
THE IMPACT OF THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT ON LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE SPEECH COMMUNITY OF DORMITORY SAINT ANNA IN TANJUNG BALAI

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Abstract: *This research aims to understand how social interactions, especially within families and peer groups, influence the process of language acquisition and language development in the language community at the Saint Anna dormitory in Tanjung Balai. This research uses a qualitative research design with interview and observation techniques for data collection. The research results show that social interaction and peer groups play an important role in forming language patterns and innovations in the language community at the Saint Anna dormitory in Tanjung Balai. Most participants (59.38%) agreed or strongly agreed that social interaction has a big impact on language acquisition. Likewise, results relating to peer groups show widespread recognition (54.99%) of the significant influence of peer interactions on language development and language change, including the emergence of language innovation and slang. The results of this research emphasize the importance of considering social dynamics and peer groups in understanding and facilitating the process of language development in language communities.*

Keywords: *Language Development, Social Interaction, and Peer Influence*

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami bagaimana interaksi sosial khususnya dalam keluarga dan kelompok teman sebaya mempengaruhi proses pemerolehan bahasa dan perkembangan bahasa pada komunitas bahasa di asrama Saint Anna Tanjung Balai. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian kualitatif dengan teknik wawancara dan observasi untuk pengumpulan data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa interaksi sosial dan kelompok teman sebaya berperan penting dalam pembentukan pola berbahasa dan inovasi dalam komunitas bahasa di asrama Saint Anna Tanjung Balai. Sebagian besar peserta (59,38%) setuju atau sangat setuju bahwa interaksi sosial mempunyai dampak besar terhadap pemerolehan bahasa. Demikian pula, hasil yang berkaitan dengan kelompok teman sebaya menunjukkan pengakuan luas (54,99%) mengenai pengaruh signifikan interaksi teman sebaya terhadap perkembangan bahasa dan perubahan bahasa, termasuk munculnya inovasi bahasa dan bahasa gaul. Hasil penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya mempertimbangkan dinamika sosial dan kelompok teman sebaya dalam memahami dan memfasilitasi proses perkembangan bahasa dalam komunitas bahasa.

Kata kunci: Perkembangan Bahasa, Interaksi Sosial, dan Pengaruh Teman Sebaya

INTRODUCTION

Language Development in speech communities in sociolinguistic. A concept in sociolinguistics called "language development in speech communities" focuses on how languages change and grow over time within a community or culture (Gumperz & Cook-Gumperz,

2008). Linguistic development in speech communities investigates how social variables impact language variation, change, and maintenance. Sociolinguistics is the study of the link between language and society (Puspa, n.d.) Important facets of language growth in speech communities consist of Variation in Language.

In addition, Ariyanti (2019, p. 44) elaborate the Social Variation that Language use can vary significantly throughout social groupings. Linguistic heterogeneity within a community can be attributed to various factors, including age, gender, socioeconomic level, ethnicity, and educational attainment. Regional Variation: Different dialects or accents can arise from linguistic variances caused by geographic causes. Historical, cultural, and socioeconomic variables frequently have an impact on regional variances.

In society, language is a means of interacting with others in the environment where they live (Frans, Ferry, Koagouw, & Waleleng, n.d.). Just as with the development of time, language also experiences development. Language development is a complex and multifaceted process influenced by various factors, with the social environment within speech communities playing a crucial role. (Haryono, 2011) Understanding how social interactions, cultural norms, and community dynamics and usage is essential for comprehending the intricacies of language development. Language development is a complex process that is influenced by various factors, including the social environment. The social environment refers to the people, institutions, and cultural practices that surround an individual and shape their language use. (Frans et al., n.d.). This study seeks to delve into the intricate interplay between the social environment and language development within diverse speech communities. Language, as both a reflection and a driver of cultural and social change, plays a pivotal role in the evolutions of speech communities. This paper investigates how various forms of social transformation, influence language development and use between within these communities.

Language is a dynamic and multifaceted phenomenon, intimately intertwined with culture and society (Gumperz & Cook-Gumperz, 2008). It serves as both a mirror reflecting the

values, beliefs, and identity of a speech community, and a powerful vehicle that can drive cultural and social change. In this context, the role of language in the evolution of speech communities is pivotal. This paper delves into the intricate relationship between language and societal transformation, exploring how various factors, such as globalization, urbanization, technological advancements, migration, and other social dynamics, exert profound influences on the development and usage of language especially within dormitory Saint Anna.

Based on the writer experience, when the writer work on dormitory saint Anna Tanjung Balai in 2018 as a staff holder, the writer had seen if teenegers or student at dormitory so easy to find new vocabulary, eventhough their vocabulary found have not meaning sometimeis but their so fluently to use the vocabulary in daily communication, more over the teenegers or students often using mother language and slang in the same time and same way, so the language is not grammatical and almost unmeaning. For example: 1. Ussah= Tidak perlu(not need), 2. Boloi= Perbaiki (rephrase), 3. Membot= Gemuk(fat). That things indicate that there is a language shift in the case of using slang language as once stated by (Ariesta, Qoyyimah, & Markhamah, 2021)

Tanjung Balai is a small town in Indonesia that is home to a diverse population. The Female Dormitory Saint Anna is a community of young women who come from different regions of Sumatra to study at local school. The dormitory is a unique speech community that provides an opportunity to study the impact of the social environment on language development.

Globalization, with its interconnectedness and cross-cultural interactions, has given rise to new speech communities as people from diverse linguistic backgrounds come together. This has led to linguistic borrowing, code-switching, and the emergence of hybrid languages, reflecting the adaptability of

language in response to changing social landscapes. Meanwhile, urbanization has created urban speech communities that often display linguistic features distinct from rural areas, reflecting the unique linguistic environment and multicultural influences of cities. (Aditiwarman, 2018) Technological advancements, particularly in the digital realm, have opened up new modes of communication within speech communities. The digital era has given rise to online speech communities, where language evolves rapidly, shaped by social media, memes, and online subcultures. (Nur Emine Koç, n.d.) Migration and diaspora have also led to the preservation of linguistic traditions within speech communities while simultaneously introducing new linguistic elements from host cultures. As we investigate the manufactured relationship between language and societal change, we gain insights into how speech communities adapt, negotiate, and innovate in response to the dynamic forces shaping our world. (Malabar, n.d.) Based on my experience when I stay at Tanjung Balai such as a staff holder in dormitory, I was seen who the children use language in daily life. This research illuminates the resilience and versatility of language as it continues to play a central role in reflecting and shaping cultural and social transformations.

According to Penelope Eckert (Eckert & Sally, 2013): the social aspects of language variation and change, particularly in adolescence and youth culture. She has explored how speech communities form and how they influence linguistic norms.

In this study, the writer's experience when staying at Tanjung Balai such as a staff holder in dormitory was seen who the children use language in daily life. Despite numerous studies on language development, there is a need for a comprehensive investigation into the influence of the social environment within speech communities on the acquisition, evolution, and maintenance of languages.

The following specific research questions guide this study:

Firstly, it seeks to understand how social interactions, particularly those occurring within family and peer groups, influence the language acquisition process within the speech communities residing in Dormitory Saint Anna at Tanjung Balai. Secondly, the study delves into the influence of peer groups on language development and change within the same speech communities, including the emergence of linguistic innovations and slang within the context of Dormitory Saint Anna at Tanjung Balai.

The objectives of the study is to find out the impact of social interaction and peer group in linguistics. Understanding the influence of the social environment on language development is crucial for linguists, educators, policymakers, and speech community members. This research will shed light on the dynamics that shape the linguistic landscape within speech communities, which can inform language preservation efforts, educational practices, and strategies for promoting linguistic diversity and inclusivity.

Review of literature Language development

Language development is the process through which children acquire the ability to comprehend and communicate through speech. It supports cognitive, social, literacy and other aspects of development. Language development starts with sounds and gestures and progresses to more complex skills, such as understanding and using language, expressing and understanding emotions, thinking and learning solving problems and developing and maintaining relationships.

Social Interaction

Social interaction is essential for language development, as it provides the foundation for communication skills, increases motivation and information, and facilitates the learning of words and

sounds in a natural social context. (Haryono, 2011) Social interaction is a dynamic, changing sequence of social actions between individuals or groups. It involves verbal or non-verbal communication between two or more people and can be studied between groups of two, three or larger social groups. Social structures and cultures are founded upon social interactions. By interacting with one another, people design rules, institutions and systems within which they seek to live. Symbols are used to communicate the expectations of a given society to those new to it, either children or outsiders. The empirical study of social interaction is one of the subjects of microsociology, which concerns the nature of everyday human social interactions and agency on a small scale (Annala Teemant & Stefinee E. Pinnegar “396,” n.d.)

Acquisition process within speech communities.

The acquisition process within speech communities refers to the way individuals learn and adapt to the rulers, norm, and language of a specific group of people who share a common variety of a language or dialect speech communities can be found at various levels such as neighborhoods, cities, regions, or nations. According by Annala Teemant & Stefinee E. Pinnegar “395,” n.d. The acquisition process within speech communities involves learning and adapting to the rulers, norms, and language of a specific group of people. This process is influenced by factors such as speech perception and production, co-construction of speech communities, and the potential for language change.

Influence language development and change

Language development and change are complex processes influenced by various factors, including social, cultural, technological, and historical aspects. According to experts (N. E Koç, 2022) Spending a lot of time in front of the screen, has changed the understanding of

people, cultures and languages as it changes everything through the process. All the communication systems especially education is reconsidered through the needs of people. By the help of technology, people interact with different kind of people facing different kind of culture; but the lingua franca language English, has also become the language of digital culture, so all the languages are affected by this language as the globalization continues its effects through digital world. Yet the use of mother tongue languages and the cultures with the effect of digitalization have not been expired but transformed.

Linguistic innovations and slang

Slang is a significant aspect of language development, often associated with linguistic innovation. It involves the creation of new words and meanings, which can stimulate the formation of an entirely new language over decades and centuries. Slang is also linked to the identity of a group and can become more popular once adopted by a community. In the context of second language acquisition, the use of slang can have various effects, including the potential for focus on form through noticing and the comparison of language, as well as fostering creativity among adolescents.

METHOD

This study will employ a qualitative research design, utilizing techniques such as interviews and observations for data collection. The data will be analyzed using descriptive qualitative methods. To determine definitive percentages, the writer will process the data using the formula: amount of data divided by the number of participants multiplied by 100%. The sample in this research comprised 41 participants with diverse backgrounds and ages. This selection encompasses a wide range of speech communities to ensure a comprehensive and representative examination of the

influence of the social environment on language development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the collected data thorough quantitative method, about how do social interactions, particularly those within the family and peer groups, impact the language in acquisition process within speech communities in dormitory Saint Anna at Tanjung Balai, and How do peer groups influence language development and change. The study examined the influence of social interactions, particularly those within family and peer groups, on the language acquisition process within the speech communities residing in the dormitory of Saint Anna at Tanjung Balai. The results, derived from the distribution of responses, provide valuable insights into this dynamic: It can be seen that, a significant proportion of participants expressed agreement or strong agreement with the impact of social interactions on language acquisition, with a combined percentage of 59.38% (24.17% quite agree, 31.00% agree, and 28.38% strongly agree). This indicates a prevailing acknowledgment among residents regarding the influential role of social interactions in the language learning process within the dormitory community. On the contrary, a smaller proportion of participants expressed disagreement or strong disagreement with this notion, with a combined percentage of 16.41% (6.21% don't agree and 10.20% disagree). While this dissenting view exists, it represents a minority perspective within the community. These results underscore the significant impact of social interactions, particularly those within family and peer groups, on the language acquisition process within the speech communities of Dormitory Saint Anna at Tanjung Balai. This highlights the importance of fostering conducive social environments and promoting meaningful interactions to facilitate language learning

and development among residents. The results showed as follows:

Table 1. Result of Peer Group

Response	Percentage
Don't Agree	6.21%
Disagree	10.20%
Quite Agree	24.17%
Agree	31%
Strongly Agree	28.38%

Thus that statement if social interactions, particularly those within the family and peer groups, impact the language in acquisition process within speech communities. This research not only finding out the result of social interactions, particularly those within the family and peer groups, impact the language in acquisition process within speech communities but also answered how peer groups influence language development and change, including the emergence of linguistic innovations and slang, within speech communities and the results as Table 2 follows :

Table 2. Innovations and Slang within Speech Communities

Response	Percentage
Don't Agree	7,32%
Disagree	11,00%
Quite Agree	26,61%
Agree	27,72%
Strongly Agree	27,27%

In short, the study investigated the influence of peer groups on language development and change, encompassing the emergence of linguistic innovations and slang within speech communities. The results, based on the distribution of responses, provide insights into this phenomenon: A considerable proportion of participants, totaling 54.99% (26.61% quite agree, 27.72% agree, and 27.27% strongly agree), expressed agreement or strong agreement with the notion that peer groups significantly influence language development and change, including the

emergence of linguistic innovations and slang. This suggests a widespread recognition among residents regarding the substantial impact of peer interactions on shaping linguistic patterns within the community. Conversely, a smaller percentage of participants, comprising 18.23% (7.23% don't agree and 11% disagree), expressed disagreement or strong disagreement with this assertion. While dissenting perspectives exist, they represent a minority viewpoint within the community.

Overall, these results underscore the significant role of peer groups in driving language development and change, including the emergence of linguistic innovations and slang, within speech communities. The prevalence of agreement among residents highlights the influential nature of peer interactions in shaping linguistic norms and practices within the dormitory setting. These results emphasize the importance of considering peer dynamics in understanding and facilitating language development processes among residents. Further research aimed at exploring the specific mechanisms through which peer groups influence language dynamics may yield valuable insights for fostering positive language outcomes within speech communities.

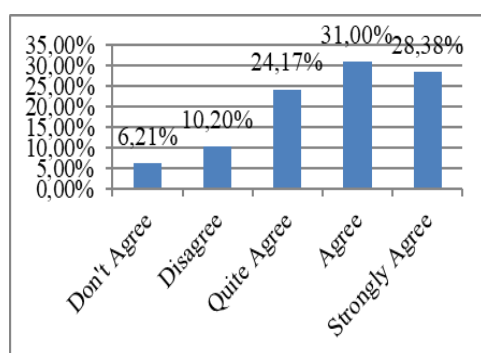


Chart 1. Question's result of problem statement 1

The findings underscore the profound impact of both social interactions, particularly within family and peer groups, and peer influence on language acquisition and development

within the speech communities at Dormitory Saint Anna in Tanjung Balai. The substantial agreement among participants regarding the influence of these factors highlights their significant role in shaping linguistic patterns and innovations within the community. Specifically, the results suggest that peer groups play a crucial role not only in language development but also in the emergence of linguistic innovations and slang. These insights shed light on the complex dynamics of language use and development within the dormitory setting, emphasizing the importance of understanding social interactions and peer dynamics in fostering language growth and adaptation. Overall, this study provides valuable contributions to our understanding of language development within speech communities and underscores the need for further exploration of these socio-linguistic dynamics in diverse contexts.

Findings

From the analysis of the data presented above, it is evident that both social interactions and peer groups play crucial roles in shaping language acquisition and development within the speech communities of Dormitory Saint Anna at Tanjung Balai. Regarding social interactions, a significant majority of participants (59.38%) expressed agreement or strong agreement with the idea that social interactions, particularly within family and peer groups, have a substantial impact on language acquisition. This underscores the acknowledgment among residents regarding the influential role of social interactions in facilitating language learning processes within the dormitory community. Similarly, the results pertaining to peer groups indicate a widespread recognition (54.99%) among residents regarding the significant influence of peer interactions on language development and change, including the emergence of linguistic innovations and slang. This highlights

the influential nature of peer dynamics in shaping linguistic norms and practices within the dormitory setting.

CONCLUSION

The vital importance of understanding the relationship between social change and language development in speech communities. It highlights the need for continued research, documentation, and community engagement to support and celebrate linguistic diversity in an ever-changing world.

This study aims to contribute to our understanding of the complex relationship between the social environment and language development within speech communities. By investigating the specific research questions outlined above, both social interactions and peer groups exert significant influence on language acquisition and development within the speech communities of Dormitory Saint Anna at Tanjung Balai. Social interactions, particularly those within family and peer groups, have a significant impact on the language acquisition process within speech communities at Dormitory Saint Anna in Tanjung Balai. Approximately 59.38% of participants expressed agreement or strong agreement with this notion, indicating widespread acknowledgment of the influential role of social interactions in facilitating language learning.

Peer groups play a crucial role in influencing language development and change within speech communities. Around 54.99% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that peer interactions significantly shape linguistic patterns, including the emergence of linguistic innovations and slang.

It will provide valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of language development and its connections to social dynamics, cultural identity, and community well-being. Speech communities are an integral part of

sociolinguistic research, offering insights into how language functions in various social contexts. These communities are diverse, reflecting the complexity of human interaction and identity. In today's interconnected world, the concept of speech communities continues to evolve, demonstrating the dynamic nature of language and its role in shaping our lives.

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