LANGUAGE CHOICE OF MAKASSARESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN SURABAYA
A Sociolinguistic Approach

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ABSTRACT

In a speech community, whether it is bi- (or multi-) lingual or monolingual, there are mostly some varieties within the language or there can be more than one language used in daily communication.

Makassarese students who live in Surabaya face this problem. Surabaya society is a multilingual society, but mostly consists of those who speak Javanese language. Living in an area of different mother tongues makes these Makassarese students choose what language they want to use to communicate with people in Surabaya.

Language choice itself is influenced by some factors such as participants, topic, setting, channel, message, etc. Of these, the three which have been discussed most widely and which appear the most powerful in predicting language choice, are those involving participants, topic, and setting.

In this study, I try to find the pattern of language choice of the Makassarese students by considering the factors above. In order to test their language choice, I provide five different settings, i.e. boarding house, neighbourhood, Makassarese students association, campus, and market. I interviewed some of them, distributed questionnaires, and also did several observation to get information and data.

As a result of my investigation, I find that the Indonesian language shows its dominance in all settings or contexts, then it is followed by the Javanese language which is mostly used in campus and market, while the Makassar language reaches the high score in Makassarese students association.