The Speech Features of Different Age Groups in Javanese Indonesian Bilingual Community

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Abstract

This study attempts to describe the speech features of different age group in Javanese-Indonesian bilingual community. This study focuses on the different speech features involving the pitch, morphological features, syntactical features and lexical items differences. The writer applies the theory of age-graded features of speech proposed by Holmes and employs a cross-sectional qualitative study. There are four steps in collecting the data, they are observing the informant speech, eliciting several topics of conversation, recording their speech by using hidden recorder, and transcribing the recorded data. This results show that different age groups have different varieties of language. In general, children, adolescents and elderly tend to use non-standard forms as it is indicated by the use of Javanese affixes, the violation of grammatical rules and the high frequency of vernacular used. Furthermore, adolescents often used slang and swear words that mark their identity as youths. In contrary, adults tend to use non-standard and standard form as indicated by the use of Indonesian affixes, the obedience of grammatical rules and low frequency of vernacular usage.

Keywords: language varieties, speech features, age-grading, standard-non standard form