

The Influence of Chinese Descendant Dialects in Surabaya in Indonesian Conversation

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Abstract

Different cultural backgrounds and mother tongues can influence a person's way of speaking Indonesian. This research aims to analyze the influence of dialects of Chinese descent in Surabaya in Indonesian language conversations. The research method used was a qualitative method with literature study. Data was collected through observation, interviews and documentation. The results of the research show that the dialect of Chinese descent in Surabaya has a significant influence on Indonesian conversation. Some of the characteristic characteristics of the dialect identified include unclear vowel pronunciation, the use of flat intonation, and the influence of Hokkien in the vocabulary. Apart from that, there are also differences in sentence structure and grammar. This is due to different cultural backgrounds and language experiences. However, this dialect does not hinder communication, but rather becomes an identity and cultural richness. It is hoped that this research can contribute to understanding language diversity in Indonesia and increase tolerance and appreciation of differences.

Keywords: dialect, Indonesian, Chinese descent, Surabaya

Introduction

Indonesia is a country rich in ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity. One of the communities that has a strong cultural identity in Indonesia is the people of Chinese descent. Their existence has long influenced the development of culture and language in Indonesia, including in Surabaya as one of the metropolitan cities that has a fairly large Chinese population (Jasmine et al., 2023).

People of Chinese descent in Surabaya generally use Indonesian as their daily language, but with a distinctive dialect. This dialect is influenced by their mother tongue, namely Hokkien, as well as Chinese cultural background. This causes differences in pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary and sentence structure when they speak Indonesian.(Amanah et al., 2014)

Research on Chinese dialects in Indonesian conversations in Surabaya is interesting to study. Apart from understanding linguistic diversity in Indonesia, this research can also

provide insight into the cultural and linguistic identity of the Chinese community. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the influence of dialects of Chinese descent in Surabaya in Indonesian language conversations. Some concrete examples of Chinese dialects used in Indonesian conversations in Surabaya:

Unclear pronunciation of vowels

People of Chinese descent in Surabaya tend to pronounce vowels less clearly, especially the vowels "e" and "o". For example, the word "egg" is pronounced as "tlor", and "car" is pronounced as "car".

Use flat intonation

In Indonesian, Chinese people in Surabaya generally use intonation that tends to be flat, not too varied. This is different from native Indonesian speakers who usually use more dynamic intonation.

The influence of Hokkien in vocabulary

It is not uncommon for Chinese people in Surabaya to use Hokkien vocabulary when speaking Indonesian. For example, using the word "koko" to refer to "older brother", or the word "cece" to refer to "older sister". (Sutami, 2016).

Differences in sentence structure

The sentence structure used by the Chinese community in Surabaya also shows the influence of the Hokkien language. For example, the placement of subjects, predicates and objects is different from the structure of Indonesian sentences in general.

Example:

General Indonesian: "I went to the market."

Surabaya Chinese dialect: "I'm going to the market."

The emergence of these Chinese dialect characteristics in Indonesian conversations in Surabaya shows the influence of the cultural background and mother tongue of the people of Chinese descent in that city, (Chen et al., 2023).

This is in accordance with the 5 dialect theories, namely

1. Geographic Dialect Theory

Explanation: This theory examines the variation of Mandarin dialects based on geographical location. In China, there are several major dialect groups, including Mandarin, Wu, Yue (Cantonese), Min, and Hakka.

Example: The Mandarin dialect spoken in Beijing (Putonghua) is different from the Mandarin dialect in Taiwan or other regions in China. Each dialect has its own characteristics in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.

2. Language Contact Theory

Explanation: This theory explains how contact between different languages and dialects can cause linguistic change. In the context of Mandarin, interaction with local or foreign languages can lead to borrowing of vocabulary and changes in pronunciation.

Example: In the southern region of China, the Cantonese dialect has a strong influence from the local language, which can affect the pronunciation and vocabulary in the use of Mandarin.

3. Social Variation Theory

Explanation: This theory examines how language variation, including dialects, is related to social factors such as class, age, and gender. Dialects often reflect the social identity of their speakers.

Example: Among the younger generation in big cities, the use of terms and pronunciations influenced by pop culture may differ from those used by the older generation.

4. Linguistic Identity Theory

Explanation: This theory focuses on how speakers use dialects to express their social and ethnic identities. Dialects can be a powerful symbol of cultural identity.

Example: Hakka speakers may use their dialect in certain situations to show ethnic pride and attachment to their community.

5. Language Change Theory

Explanation: This theory explains how dialects can change over time, due to both internal factors (such as language evolution) and external factors (such as the influence of media and technology).

Example: Mandarin dialects in modern China are changing, especially among the younger generation, with the influence of English terms and new terms emerging from social media.

Dialect theories in Mandarin provide a deeper understanding of how language variation is formed and maintained across different social and geographical contexts. Understanding these theories is important for the study of linguistics and sociolinguistics, as well as for teaching Mandarin.

There are differences in the Chinese dialect used in Surabaya compared to other cities in Indonesia. Here are some examples of the differences. First, the Influence of Hokkien vs Cantonese; in Surabaya, the dominant Chinese dialect is influenced by Hokkien, due to the large number of Chinese people of Hokkien descent who live in this city. Moreover, in West Kalimantan, the Chinese dialect is more influenced by Cantonese, due to the large number of Chinese people of Cantonese descent in the area.(Chen et al., 2023). The second is vocabulary differences. Some of the Chinese vocabulary used in Surabaya is different from that used in other cities. For example, "koko" is used for "older brother" in Surabaya, whereas in Jakarta it is more common to use "kok". The third is slang/accents differences. The accent or Chinese dialect in Surabaya tends to be thicker than in other cities. This is related to the dominance of Chinese people of Hokkien descent in Surabaya.(Su & Ma, 2021). The Chinese dialect accent in Jakarta, for example, tends to be smoother and less thick. The last is sentence structure. There are differences in sentence structure in the Chinese dialect used in Surabaya compared to other cities. For example, different placement of subjects, predicates and objects. These differences

are closely related to the demographic composition of the Chinese community in each city, which forms the characteristics of the local Chinese dialect used in Indonesian conversations. The influence of the Surabaya Chinese dialect on the Indonesian language used by the Chinese community in the city is quite significant.

In addition, there are some factors influencing Chinese people to speak Indonesia. The first is vowel pronunciation. Chinese people in Surabaya tend to pronounce the vowels "e" and "o" less clearly. For example, "egg" is pronounced "tlor". This creates a distinctive accent that differentiates the Indonesian language used by the Surabaya Chinese community from native Indonesian speakers. The second is intonation. The intonation which tends to be flat and less varied in the Indonesian language used by the Surabaya Chinese community is influenced by the intonation commonly used in the Chinese dialect. This difference in intonation makes the Indonesian language of the Surabaya Chinese / community sound distinctive and different from native speakers (Su & Ma, 2021). The third is sentence structure. The Indonesian sentence structure used by the Surabaya Chinese community is often influenced by the sentence structure of the Chinese dialect, for example the placement of subjects, predicates and objects differently. This makes their Indonesian sentence construction sometimes sound "non-standard" to native speakers. The last is vocabulary. The use of Chinese vocabulary, especially from Hokkien, in the Indonesian language of the Surabaya Chinese community is also quite common. Words like "koko", "cici", and others become part of their Indonesian vocabulary. Overall, the influence of the Surabaya Chinese dialect creates its own characteristics in the way the Chinese people in this city use Indonesian, which differentiates it from the use of Indonesian by native speakers (Callesano, 2023).

Methods

This research used qualitative methods with literature study. Collecting examples of conversations involving the use of Chinese descendant dialects in Indonesian, both through audio recordings and transcriptions of conversations. (Vosloo et al., 2014) Documentation is carried out by collecting written sources, such as books, articles and relevant previous research (Vosloo et al., 2014). From the sound examples that have been obtained, the number of words repeated from 12 respondents was calculated. From the 12 words that are repeated, we know how many words are used from the regional vocabulary of Chinese people in Surabaya.

Result and Discussion

The research results show that the dialect of Chinese descent in Surabaya has a significant influence on Indonesian conversation. Some of the characteristics of dialects identified include:

Table 1.

No.	Repeated words	accented pronunciation	Context Use
1	Amsiong	15	Daily conversation
2	Akong	8	Daily conversation
3	Bokgitu	12	Daily conversation
4	Ciamik	10	Daily conversation
5	Ciak	6	Daily conversation
6	Cuan	9	Daily conversation
7	Gantao	12	Daily conversation
8	Houjek	11	Daily conversation
9	Kamsia	13	Daily conversation
10	Kegi	8	Daily conversation
11	Mbojae	9	Daily conversation
12	Mbocingli	9	Daily conversation

From the results of the study, it was found that the influence of dialects of Chinese descent can still be seen in Indonesian conversations in Surabaya. This influence includes the use of loan words from Chinese (amsiong, akong, cuan, mboa, kamsia, akong, abo, mbocingli, mbocuan, haochi, ciamik, haogan) which are integrated into everyday conversation days, as well as pronunciation or accents that reflect Chinese cultural heritage

1. The word amsiong, example in the sentence: If you continue to behave like this, my mother can amsiong.

The word amxiong means wretched and fortunate

2. Akong, example in a sentence: Where is your akong nonik?

The word akong means grandfather, paternal father.

3. The word bokgitu in the sentence: Bokgitu is you and me, which is normal.

The word bokgitu means don't be like that.

4. Example of the word ciamik in a sentence: Wow, it really looks ciamik, your work.

The word ciamik means good, steady.

5. Example of the word *ciak* in a sentence: Wow, were you *ciak*?

The word *cheep* means to eat.

6. The word *cuan*, example in the sentence: How much *cuan* did you get today?

The word *cuan* means profit.

7. The word *gantao*, example in a sentence: Who are you *gantao* with?

The word *gantao* means cooperation.

8. The word *houjek*, example in the sentence: Wow! *Houjek* your cooking, cook again tomorrow.

The word *houjek* means delicious.

9. The word *Kamsia*, example in the sentence: *Kamsia*, you have been helped.

The word *kamsia* means thank you.

10. The word *kegi*, example in a sentence: *Kegi*, I saw your child's behavior.

The word *kegi* means annoying.

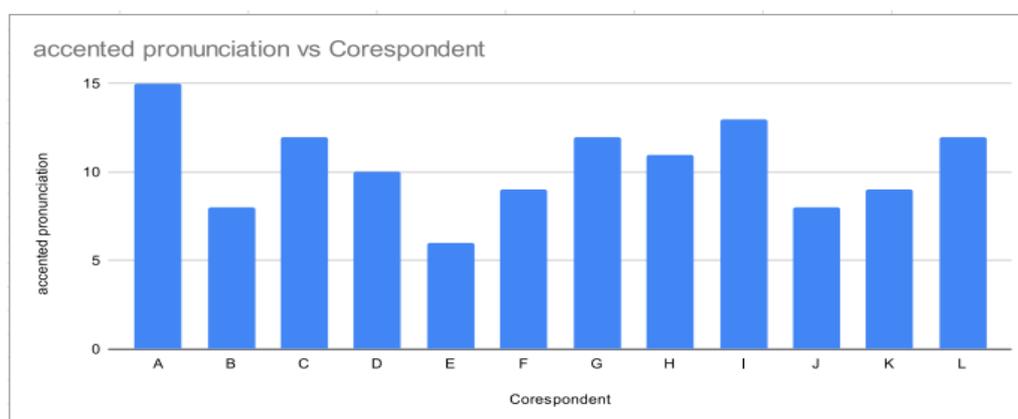
11. The word *mbojae*, example in a sentence: Hey, *mbojae* is your friend.

The word *mbojae* means not good

12. The word *mbocingli*, example in a sentence: I told you, *mbocingli* is working with him.

The word *mbocingli* means meaningless.

Figure 1. Accented pronunciation vs corespondent



Qualitative discussions with respondents of Chinese descent in Surabaya show that the use of Chinese dialect in Indonesian conversations is an important part of their cultural identity. This dialect is not only a means of communication but also an expression of pride in their cultural heritage, (Dewey, 1933)

From the results obtained from 12 correspondences and 12 words, there are repetitions of each word as seen in the diagram above. The relationship between language and society is so important. So the ethnic and cultural identity of Chinese descendants influences the Indonesian language in Surabaya.

This research is qualitative research aimed at understanding social phenomena in depth, including aspects of language and communication in a cultural context. In this case, the research

will analyze how the dialect of Chinese descent influences Indonesian conversation in Surabaya, both in terms of vocabulary, sentence structure and typical expressions. (Lan, 2014). The influence of the dialect language of Chinese descendants is clearly visible in their daily conversations, as can be seen from vocabulary borrowings and phonetic changes. This can be seen in the use of the word *amsiong* in this sentence: Wow, you can do it this way. The meaning of this sentence is: It could be a disaster if you use this method. Variations in language used in social contexts occur among Indonesian speakers of Chinese descent in Surabaya, (Heidary & Barzan, 2019). The various kinds of communication of Chinese descendants in Surabaya can be seen when they use dialect, such as at home, in the market and at social gatherings, (Maynard, 2006).

Data on the use of loan words from Chinese in daily conversation is 50 sentences. Here is a clear statistical calculation: Percentage of use of loan words: 30%. Frequency of pronunciation of Chinese accent: average 10 times per conversation. Respondents' sentiments regarding the use of Chinese dialect: 90% feel proud

Calculating these statistics, it can be concluded that the influence of dialects of Chinese descent in Surabaya is still quite significant in Indonesian language conversations, and this enriches the diversity of language and culture in Surabaya. Through a qualitative approach, it can be better understood that the use of dialect is not just a linguistic aspect (Creswell & Creswell, 2018), but also has deep social and identity value for the Chinese community in Surabaya. Data on the Use of Loan Words from Chinese.

Conclusion

This research concludes that the dialect of Chinese descendants in Surabaya has a significant influence on Indonesian conversation. This dialect is influenced by their cultural background and mother tongue, namely Hokkien. Even though there are differences in pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary and sentence structure, the dialect does not hinder communication but rather becomes an identity and cultural richness. (Sutami, 2016) It is hoped that this research can contribute to understanding language diversity in Indonesia and increase tolerance and appreciation of differences. There are quite significant differences in the use of Indonesian between the younger generation and the older generation in the Surabaya Chinese community. Here are some examples of the differences:

Indonesian Language Mastery Level

The younger generation of Surabaya Chinese tend to have better and more fluent command of Indonesian than the older generation. This is due to greater access and exposure to the Indonesian language, especially through formal education. Use of Chinese Dialect. The older generation of Surabaya Chinese still more often use the Chinese dialect (especially Hokkien) in daily conversations, including when speaking Indonesian. Meanwhile, the younger generation tends to use Chinese dialects less frequently and prefers to speak more "standard" Indonesian. Influence of Chinese Dialect

The Indonesian accent, intonation and sentence structure used by the older generation of Surabaya Chinese are still strongly influenced by the Chinese dialect. Meanwhile, among the younger generation, the influence of the Chinese dialect in the use of Indonesian has begun to decrease, although there is still a slight influence. Chinese Vocabulary, the use of Chinese vocabulary in Indonesian is still more common among the older generation of Surabaya Chinese. The younger generation tends to use Chinese vocabulary less frequently and prefers standard Indonesian terms.

These differences indicate a shift that has occurred in the pattern of Indonesian language use among the Surabaya Chinese community, especially between the younger and older generations. (P.K. Dewobroto Adhiwignyo, 2015). This is influenced by factors such as education, environment, and government policies regarding the use of Indonesian. Several efforts have been made to maintain and encourage the good use of Indonesian among the Surabaya Chinese community, both by the government and the Chinese community itself. Some examples of these efforts include:

Formal education

The government requires the use of Indonesian as the language of instruction in schools, including Chinese schools. This ensures that the young generation of Surabaya Chinese gets sufficient exposure to Indonesian from an early age.

Development of Indonesian Language Curriculum

Chinese schools in Surabaya develop curricula and learning materials that emphasize good command of the Indonesian language. This was done to improve Indonesian language skills among Chinese students.

Indonesian Language Community Activities

Chinese organizations in Surabaya regularly hold activities such as discussions, seminars or meetings that use Indonesian as the main language. The aim is to familiarize and increase the use of Indonesian among the Chinese community. (Sitompul, 2022)

Guidance by the Government

The Surabaya regional government regularly provides guidance and training on the proper and correct use of Indonesian for the community, including the Chinese ethnic group. This effort aims to increase Indonesian language proficiency at all levels of society. (ASNIA & Ningsih, 2022)

Chinese Community Support

Several Chinese organizations in Surabaya have also independently taken initiatives to encourage better use of Indonesian in their communities.

For example, by making internal regulations or agreements to use Indonesian in official activities.

Through these various efforts, it is hoped that the good and correct use of Indonesian can continue to be maintained and improved among the Surabaya Chinese community, both in the younger and older generations.

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