

CHAPTER II

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE RESEARCH

II.A. The Origins of Malang Slang

The use of Malang slang began in about 1950. At that time, entertainment for Malang people were very rare. There were no TV, amateur radio station, billiard room, or dischotique. One of the most popular entertainment at that time was movies. In the evening Malang people, usually the youth, who came from many parts of Malang gathered in front of the movie theatre in order to see the films or just to have fun, chatting with other youth. Since they often went there, they then had a close relationship with the scalpers, that is the men who resell the movie tickets for higher price. The scalpers played with the youth, helped them to get into the theatre to see the films which were just for adults, and they sometimes also involved in the gangs' fights.

At that time, what the scalpers did was forbidden. In order not to be detected by the police, they created slang language. They used it to communicate among their friends and to run their business, so they could conceal their business from the police's notice. Malang youth, who used to go to the movies, noticed this slang and learned it from the scalpers. Then they brought it to their groups, to their school, and homes. They tried to use it among themselves, added new slang words by borrowing words from other languages outside Indonesian and Javanese, or even creating their own slang words. Through these ways, the slang has disseminated among the Malang youth and diversified, and finally become the typical code of *arek* Malang (Sumanandar, 1978: 16-28). This slang is what we call Malang slang.

II.B. The Speech Community of Malang Slang

We can observe the speech community of Malang slang the by looking at the three main factors which are considered as the determinants of a language

choice. These factors are the speakers, the topic of discourse, and the setting of the conversation (Fishman, 1972: 15).

II.B.1. The Speakers

The speakers of slang usually are the youth. It also happened in the Malang slang when it was invented in the mid 1950's. But as the youth become older and older, it did not mean that they stop speaking Malang slang. Those youth now are more than 50 years old, but they sometimes still use Malang slang. So in this case, the speaker of Malang slang now come from various ages, from the old people as the first generation of Malang slang speakers to the young people.

The speakers of Malang slang are usually the people of the same age, for example between youth, brothers and sisters, etc. Anyway, sometimes it is also used between the young and old people. In a family who used to speak it, for instance, we can see that the communication between children and parent, even between children and grandparent, is carried out by using Malang slang.

The speakers of Malang slang is quite heterogenous, ranging from lower to upper classes, and from the less-educated to the well-educated ones. They also vary in other aspects, such as social class, religion, race, etc.

II.B.2. The Topic

Malang slang usage concerns with the ordinary things and activities that are familiar to its speakers. People have never discussed political and scientific things in slang and also the things such as government policy, education, science, literature, and philosophy.

II.B.3. The Setting

Since Malang slang and Ngoko Javanese are member of a fluid repertoire in their usage, the situations where Malang slang is used are similar in many ways to those where Ngoko is spoken. It is usually used in intimate and informal talks.

People use Malang slang in daily conversations for non official dealings in places as home, street, market, and other informal places.

II.C. Malang Slang Usage

There are a lot of reasons why someone uses Malang slang. The following reasons are the major ones (Sumanandar, 1976: 45-46):

1. To hide messages from outergroup persons

Here speakers of Malang slang want to keep their secret messages from the the audience or outgroups. They do not want other unexpected people know what they are talking about.

2. To have fun

Sometimes the speakers of Malang slang treat the slang as a language play and they may use it for fun and humor among their friends - including reverse their friends' name, for instances 'Iwan' becomes 'Nawi'.

3. To demonstrate the ability

Speaking Malang slang is not easy as it sounds. To be able to use it, someone needs to know the principles of Malang slang and also practice to say it especially in high speed. Some people who have this ability, sometimes speak Malang slang in order just to demonstrate his ability.

4. To get attention from the listeners

There are also other speakers who use Malang slang in order to get more attention from the listeners. This is because understanding spoken Malang slang is not as easy as understanding an ordinary language. So if someone uses Malang slang, the hearer will pay more attention to him.

5. To show the identity as Malang people

Other reason of using Malang slang is to show their identity as Malang people. This reason arises based on their pride to be

Malang people. The use of Malang slang as a reflection of their intention to show that they are Malang people is more obvious at the presence of non-Malang people, or when they meet other Malang people outside Malang. Anyway, they also often used Malang slang between themselves although they are in their own town to show that they belong to Malang community (Sumanandar, 1978: 46).

II.D. The Formation of Malang Slang Words

The greatest number of Malang slang words are derived from Indonesian and Low Javanese (*Ngoko*). Those languages become the main sources of Malang slang vocabularies.

In conversation, what are called Malang slang speeches are not pure slang utterances completely separated from *Ngoko*. They are mixtures of Malang slang words and *Ngoko Javanese* as its basic language. So, Malang slang words always appear within *Ngoko* utterances. For example, we can see on the following conversation (Sumanandar, 1976: 43):

A: "Iki *imblak-e* sopo?

(Whose clothes is this?)

B: "*Imblak*-ku. Opoq-o?

(My clothes. Why?)

A: "Kog gaq tau *tail*."

(I've never seen it.)

Most of Malang slang words are in the reversed form. Another type of slang which has the second greatest number of vocabularies is borrowing, that is using slang words from other languages. A similar type to borrowing is the usage of ordinary Indonesian or Javanese words with new connotations. There are also slang words which include all kinds of created slang, namely new words that are invented by the Malang slang speakers. Finally, there are a few slang words created by abbreviating ordinary words or phrases, and a set of slang words which comes from from the combinations of the previous types of slang (Sumanandar, 1976: 26).

The slang words used in the conversation must be those which have been 'standardized' by Malang Slang speech community. Most of the words are nouns, adjectives, verbs, and a few adverbs. Preposition, afixes, conjunctions, and most of adverbs remain in Ngoko.

The following formation of Malang slang words are based on what has been analysed by Sumanandar in 1976 (Sumanandar, 1976: 66-69).

1. Reversed Slang Words

Most of malang slang words are the reversal of Indonesian and Javanese words plus a small number from other languages. In the reversed form of the words, the phonemic patterns of Indonesian or Javanese are still dominant.

This reversed slang is divided again into some kinds, they are:

a. Pure Reversion

Examples: 'rumah' (Ind) becomes 'hamur'
(house)

'tuku' (Jvn.) becomes 'ukut' (to buy)

b. Reversion with Phonemic Change

Phonemic change occurred in the reversion is in accordance with Javanese or Indonesian phonemic patterns such as among others:

- Initial voiced stops are devoiced in final position.

Examples: /b^hbu/ becomes /ub^hp/ (servant)
/g^hdis/ becomes /sid^hk/ (girl)

- Medial voiced or voiceless palatal affricates /j,c/ are changed into voiced /less alveolar stops /t,d/.

Examples: /k^hrcis/ becomes /sit^hr^hk/
(ticket)
/kunci/ becomes /int^hɔk/ (key)

- Initial affricates /c,j/ are changed into the final voiceless stop alveolar /t/.

Examples: /jɔwɔ/ becomes /ɔwɔt/ (Java)

- The rule for the consonants cluster is the same as in Javanese or Indonesian such as the homorganic nasal always precedes stops even in reversal.

Examples: /rʌmbut/ becomes /tumbʌr/ (hair)

/tʌntʌrʌ/ becomes /ʌrʌntʌt/

(soldier)

/klʌmbi/ becomes /imblʌk/ (cloth)

- Adding, dropping or changing of vowels and consonants which are unpredictable.

Examples: /mʌdit/ becomes /kidʌm/

/rɔkɔk/ becomes /ɔkʌr/ (cigarette)

/mʌkʌn/ becomes /nʌskim/ (to eat)

/kerjɔ/ becomes /idrek/ (to work)

- The change of vowel which is rather obvious is the tendency for substituting the vowel of the last syllables of the slang word with /ɛ/.

Examples: /tidur/ becomes /rudʌt/ (to sleep)

c. Reversion plus Methatesis

There are ordinary words, after reversion, having a kind of change called metathesis.

Examples: 'ketawa' becomes 'atawek' (to laugh)
 'walik' becomes 'kiwal'
 'sedikit' becomes 'tekidis' (a little)

2. Borrowing Slang Words

Some malang slang word are derived from the languages outside Indonesian and Javanese, such as from Arabic, English, and others. In these words, some necessary changes are always possible to occur.

Examples: 'ebes' (parents) : a modification of Arabic 'aba' (father)
 'nes' (nice) : a reversion of Arabic 'zen'
 'kopit'(kiss) : a reversion of Jakarta slang 'cipoq'
 'yongen' (youth) : a borrowing from Dutch 'yongen'

There is a similar type with those borrowing words that is the usage of ordinary words with new connotations.

Examples: 'sakti' : it means *have magical power* but in Malang slang it means *groovy*
 'halo' : it means *hello* but here it means *to ignore*

3. Created Slang Words

There are some slang words which are created by the Malang slang speakers themselves.

Examples: 'raiyo' or 'cjir' (money)
 'jinjaq' (policeman)
 'asrop' (drink liquor to excess)
 'holak' (sells one's clothes to old-clothes seller)

4. Abbreviating Slang Words

In this slang, the words are created by abbreviating Javanese or Indonesian phrases.

Examples: 'setengah tuwo' (Jvn., means rather old person) becomes 'estewe'
'masa depan suram' (Ind) becomes
'madesu' (dark future)

5. Compounding Slang Words

Some slang words are created by compounding the words.

Examples: 'ayak' (Ind., reversed, means rich) and
'men' (English) becomes 'ayakmen' (richmen)
'boi' (English) and 'kampong' (Ind./Jvn.)
becomes 'boipong' (a boy with cheap taste)