intricacy, and peculiarity, which is different between one and another. So, it is not true if some people would say that a certain language is better than the other languages. In other words, neither language is better nor worse than another language.

One language might have more than one dialects or varieties with so many kinds of different accents and styles of speech. Javanese language, for example, as one of the local languages in Indonesia. This language is spoken by the majority of the people in Indonesia because more than a half of the whole population of Indonesia speaks this language. As other languages do, Javanese language also has some dialects, such as Solo, Yogya, Banyumas, Surabaya, Banyuwangi, and many others, with its own accents and styles of Speech. However, they are still understandable. This means that both the speaker and hearer can communicate each other although their dialects and styles of speech are different.

In general, different accent does not change meaning. As what Elaine Chaika (1982: 132) said that the use of accent refers only to differences in pronunciation between one variety of a language and another. Moreover, Chaney

(1967:1) also said that although a word is spelled one way, it may be pronounced differently in the various sections of the country. In other words, one word still has the same meaning even though it is pronounced differently, or phonemically different. Here are the examples both in English and Javanese

1) Different Pronunciation

Words	accent 1	accent 2
- class	klAs	klæs
- but	bAt	b ə t
- day	del	dal
- talk	t ɔ k	tAk
- got	g ɔ t	gAt; etc.

2) Different Spelling

British	American
- colour	color
- centre	center
- programme	program; etc.

Meanwhile, below are some examples of Javanese accents that seem to be more various: ⁹

Standard	Accent 1	Accent 2	Accent 3	Accent 4	Meaning
(ng)golek	(ng)gelek	(n)dolek	(n)delek	tolek / telek	to find
tuwo	tuwek	tuwik	--	--	old
sikll	sekel	suku	--	--	leg
kuning	kuning	koneng	--	--	yellow
putlh	putih	puteh	poteh	--	white
hurung	durung	dorong	gorong	gong	not yet
tulung	tolong	t ɔ l ɔ ng	--	--	help; etc.

Based on the examples above, the different accent does not change meaning although the words have different pronunciation and spelling. It is still understandable by both the speaker and hearer. Their communication is running well without any significant obstruction.

However, the writer finds that some certain societies of Surabaya, Gresik, and Sidoarjo, there are two sounds or phonemes that are significantly different from that of stated in the example above. Those groups of people tend to pronounce /th/ becomes /t/, and /d/ becomes /dh/. As we know that in Javanese language, those two phonemes might cause lexical ambiguity or different interpretation and even the meaning is changed if they are pronounced differently.

Here are some examples:

1) The Sound /d/ becomes /dh/

Standard language	Meaning	Accent	Interpreted
wedi	afraid of	wedhi	sand
mendem	drunk	mendhem	to bury
dodol	to sell	dhodhol	name of cake 'dhodhol'

2) The Sound /th/ becomes /t/

Standard language	Meaning	Accent	Interpreted
Bathuk	forehead	batuk	to have a cough
Thuthuk	hammer	tutuk	mouth

Penthil nipple pentil a very young and small fruit (of mango); Etc

Referring to what some linguists said that one of the rules they developed was that they would not indicate the difference in pronunciation unless the difference in the sounds was significant to the language, that is, that the difference in pronunciation would cause a difference in meaning. Therefore, the writer would try to find out whether the difference in pronouncing /th/ becomes /t/, and /d/ becomes /dh/ spoken by some societies of East Java people (Surabaya, Gresik, and Sidoarjo) could make the hearers misunderstand and miss-communicate or not.

II. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACCENT, DIALECT, AND THE STYLE OF SPEECH

Accent, dialect, and style of speech cannot be separated one another, as those three aspects are the factors that enable a person use his own language correctly based on the criteria of language he speaks. Dialect refers to all differences between varieties of a language that include accent or pronunciation, word usage (vocabulary), and syntax between speakers. They have to know how and why those three aspects are used or applied in their own social group. Meanwhile, accent refers only to differences in the way the words are pronounced between one variety of a language and another. So, it can be said that accent is a part of dialect, that the scope is only limited to a small number of one community, a group of people, or even personally. Therefore, the scope of accent is smaller than dialect.

Style refers to the selection of linguistic forms to convey social or artistic effects that function as a set of instructions. Besides, style also tells us how to interpret a message. Therefore, we have to be able to interpret somebody else's speaking before we respond to him, because more often the message is not expressed or stated explicitly, or in actual words. Then, style forms a communication system whether the language used should be spoken formally or informally must be based on the situation, time, place, and to whom we are speaking to. Style may also tell the hearer how to take what is being said, seriously, ironically, humorously, truthfully, clearly, or even contradictorily with the meaning of the words and grammar, or in some other way. Style employs all the resources of language that include tone of voice, different ways of pronouncing sounds, even choice of words and grammar. That's why, it is necessary for us that in speaking we have to be able to control everything we have in our utterances, and we have to do it in a correct way. Thus, whether or not we are accepted as a member of one community is much relied on the way we are speaking.

Furthermore, speech refers to the way a person or a group of people speaks. If we observe accurately, we do not always speak in exactly the same way as other people do. Speech is similarized as the way we are dressing, that varies depending on the situation and condition, because different situations could cause different styles of speech. In other words, style is different from one region, one community, a group of people, even one person and another, because style is much concerned with to whom we are speaking, where, and when we use that language. Therefore, style conveys three aspects: the relationship between the speaker and hearer whether they are close or distant; social status: the same rank, higher to the lower, or lower to the higher rank; the mood, sarcasm, humor, anger, etc. Meanwhile, in a real practice, style includes all aspects of language such as:

1) Tone of voice: For example, the word 'Jangkrik'. The Surabayanese people interpret this word variously according to the tone of voice and situation.

Here are the examples:

- "Aku tuku 'jangkrik' limo" (kind of animal / cricket);
- "Jangkrik, sekele wong kok dipidak" (expressing anger);
- "Jangkrik!, kon sakiki wis sogeh, omahmu apik, montore mulus!" (closeness and friendship).

2) Different ways of pronouncing sounds: [sekel] instead of [sikll], [sogeh] instead of [suglh], [dolen] instead of [dolan], [putu] instead of [puthu], [wedhi] instead of [wedi], etc. While in English, we also have the same thing such as: [del or dal], [bAt or b ə t], [g ɔ t or gAt], etc.

3) Choice of Words or Vocabulary Items: 'gak and ora, bocah and arek, kowe and kon or awakmu, nglencer and mlaku-mlaku', etc.

4) Syntax or Grammar: 'Anakmu piro or Piro anakmu', 'Omahmu ngendi? Or Ngendi omahmu?', 'Melu aku or Aku melu'. In English we have 'I will' and 'We will' instead of 'I shall' and 'We shall', 'Let's and Let me' instead of 'Shall we and Shall I', 'I prefer' instead of 'I would rather', 'Me and You' instead of 'You and I', 'gonna instead of going to', etc.

III. THREE TYPES OF DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION

As it is stated in the previous section of this article that the lexical ambiguity might be caused by different accent or the words which are pronounced differently. This occurs in some societies of Surabaya, Gresik, and Sidoarjo. Based on the writer's investigation, he finds that there are three types of interpretation of having different accent used by those three groups of societies. They are: lexical ambiguity with the same language (Javanese and Javanese), lexical ambiguity with the other language (Javanese and Indonesian), and no lexical ambiguity both in Javanese and Indonesian).

A. Lexical Ambiguity with the Same Language (Javanese and Javanese)

As it is stated previously, the two phonemes that might cause lexical ambiguity are /d/ which is pronounced into /dh/, and /th/ becomes /t/. Here are the examples as listed below:

1. Phoneme /d/ becomes /dh/

Standard language	Meaning	Accent	Interpreted /Other Meaning
Wedi	afraid of	wedhi	sand
Nduduk	to commute	ndhudhuk	to dig
Ndadak	no preparation	ndhadhak	to weed
Dodol	to sell	dhodhol	name of cake; etc

*Below are some examples in sentences with different interpretations:

= 'Wedhiku wis entek'

1) I am not afraid of anything any longer; 2) The sand has already been used up.

= 'Parman mendhem opo?'

1) What made Parman drunk?; 2) What did Parman bury?

= 'Dhodhole laris banget'

1) She or He has sold everything easily and quickly.

2) The cake called 'dhodhol' is sold out.

2. Phoneme /th/ becomes /t/:

Standard Language	Meaning	Accent	Interpreted (Other Meaning)
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Thuthuk	hammer	tutuk	mouth
Puthu	name of cake	putu	grand child
Kuthuk	chicken baby	kutuk	kind of fish
Mathi	to make starch	mati	to die
Manthuk	to nod (of head)	mantuk	to go home

Here are some examples in sentences with different interpretations:

= *'Putune wis dipangan telu'*

- 1) He has already raped three of his grand daughters.
- 2) He has already eaten three pieces of cakes called 'puthu'.

= *'Tutuke gedhe banget'*

- 1) He has such a big hammer.
- 2) He has such a big mouth (The mouth is really big; or He likes boasting)

= *'Ojo mantuk dhisik'*

- 1) Don't nod your head at first; 2) Don't go home at first.

= *'Aku tuku kutuk limo'*

- 1) I bought five fish called 'kutuk'; 2) I bought five chicken babies.

B. Lexical Ambiguity with the Other Language (Javanese and Indonesian)

There are two phonemes that might cause lexical ambiguity with Indonesian language. Those two phonemes are /d/ which is pronounced into /dh/, and /th/ which is pronounced into /t/.

1. Phoneme /d/ becomes /dh/

Standard Language	Meaning	Accent	Interpreted
Mandi	efficacious	mandhi	to take a bath
Tanduk	to have more meal or food	tandhuk	horn

Here are some examples with different interpretations:

= *'Pak Redjo lagi ndhulang neng ngarep omahe'*

- 1) Mr. Redjo is feeding (his child) in front of his house.
- 2) Mr. Redjo is taking some valuable thing in front of his house.

= *'Dr. Karno gak mandhi'*

- 1) Dr. Karno has not taken a bath yet.
- 2) Dr. Karno is not such a good doctor to visit, as the diseases of his patients are not easily to be recovered by his treatment.

= *'Tandhuke akeh'*

- 1) He had / took much more food or meal to eat.
- 2) He has many horns.

2. Phoneme /th/ becomes /t/

Standard Language	Meaning	Accent	Interpreted (Other Meaning)
Bathuk	forehead	batuk	having a cough
Sethithik	a little	setitik	one dot or spot; etc.

C. No Different Interpretation both with the Same and Different Language

The number of lexicons or words in this classification is more than those of different interpretation.

1. Phoneme /d/ which is pronounced into /dh/

Standard Language	Accent	Meaning
Madu	madhu	honey
Mundur	mundhur	retreat
Udan	udhan	rain

Nandur nandhur to plant; etc.

2. Phoneme /th/ becomes /t/

Standard Language Accent

Bathi	bati	having a profit
Thukul	tukul	start to grow
Kenthang	kentang	potato; etc

Meaning

IV. SOME REASONS OF PRODUCING DIFFERENT SPEECH SOUNDS PHONEMES

In Javanese language, there are two alphabets (d / and th) that Indonesian language does not have. Actually Javanese language only has 20 alphabets to know and master including (d and th), while Indonesian has 26. However, these two sounds (d and th) are not available in Indonesian language. Here are the Javanese alphabets: [ha, na, tja, ra, ka, 'da', ta, sa, wa, la, pa, dha, ja, ya, nya, ma, ga, ba, 'tha', ngo]. Meanwhile, in Indonesian language, there are 26 alphabets to recognize, however it does not have those two kinds of phonemes (sounds): /d/ and /th/. The letter of /d/ in Javanese language is not the same as /d/ in Indonesian language. In Javanese language the letter of /d/ refers to the sounds such as: 'dadi' (become), 'dodol' (to sell), 'wedi' (afraid of). While in Indonesian language the letter of /d/ refers to the same alphabet in Javanese language /dha/, such as in the following words:

* Indonesian Language	Meaning	Javanese	Meaning
- padi	paddy / rice	- wedhi	sand
- dampak	impact	- wedhus	goat
- mandi	to take a bath	- mendhem	to bury
- darah	blood	- ndhudhuk	to dig; etc

Here are those 26 Indonesian alphabets: [A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z]. Among those 26 alphabets, we cannot find the sounds /th/ and /d/ as what the Javanese language has. Therefore, those who did not use to speak Javanese as their first language, they would find it difficult to produce the sounds /th/ and /d/ because the Indonesian language does not have those two sounds in alphabets.

V. CONCLUSION

In general, the accent of one language does not change meaning, or neither does it make ambiguous if the different pronunciation refers to the same word. On the contrary, it does for the accent of some societies of Surabaya, Gresik, and Sidoarjo people even though the effect of ambiguity is not quite visible. However, it does not influence their communication significantly. Unfortunately, the total number of words or lexicons are not significant enough that the communication or messages are still understandable by both the speaker and hearer unless those words are used in a loose sentence, or out of context. Otherwise, they will make it some ambiguity.

Finally it comes to the conclusion that the uncapability of the people living in Surabaya, Sidoarjo, and Gresik producing the two sounds or phonemes 'd' and 'th' in speaking Javanese might be caused they are not accustomed to use these two phonemes to speak as their first language in stead of Indonesian.

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