
A SOCIOLINGUISTICS STUDY ON LANGUAGE ATTITUDE OF THE SUNDANESE COMMUNITY IN EASTERN PRIANGAN TOWARDS ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

A research of language attitude is getting much attention for years in some fields. Due to the importance of the language attitude, this research intends to describe the language attitude of Sundanese towards English language in Eastern Priangan, West Java Province. This study employed a descriptive qualitative research. The data used is the data obtained through questioners, observations, and in-depth interviews to know the attitude of the Sundanese community language. Respondents which were involved in the research are respondents living in Eastern Priangan, such as Ciamis, Banjar, Tasikmalaya city, Tasikmalaya regency, Sumedang, Garut, and Pangandaran. This research took a social situation. The result of the research shows that Sundanese people in Eastern Priangan have different language attitude, in terms of cognitive, behavioural, and affective aspects towards English as a foreign language. It indicates that the language attitudes of Sundanese community have different language attitudes towards English, in terms cognitive, behavioural, and affective aspects. Briefly, most of respondents' obvious positive language attitude towards English can be concluded that they were well conscious of English importance. The research result reveals the Sundanese respondents have the negative affective attitude towards English. Positive behavioural language attitude of Sundanese community towards English shows lower than Sundanese. It shows that Sundanese people tend to speak Sundanese language than English language. Sundanese people tend to speak their mother tongue since they live in West Java where most people speak Sundanese language.

Key words: *Language Attitude, Sociolinguistics, English Language Sundanese, Eastern Priangan*

INTRODUCTION

Eastern Priangan is an east part of West Java province where Sundanese community living the area mostly speaks Sundanese language as their mother tongue. However, Sundanese people are multicultural speakers since they also refer speaking more than two languages to speaking one language in their life. It can be seen that some of Sundanese people, who are able to speak Sundanese as their mother tongue, can speak Indonesian and English. According to Fasold (1990), multilingualism is an interactional resource for the multilingual speaker. It can be concluded that one particular language may normally be used at home or with close friends, whereas another language possibly will be used for commerce and trade, and even a third one for dealing with government organizations.

Nowadays, English is growing impressively in Indonesia and playing a noteworthy part of Indonesia institutions. The speakers of English, in addition, are getting increasing. As stated by Lauder (2008), English is one of widespread languages used in communication, including French, Japanese, Arabic, Dutch, German, and presently Chinese. In Indonesia, every foreign language used has every single remarkable reason for society. English language later becomes larger astoundingly in Asian countries. Furthermore, Indonesia is a part of the South- East Asia countries.

In West Java, Sundanese language is spoken by Sundanese native speakers. They accustom to making communication in daily life by using Sundanese. Besides, some of them usually speak Indonesian also in their communication. In the growth of English use, as stated by Albalawi (2014), nowadays studying English has become one of the essential ability required for self-development, travelling abroad, job requirements, and resuming higher studies. This is the reason; the language becomes the first foreign language formally taught in Indonesia. Hence, Sundanese community also

have to learn English to be a part of English speakers in Indonesia since English becomes a choice as a foreign language which has to be studied. As stated by Mistar (2015) in Braine (2005), the linguistic situation in Indonesia is complex with hundreds local languages.

Since Indonesia has a complex linguistic situation, Indonesia needs many researches related to sociolinguistics since in each community specific social and cultural values as well as the use of their language exist different from one community to another. As stated by Hudson (1996), sociolinguistics puts an enormous research field which is composed of a variety that is formed from existing social groups. Aldosari (2014) cites that generally attitude contains three components, such as the way the human think, behave, and feel.

Moreover, a research of language attitude is getting much attention for years because this research is one of the important topics of researches in some fields. As stated by Bohner and Dickel (2011) in McCoach, Gable, and Madura (2013), the research of language attitude is one of the fundamental topics in a research. They, then, further expound that attitude as “the most distinctive and indispensable concept in contemporary social psychology”. According to Kridalaksana (2001), language attitude covers mental attitude or feelings towards the position of its own language or language of others. Based on the above context, this research is based on linguistic knowledge and attitude of Sundanese toward English language in Eastern Priangan, West Java Province. Research data in the form of respondents’ answers to questions and statements of questions posed through a questionnaire. In other words, the object of this study is the answers and responses that contain knowledge and attitude of Sundanese respondents towards English language.

The reason why the research on language attitude in Indonesia is attention-grabbing is because as multilingual speakers, Indonesian people are interesting subject to be studied, especially how they take actions toward languages they use in their life. Being able to speak some languages can make the multilingual speakers misconduct when using one of the languages that they master.

The study on language attitude towards English related to multilingual speakers in Indonesia has been conducted (Wati, 2018). The study focuses on Javanese undergraduate students related to gender and length of their English study. In the research, the result reveals that there is a significant difference between male and female undergraduate students’ attitudes towards English. Likewise, based on the research result, gender and length of English study years affected the language attitudes of undergraduate students.

The study on language attitude in multicultural speakers in Indonesia is still limited, especially in each area of Indonesia. Additionally, research on language attitudes can help multicultural community to learn English language because actually each person has their own attitudes towards languages. Hence, this can help stakeholders to obtain greater understanding into the language pedagogical process.

This research gives description on language attitude of Sundanese community in Eastern Priangan towards English language. Hence, the research gives contribution on those who need to understand about language attitude of Sundanese community in Eastern Priangan, such as stakeholders, language learners, as well as language teachers or lecturers who wish for language teaching plan to Sundanese community. The research is based on the following question, what is language attitude of the Sundanese community in Eastern Priangan towards English language in terms cognitive, behavioural, and affective aspects?

Regarding to the research questions, the aims of the research is to describe language attitude of the Sundanese community in Eastern Priangan towards English language in terms cognitive, behavioural, and affective aspects.

METHOD

This research employed by a qualitative research design to be a procedure for collecting, analysing, and understand research problems. The data used is the data obtained through questioners, observations, and in-depth interviews to know language attitude of the Sundanese community in Eastern Priangan towards English language in terms cognitive, behavioural, and affective aspects. A study based upon a qualitative process of inquiry has the goal of understanding a social problem from

multiple perspectives. Qualitative research is conducted in a natural setting and involves a process of building a complex and holistic picture of the phenomenon of interest.

Data collection for this study was approximately one month in May 2019. In this study, this research took a social situation. Sugiono (2013) further enlightens that Spradley explains that a social situation is consisted of three elements, such as place, subject, and activity that one interact with the other elements synergistically. The data have met the target when the results of the study show redundant data where the information has been fulfilled by being identified with the saturated data.

Respondents which were involved in the research are 140 respondents living in Eastern Priangan, such as Ciamis, Banjar, Tasikmalaya city, Tasikmalaya regency, Sumedang, Garut, and Pangandaran. The instruments are concerned with language attitudes of Sundanese community towards English language. The question items in questionnaire were written in Indonesian language. The purpose is that to cope the misunderstanding when finishing the questionnaire. The researcher guided the respondents during the proses in which the respondents were answering their questionnaires. Later, whoever wanted to question what they did not comprehend with the question items, they could question the researcher unswervingly for their strong understanding.

Similar to the questionnaires, the interviews and observation required the respondents to get the depth-understanding of their language attitudes towards English language. The interviewees' responses were recorded in sound recorder of hand phone during the interviews. The observations then were recorded in written language on observation reports. The interview and observation are exploratory in nature.

For accuracy of the research, the researcher uses triangulation. As stated by Creswell (2012), triangulation covers the process of collaborating evidence from different individuals, types of data, or methods of data collection in descriptions and themes in qualitative research. In this research, researcher uses triangulation by collaborating evidence from individuals with different gender (female and male), different educational backgrounds, different professions, different ages, and different English learning length. Besides, researcher also uses different methods of data collection.

Creswell (2012) further explains that validation in qualitative research also can be carried out by using member checking. In order to get accuracy in this research, the researcher additionally checked the findings with participants in the study to determine whether the research findings are accurate. In this chance, the researcher asked one or more participants in the study to check the accuracy of the account. The researcher asked participants about many aspects of the study, such as whether the description is complete and realistic, whether the themes are accurate to include, and whether the interpretations are fair and representative.

The analysis of this research uses qualitative research referring to Miles, Hubberman, and Saldana (2014). They state that there are three concurrent flows of activity in this research analysis. This analysis provides three main steps occur continuously, such as data condensation, data display, conclusion drawing and verification. It means all steps of analysis are part of the analysis.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Results of this research indicate that language attitude of Sundanese community in Eastern Priangan towards English language, in terms cognitive, behavioural, and affective aspects. Here is the section formulating research findings. The research is answering a research question stated in the previous section.

Language Attitudes of Sundanese Community in Eastern Priangan towards English Language

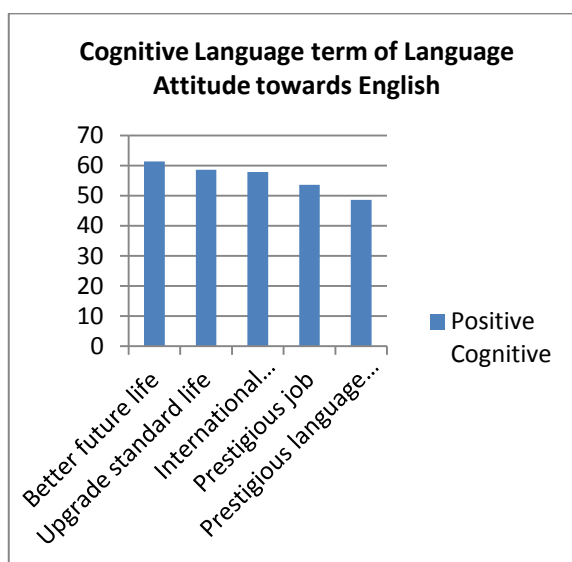
Based on the questionnaires, observations, as well as the interview processes, the findings indicate that Sundanese people in Eastern Priangan have different attitudes, in terms cognitive, behavioural, and affective aspects of language attitudes towards English. The three main components of language attitudes are closely related to each other.

Table 1 is a picture of average scoring interpretation guidelines of language attitude. This diagram is to determine the level of the language attitude of the respondents showed.

Table 1. Average scoring interpretation guidelines (%) Language attitude

No .	Average knowledge score (%)	Language attitude category
1	83,35 – 100	Very High
2	66,68 – 83,34	High
3	50,01 – 66,67	Slightly High
4	33,34 – 50,00	Slightly Low
5	16,67 – 33,33	Low
6	0 – 16,66	Very low

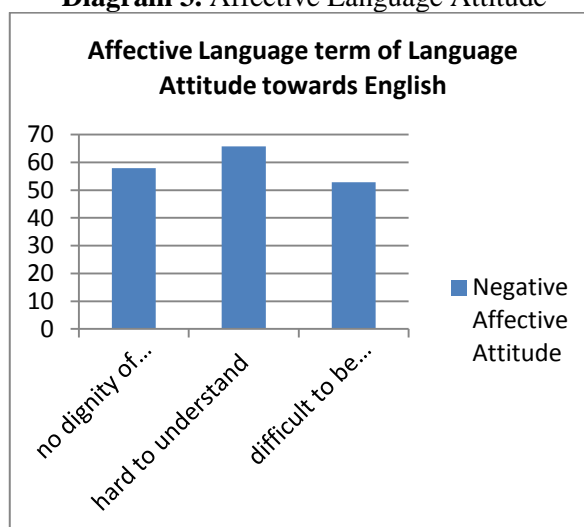
Diagram 2. Cognitive Language Attitude



In diagram 2, it indicates the Sundanese community in Eastern Priangan have some slightly high cognitive language attitudes towards English. The following findings as follow, they claim that being able to speak English is important for their better future life because they know the important position of English in international communication. It makes them interested in learning English in order to be able to speak and make communication in English with others. When having the ability of English, they believe that they can upgrade their standard of their life since they get a chance to get a prestigious job because of their English ability. On the other hand, the cognitive language attitude above does not make them think that English has a higher prestigious position than Indonesian and Sundanese languages. In interview data collection, the findings reveal that average Sundanese people in Eastern Priangan have no interest to use English in real communication, even to interact with Sundanese people who are able to speak English.

There are some reasons why most of them are not interested in English use, as follows: (1) their problems are lack of confidence to communicate in English and lack of English ability in written or oral communications, (2) most of Sundanese people in Eastern Priangan use Sundanese language in daily communication, (3) they think that although they have learned English as a foreign language for years, they think they still do not master in English well, (4) some of them deliberate that they are getting older so there is no need to plan to use English in future life.

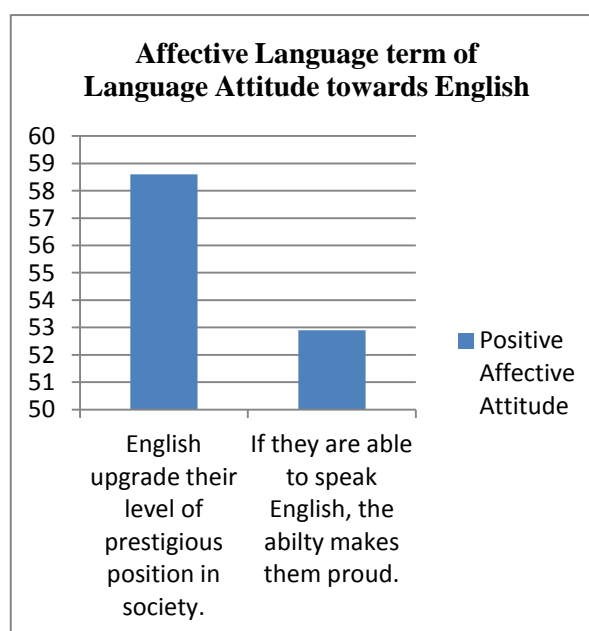
Diagram 3. Affective Language Attitude



The further explanation based on the diagram 3, research findings reveal the Sundanese respondents have the negative affective attitude towards English language in slightly high category as follows: (1) English does not have dignity if it is compared to Sundanese and Indonesian languages, (2) understanding information in English is difficult, (3) English vocabularies are quite difficult to be learned.

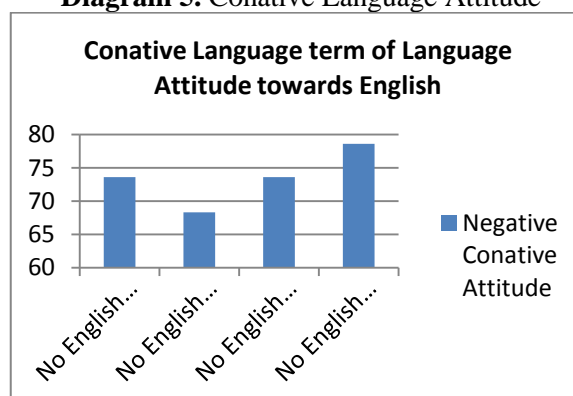
In Eastern Priangan, Sundanese people feel negative on English language if the language is compared to Sundanese and Indonesian languages. Even though, diagram 4 shows that they feels blessed when they master in English because they assume that English language can upgrade their level of prestigious position in Sundanese society. It is getting interesting because there is contrary finding where they feel that English is prestigious in society, but Sundanese and Indonesian languages are more prestigious than English language.

Diagram 4. Affective Language Attitude



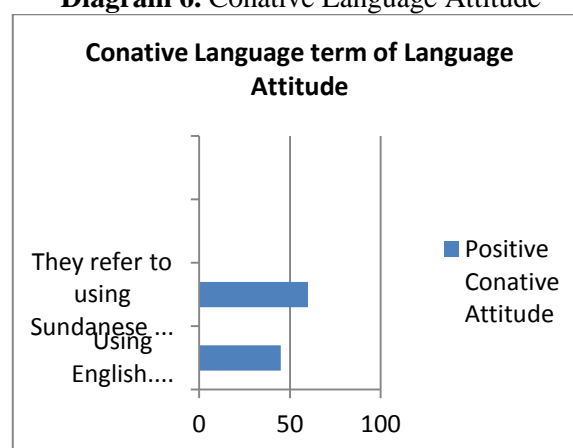
In addition, the observation and interview transcripts elaborate the points above. Although, they have a lack of English ability, they still do not keep trying to study English to overcome their weaknesses in speaking English.

Diagram 5. Conative Language Attitude



In above diagram 5, the findings of the research reveal that the Sundanese people in Eastern Priangan are in high negative conative attitudes towards English language. Most of them do not use English in communication; even they know that English plays a crucial role in their future life. They do not choose to read English textbooks; even they consider English is important in international communication. It is not usual for them to make English conversation in social media. They do not want to use English to greet someone in first sight because they know he/ she can speak Indonesian or Sundanese. Even they are aware that the position of English in Indonesia is grabbing-attention.

Diagram 6. Conative Language Attitude



In above diagram 6, the finding of the research shows that the Sundanese respondents in Eastern Priangan are in slightly low positive on conative attitudes towards English language. In addition, their positive conative language attitude towards Sundanese reveal in slightly high. From the findings above, it can be concluded that conative language attitude of Sundanese people towards English is slightly lower than Sundanese language. The respondents tend to speak Sundanese language in daily conversation. It is correlated to the research result of the interviews and observations. Most of them also had different behaviours language attitude towards English. Some of the respondents prefer using Sundanese language to using English language, even in formal situation with the people who are able to speak English well. One of the reasons is because Sundanese language is their mother tongue and they live in Eastern Priangan where most of Sundanese people speak in Sundanese language.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research result and discussion by using qualitative research, the conclusions in the study are drawn as the following points.

Sundanese community have different language attitudes towards English, in terms cognitive, behavioural, and affective aspects. The Sundanese community have positive cognitive language attitude. In other words, Sundanese people generally hold positive cognitive attitude toward English. They consider that English language plays important as well as prestigious position in the world. It

brings helpfulness in international communication and also future career. Briefly, most of respondents' obvious positive language attitude towards English can be concluded that they were well conscious of English importance.

Secondly, Sundanese participants are slightly high on negative affective language attitude towards English. In other words, the research result reveals the Sundanese respondents have the negative affective attitude towards English language in slightly high category such as: (1) they assume that English does not have dignity if it is compared to Sundanese and Indonesian languages, (2) it is hard to them to understand English information, (3) they also feel that English vocabularies are quite difficult to be learned. It makes they prefer speaking Sundanese or Indonesian languages to speaking English language.

Positive behavioural language attitude of Sundanese community towards English shows lower than Sundanese. It shows that Sundanese people tend to speak Sundanese language than English language. It occurs because they never choose English textbooks to be read. Besides, Sundanese people tend to speak their mother tongue since they live in West Java where most people speak Sundanese language.

The contributions of this study are the findings of this research have significant implications for English language pedagogy. There are some findings in the study dealing with the language attitude of Sundanese community in Eastern Priangan (Tasikmalaya city, Tasikmalaya region, Garut, Sumedang, Ciamis, Banjar, and Pangandaran) will be very beneficial to carry out further research of Sociolinguistics.

Hence, having conducted the research, the researcher would like to give some suggestions as follows. (1) The most important suggestion is addressed to the Sundanese community. It will be helpful for them when they decide to learn language, especially English language. (2) the research hopefully gives contribution on those who need to understand about language attitude of Sundanese community in Eastern Priangan, such as stakeholders, language learners, as well as language teachers or lecturers who wish for language teaching plan to Sundanese community. Moreover, the other researchers additionally can carry out Sociolinguistics research in other important issues to consider something different concerning on the activities, contents, topics, pedagogical process, and the others.

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