

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The position of sound in "language" is crucial. As Fromkin said, knowing a language means knowing how to relate sounds and meaning. Knowing a language also means knowing what sounds are in that language and what sounds are not (1988:4). From those facts, speech sounds can be the source of inspiration to do linguistic research since there are so many phenomena on sound of language.

The realization of speech sound can be one characteristic of a dialect which can be distinguish it from another in the same language. There are several aspects that are used to distinguish one dialect from another. A dialect may differ from another phonologically, semantically, or morphologically. But phonological differences are less realized by the speakers of the language or the dialect (Ayatrohaedi, 1983:3-5).

There is a great number of studies about dialect. Even most of Javanese dialects as well as Javanese grammar have been revealed in many papers, essays and books. But it is still necessary to search deeper because particular problems pertaining characteristic of a dialect are less talked about.

There are many studies of Javanese dialects which also mention phonological characteristics. In a study on the Banyuwangi dialect, it is known that the dialect has specific phonetic realizations, spite of the influence of Madurese and other Javanese dialects (Soetoko,1981:22-24). Sudaryono (1990) found that there were changes of sound which include decreasing of vowel spelling in close syllable, deletion, addition, and substitution of phoneme in Demak dialect. Therefore, the purpose of the reaserch is to reveal one phonological characteristic as a distinctive point of Surabaya dialect.

Speech sounds in utterances do not merely consist of segmental units represented by vowels and consonants, but also consist of suprasegmental units which usually follow certain structures or rules (Samsuri,1987:122). Phonological suprasegmental are those which are defined in terms of the sound segments of which they are comprised.. The term suprasegmental is used to refer to both phonological and grammatical units larger than segment (Hyman,1975:187). Vowel harmony which is the focus of the analysis is included in this term.

The theory of vowel harmony is used to reveal several vowel attitudes in certain conditions. Vowels each of which is naturally different in special qualities from the

other become common with each other in some respect in permitting conditions. In other words, they are harmonized in such way by some intervening features and their circumstances of larger units than segments. However, this particularity as a phonological phenomenon can be an identity of a dialect of language.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The research is a dialectal study of Javanese, focusing on a phonological phenomenon of Surabaya dialect. The questions to lead to the solution are:

1. How is vowel harmony in morphological units (words) of Javanese in Surabaya dialect ?
2. What kind of vowel harmony is that ?

1.3. Objective of the study

The objective of this study is to know or to prove the occurrence of vowel harmony and to find the pattern of vowel harmony in the given dialect after knowing the occurrences and analyzing the descriptions.

1.4. The significance of the Study

The result of this research is to add knowledge about Surabaya dialect, a style of Javanese spoken by people in

Surabaya. The contribution of this study will give a clearer description about phonological characteristics of the given dialect.

1.5. Limitation

In this study the problem that will be discussed is limited on Javanese vowels represented by phonemes /i/, /u/, /a/, /e/, /o/, /ɛ/, /ɔ/, and /ə/ as well as their phonetic realizations as [i], [u], [ʌ], [e], [o], [ɛ], [ɔ], and [ə]. These vowels are determined on the basis of studies done by Sumukti (1971) and Suharno (1982) about the number of Javanese vowels (cited by Soebroto, 1991:15). They are also adjusted to Javanese vowel system presented by Roger Lass (1984:145).

1.6. Theoretical Background

Vowel harmony is meant that all vowels within a specified (suprasegmental) unit agree in some phonetic features. This phenomenon implies interinfluence in features between vowels in certain condition (Hyman, 1975:233).

Vowel harmony can occur both across morpheme boundaries and within morpheme boundary. Vowel harmony which occurs across morpheme boundaries needs assimilation rule to explain the occurrences since it can be seen that an affix vowel is able to assimilate to the vowel in a neigh-

boring syllable (Lass,1984:171-173). In other words, vowel segments of a morpheme can influence the others of different morpheme in certain circumstances, therefore they may undergo vowel harmony by crossing morpheme boundaries. Vowel harmony in single morpheme can be an indication that the process of vowel harmony occurs without crossing any morpheme boundaries. It means that the vowels are in the same morpheme.

In general, assimilation is considered as a process which permits a segment to become more like or identical to another under certain condition.

The notion of morpheme structure conditions is designed to capture particular problem in phonological level without leaving phonetical consideration. This is supported by the existence of segment sequential constraints that certain features of one segment can be predicted on the basis of certain features of another segment in a morphological level (Hyman,1975:105-113).

1.7. Methodology

In doing this research, I use descriptive analytic method. The description of the object is used to capture the phenomenon.

Therefore, the analysis is based on the gained description; in this study, the description consists of phonetic properties of the phonemes.

1.7.1. Working definition

Vowel harmony is that all vowels within a specified unit agree in some phonetic features.

Phonetic feature is a term for property of sound segment used to differentiate one sound from another.

Complete vowel harmony is a condition when the vowel of a morpheme completely assimilates to another vowel. It seems similar with reduplication.

Partial vowel harmony is that when a vowel assimilates in certain features to another vowel.

1.7.2. Technique of Data Collection

Basically, the researcher has to combine dialectal research and library research since the object is a particular characteristic of a dialect analyzed under phonology. She uses interview and observation. Besides, she has to arrange a list of words. The informants will reveal the phonetic realization of phonemes of the words through interview and observation.

The interview is done in the target language. It also uses elicitation technique to stimulate the informants. Traditional "guess and check method" is done to examine

the intended phonemes. Therefore, the phonetic realizations of listed words are examined by cross checking with data from the native speakers.

The observation technique is administered for the reason of the weak influence of the researcher. This technique is done to gain data from "normal" speech. In other words, the researcher observes normal social activities of the society which include linguistic content such as conversation between friends or colleagues, etc.

1.7.3. Technique of Data Analysis

The analysis begins with identifying variables. This includes identification of vowels and their environments. Phonetic transcriptions are needed to identify the content of phonetic features. These features are also parameters of vowel quality.

The relationship between vowels and their environments, within morpheme boundary and across morpheme boundaries, is identified by knowing the shared features they have and their recognized environments.

Phonological structure is revealed based on phonological rules with regarding stronger grammatical boundary, namely morphological boundary.

After recognizing the features, the environments, and their possible relationship between them the process of

vowel harmony is described into patterns. Phonetic features play a great role in patterning the phenomenon of vowel harmony. The description uses parameters of vowel like the position of tongue, roundness of lips, and tenseness or laxness of tense in producing vowel sounds.

1.8. Organization of the Thesis

The thesis is divided into five chapters. Chapter one elaborates the background to do the research, statements of the problem, the objective and the significance of the study, limitation, theoretical background, and methodology of the research. Chapter two talks about theoretical framework of the study which includes related theories and related studies. The studies about Javanese grammar, Javanese dialects, and vowel harmony in several languages in the world which are important to do the analysis are compiled in the sub-chapter two. Representation of data is presented on chapter three. The data will be represented on chapter four. The conclusion, in chapter five, is the statements of the patterns of vowel harmony.

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RELATED STUDIES