

# Disclosing the Regional Dialect Shift Used by Tulungagung College Students as Newcomers in Surabaya Metropolitan City

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**Abstract.** This study investigated the regional dialect shift experienced by Tulungagung college students studying in Surabaya. The objectives of this study are to find out the different regional dialects between Tulungagung and Surabaya, the factors causing the students to experience dialect shift, the process of dialect shift happening, and the impact of applying dialect shift. The respondents are Tulungagung college students from various university backgrounds in Surabaya. A qualitative approach was adopted by using descriptive analysis. The results show that the Tulungagung college students experienced dialect shifts by using some expressions of Surabaya dialect to be mixed with their original dialect; social factors, attitudes, and values toward the dialect are the factors causing the students to experience dialect shifts. In addition, the students' dialect shift experiences are in various ways, starting as newcomers and adapting to the new society. Therefore, applying dialect shifts may lead to positive and negative effects. This study may help the researchers on the same topic by exploring deeper analysis within the different regional dialects to see if the results show the same patterns.

Keywords: Regional variation · Dialect shift · Newcomers · College students

#### 1 Introduction

Many people have high motivated to move from their area to others because of some interests, including educational programs to study in a particular location. This phenomenon also happens in Surabaya city. Surabaya, the East Java capital, is famous as a significant city with the most activities commanding educational level in a college compared with other areas that, cause many students from different regions to come to study in Surabaya. It also happens to students from Tulungagung that every year, hundreds of students will choose Surabaya as their goal to get an educational program as college students.

Indeed, Surabaya and Tulungagung locate in the same province, East Java, and both use the same language, namely the Javanese language. Javanese is a regional language with geographical and social variations [1]. Geographically, there are some different dialects in each region. Around Surabaya Raya, which is made up of Surabaya, Sidoarjo, and Gresik, Surabaya's dialect is highly spoken, also known as *boso Suroboyoan* [2].

Meanwhile, Tulungagug has its dialect, namely the Tulungagug dialect. A change in dialect use is often referred to as dialect-shifting, style-shifting, or code-switching [3]. If newcomers move and come to a different region with a different dialect, it causes them to experience a dialect shift. Dialect-shifting involves the variation of speech styles, including increasing and decreasing the production feature in one dialect and substituting features of one dialect with another [3].

Many college students from Tulungagung come to Surabaya to study college. These days, most college students from Tulungagung who study in Surabaya are reluctant to communicate using Javanese in the Tulungagung dialect. It is affected by their activities outside Tulungagung as newcomers, so they will quickly adapt to the local dialect they live in the new region. The Surabaya dialect is carried away by the students, and many vocabularies of the Tulungagung dialect speeches shift with the Surabaya dialect. This research will discover the dialect shift phenomenon experienced by college students from Tulungagung who study in Surabaya.

There are some previous studies relating to the topic. First, Andika et al. (2018) examined the Morphological phenomenon of Javanese Language Interference in the Banyumas dialect in Purwokerto. The result shows that the Banyumas dialect led to a declining ability of the community to use it. The Javanese language in Banyumas dialect interfered with other languages, such as Bahasa Indonesia. Thus, language shifts and changes appear [4]. Second, Terry et al. discussed a style-shifting between African American English (AAE) to Mainstream American English (MAE) for African American students through second grade. The findings support dialect shifting–reading accomplishment theory, indicating that metalinguistic and executive functioning are essential factors in linguistic adaptation [3]. Third, Zulaeha et al. (2020) studied phonological and lexical shifts inside the Javanese dialect in the Purwodadi District Grobogan Regency from a diachronic studies perspective which has changed over time, leading to a worse shift in development [5].

In this research, the topic of regional dialect shift happens because of the migration phenomenon of college students. The research questions are (1) What are different regional expressions used in dialect shifts between Tulungagung and Surabaya? (2) What factors cause college students from Tulungagung to experience a dialect shift in Surabaya? (3) How is the dialect shift applied by college students from Tulungagung in Surabaya? (4) What are the impacts of applying dialect shift by college students from Tulungagung in Surabaya? This study aims to examine the phenomenon of dialect shift experienced by college students from Tulungagung who study in Surabaya. The Tulungagung dialect is shifted with the Surabaya dialect by college students because they are newcomers to the new environment.

#### 1.1 Dialect

Dialect is the systematic variations in how people speak the same language that attempts to have mutually comprehensible linguistic forms that differ systematically [6]. A dialect is not a degraded or lower form of a language because a language is made up of many variants of dialects. Dialect is spoken in isolated parts of the world without written form [7]. There are two types of dialect, namely geographical dialect continuum (regional

dialect) and social dialect continuum (social dialect) [7]. Regional dialect refers to various linguistic differences that develop in a particular geographic region, and then a language spoken has its character and version [5]. Social dialect is a collection of styles or levels with its vocabulary, grammatical structure, and pronunciation patterns shared through many forms by multiple stylistic levels [8]. Sometimes, the social dialect used by well-educated people worldwide is commonly taught in schools.

## 1.2 Regional Variation and Identity

Regional variation refers to a phenomenon in the study of language variation; the local dialect must be explained within the social and ideological environment in which it is employed. We can expect different social groups and intentions to be foregrounded in other communities because they will have different ideologies to interpret the link between language variation or language features and social groups, thus, different justifications for their language behavior. As a result, various societies may justify the same language or language features differently [9].

## 1.3 Language Shift

Language shift is a phenomenon using the minority language of the speaker's mother tongue that will be displayed by the language used in broader society [7]. There is a circumstance faced with a decrease in the use of the language in a specific domain [10]. The most significant example for the speaker who experiences a language shift is migrant people as newcomers in a different land. Many social factors of language shift take place. It almost always shifts towards the language of the dominant, powerful group. This is because a dominant group has little incentive to adopt the language of a minority [7].

#### 1.3.1 Factor Contributing to Language Shift

Some factors are causing the community to shift from using one language to using another [8]. They are social, economic and political factors. The community changes its language by recognizing the importance of learning a second language to be classified as bilingual. Regarding the financial aspect, language speakers need to find work; hence they must acquire another language. Besides, the community has no motive to preserve their ethnic or mother tongue since they believe it provides no benefits, although their speech may be lost in the next generation. Demographic factors play a role in determining how quickly languages shift in rural communities. It is partly because rural populations are separated from political power centres for longer periods, and they can meet most of their social demands in the ethnic or minority language. The language shift will slowly disappear in areas where the minority language is enormously respected. In reality, most of the attitudes support efforts to use the majority language in various fields, causing minority people to switch to the language of the majority group. In this scenario, the international language cannot contribute to a good attitude.

## 1.3.2 The Application of Language Shift

Language shift begins when minority people come to broader society, with different languages spoken, as immigrants or newcomers. Then, the migrant people may watch the new language on TV and hear it said in the new environment. Sometimes, they must communicate using the existing language because it is their mode of communication, as the minority must adapt to the majority. Immigrants who appear and sound 'different' are frequently viewed as threatening by members of the majority group. Migrants from more expansive environments frequently need to switch to the local language in the larger society. It was often considered that speaking strongly in the local language is a sign of effective integration and that this meant leaving the minority language to have a lot [8].

### 1.3.3 The Impact of Language Shift

Language shift allows the adoption of a new language to expand, as well as the endangerment or extinction of the old language, whose speakers are shifting their allegiance [11]. As a result, some language spread and endangerment interpretations apply to language change. Language shift can result from direct policy, but it can be an unplanned or frequently unexplained phenomenon. Moreover, the phenomenon of language shift might have worse impacts on the preservation of the language itself [8]. When the minority replaces their language in the broader society to shift with the majority, their language will experience, in the worst cases that experience language death and language loss. Language death is the process of a language disappearing gradually due to linguistic shift because the majority language in one domain takes over the functions of the mother language. Language death is one in which no native speakers exist [12]. Language loss refers to when a language is still spoken and the richness and diversity of structural aspects of the language are decreasing. Thus, the native speakers' pronunciation is becoming more superficial, their grammatical patterns are becoming less complicated, as well as their vocabulary in the language is shrinking [8].

## 2 Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach to examine the regional dialect shift experienced by college students from Tulungagung who study in Surabaya. Questionnaires and documentation become the instruments. The questionnaire was used to get respondents' answers by google-form, which is shared on Instagram and WhatsApp stories to get the respondents. In addition, the documentation was used to show students experiences of dialect shifts by WhatsApp conversations, which were taken from the students' chat. The total of respondents is 20 students from Tulungagung with the various background of universities in Surabaya, such as Universitas Negeri Surabaya (UNESA), Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR), Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya (UINSA), Universitas Pembangunan Negeri Veteran Jawa Timur (UPN), Universitas Ciputra (UC), Institut Teknologi Sepuluh November (ITS), and Politeknik Elektronika Negeri Surabaya (PENS).

#### 3 Results and Discussion

The first research result shows the different regional dialects between Tulungagung and Surabaya. The result shows that all of the respondents (100%) experienced dialect shift, the data was gained to get the Surabaya dialect, commonly found and used by college students from Tulungagung to be compared with the Tulungagung dialect to notice the difference (Table 1).

In addition, the documentation technique was revealed to get more depth data on the dialect shift experienced by the college students from Tulungagung. The WhatsApp conversation through chat was used. The utterances were taken from 2 of the respondents from Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya (UINSA).

The data shows that college students mix their dialects while having a conversation. The dialect shifts show that it does not change all the previous dialects. Instead, they use their original dialect in certain conditions and frequently shift their actual words into the new terminology, the Surabaya dialect (Table 2).

For the second research question, the data gained reveal the factors causing Tulungagung college students experienced dialect shifts. The first factor is that they must adapt to the new environment, Surabaya, so they have to shift their original dialect. The second factor is that they commonly hear and pay attention to local people while they talk in their dialect. So, automatically they follow the dialect and experience dialect shift. The last factor is that they need to show off their identity as Surabaya students because their characteristics and identity can be seen in how they use their dialect.

Tulungagung Dialect	Surabaya Dialect	English Translation	
Piye	<i>Yaapa</i>	How is it	
Bocah (Cah)	Arek (Rek)	Guys (Guy)	
Hooh ye?	Iyo ta?	It is, right?	
Ndakoleh	Gaoleh	No, you can't	
Ndakpopo	Gapopo/Gaopo	No problem	
Ndak	Ogak/gak	No	
Nyapo	Opo'o/lapo	Why/what happen?/What are you doing?	
Udung	Gurung	Not yet	
Arep	Katene/kate	Will/shall	
Embuh	Babah	I don't know	
Maeng	Маи	Just now	
Opo lo	Opo se	What's up?	
Ndak iso	Gaiso	Cannot	
Sesok	Mene	Tomorrow	
Enek	Onok	Available	

**Table 1.** Different regional expression

Utterances	The Surabaya dialect	Dialect shift
"Tak gae stalker biasane. Gae kui gaoleh ye?" (Usually, I use it to stalk another account. But can't I use it?)	Gaoleh	"Gaoleh" is used in the Surabaya dialect; meanwhile, the Tulungagung dialect uses "ndakoleh" to clarify whether they can do it or not
"Laa lapo lo dadak tf tff?" "Why did you transfer it?"	Lapo	"Lapo" is used in the Surabaya dialect; meanwhile, the Tulungagung dialect uses "nyapo" to ask about what happened.
"Iki tak chat gurung dibales"  "I have texted her, but she has not replied yet."	Gurung	"Gurung" is used in the Surabaya dialect; meanwhile, the Tulungagung dialect uses "udung" to ask whether the work has or has not been done.

**Table 2.** The sample of conversation

For the third research question, the data was gained to show the process of dialect shifting experienced and applied by Tulungagung college students in Surabaya. First, they come to the new environment, Surabaya, so they must adapt to the new region, including their communication. Then, as newcomers, they unconsciously follow the local people's behavior because they frequently interact with or keep an eye on their society. As a result, the students have their reasons or set their way how to make them feel comfortable in their new community.

For the last research question, the data gained to show the impact of applying dialect shift by Tulungagung college students in Surabaya. The result indicates that the dialect shift phenomenon had positive and negative comments. The positive answer means that college students support the use of dialect shifts because they may give benefits. The phenomenon of dialect shift can expand the use of the Surabaya dialect, including learning new terminology. In contrast, the negative answer means that college students may not support the phenomenon of dialect shift because they may lose their local identity.

#### 3.1 The Different Dialect Between Surabaya and Tulungagung

Regional dialect refers to various linguistic differences that develop in a particular geographic region and that a language spoken has its character and version [5]. Thus, the different areas between Tulungagung and Surabaya cause the differences and variations in dialects used. It means that although Surabaya and Tulungagung are located in different areas, the language used is the same: Javanese. However, these regions differ in how they use Javanese by maintaining their local dialect. The Surabaya dialect is well-known for its characteristics belonging to the *ngoko* or rough Javanese language, whereas Tulungagung is smoother and closer to the refined Central Javanese dialect.

The students from Tulungagung experience dialect shifts even though their original dialect is entirely different from the new dialect. People from various regions who are still connected can understand each other when they talk because of the chain of linguistic competence between their dialects [7]. This is under the dialect shift experienced by Tulungagung college students as newcomers in Surabaya. Because the Surabaya people, with their majority dialect, dominate the new society, the students may replace their original dialect with the majority dialect, which is the Surabaya dialect. A dialect shift happens when the minority language of the speaker's mother tongue is displayed by the language used in broader society [8]. Table 2 shows the sample conversation from the students who are considered as experiencing dialect shifts. From the table, it can be concluded that the students did not entirely shift their original dialect into the new dialect. Instead, they mixed their vocabularies between their Tulungagung and Surabaya dialects. A change in dialect use is often referred to as dialect-shifting, style-shifting, or code-switching [13]. Therefore, they are defined as experiencing regional dialect shifts because they adopt some terms of a new dialect in their original dialect by using the vocabulary from the adopted dialect. Some of the Tulungagung dialects were substituted with the phraseology of the Surabaya dialect in one utterance production.

## 3.2 Factor Causing College Students to Experience a Dialect Shift in Surabaya

The questionnaire results showed that the factors affecting the Tulungagung college students' dialect to shift from their original dialect into the Surabaya dialect were in line with the theory of Holmes (2013) under the language shift topic. Holmes mentioned that the factors causing people to shift their language include five significant factors. However, this study only found two factors that cause Tulungagung college students to experience dialect shifts, ranging from most respondents' answers which are the social factors and attitude as well as values factors.

The first factor causing the Tulungagung college students to experience dialect shifts was the social factors. The students left their hometown, Tulungagung, to come to Surabaya metropolitan city to find a high education at a university. As newcomers, they had to adapt to the new environment; thus, they shifted their original dialect, the Tulungagung dialect, with the latest lingo, the Surabaya dialect. They commonly hear and pay attention to local people while talking in their dialect. So, automatically, the students follow the local dialect. Furthermore, they avoided using their original dialect to prevent misunderstanding when communicating with people around them. Hence, they tried to use the dialect mainly used in society.

The second factor appearing in this study was attitude and values. The Tulungagung college students were the minorities and newcomers in Surabaya. Minority people tend to follow the more prominent language when perceived as more significant [8]. Therefore, the Tulungagung college students quickly shifted their dialect because they knew that the Surabaya dialect was more meaningful to be used than their original dialect. A particular pride must be shown, an identity that they are college students in Surabaya. Thus, the students pridefully shifted their dialect as they lived in Surabaya. Holmes also stated that most attitudes support efforts to use the majority language in various fields, causing minority people to switch to the language of the majority group. Therefore, the

Tulungagung college students change their original to the Surabaya dialect because people who use the Surabaya dialect claim that they have such pride as part of a metropolitan city.

## 3.3 The Process of Dialect Shift Applied by the College Students

Dialect shift happens when minority people come to a broader society [8]. It was in line with the result of this research. The Tulungagung college students left their town to go to Surabaya as immigrants to get higher education at university. As newcomers, they were claimed to be a minority because they had just arrived in a new environment with different regional dialects spoken in the Javanese language. The respondents stated that the first time they came to Surabaya, they used the Tulungagung dialect to communicate with their friends. Unfortunately, their friends could not understand what they spoke because most Surabaya people dominated them. Then, the migrant people may watch the new language and hear it said in the new environment; even they must communicate using the language that exists because it is their mode of communication as the minority has to adapt to the majority one [8]. It reflected the Tulungagung college students as newcomers arrived in Surabaya; they frequently interacted or kept an eye on their society. Then, they unconsciously follow the local people's behavior, using the same dialect as the Surabaya people. They are a minority, and most people speak in the Surabaya dialect, so they will shift their dialect because they do not have many friends from Tulungagung to communicate using the Tulungagung dialect. Because of their interaction with society, friends, and other local people, they reflexively use the same dialect to communicate with the majority.

After the newcomers adopted the dialect spoken by the majority, it was often considered that speaking strongly in the local language was a sign of effective integration and that this meant leaving the minority language that they had a lot [8]. The dialect shift of Tulungagung students made them feel comfortable in their new society. They have shifted their dialect, so their friends would understand easily while communicating. On the other hand, the students mentioned that they were flexible. They also used the 'Suroboyoan' dialect, but not to compare the Tulungagung and Surabaya dialects because a dialect has its characteristics and uniqueness. Thus, the process of dialect shift was experiencing border to adapt to the majority environment without having a judgment. Lastly, they were comfortable applying dialect shifts in conversation that the memory of a new dialect had processed in their brain.

## 3.4 The Impacts of Applying Dialect Shift

The impact of applying dialect shift by college students from Tulungagung who study in Surabaya was in line with Ostler's theory (2012) since he mentioned that language shift might have positive and negative sides. An additional idea by Holmes (2013) focuses on the negative impact of language shift. Language shift allows the adoption of a new language to expand [13]. It dealt with the most answers from the respondents that they looked "dialect shift" phenomenon gives a positive impact which may provide them with a benefit to learning a new dialect. In the beginning, the Tulungagung college students had their native dialect, the Tulungagung dialect. After becoming newcomers, they will

discover a unique dialect and use it in daily conversation. In addition, the respondents also agree that the "regional dialect shift" phenomenon could expand the use of the Surabaya dialect because Surabaya is the principal city in East Java which plays an essential role in the surrounding area as the metropolitan city. Thus, the more the Surabaya dialect is used, the more well-known it is as a regional dialect in the Javanese language.

On the other hand, language shift allows the speakers as well as the endangerment or extinction of the old language, whose speakers are shifting their allegiance [11]. When the minority replaces their language in the broader society to shift with the majority one, their language will experience, in the worst cases, that experience language death and language loss [8]. The Tulungagung dialect will increasingly lose its regeneration by sharing a dialect shift, leading to language endangerment. All the native dialect shifted their original dialect into the new one, so year by year, it caused a decreasing number of its native speakers. If it happens continuously, the Tulungagung dialect will experience dialect death because more natives do not use their original dialect again. Moreover, the Tulungagung dialect has decreased its dialect quality because its native speakers have already decreased, until no person pays attention to the rules of its dialect correctly that considered as dialect loss.

#### 4 Conclusion

The dialect of Tulungagung students did not shift from its original dialect but shifted by applying some of the Surabaya dialects in one utterance production. Some factors caused the students to experience dialect shift: social, attitude, and values towards the dialect. Furthermore, the process of dialect shift experienced by Tulungagung college students started from their identity as newcomers that they had to adapt to the new society. The dialect shift phenomenon contributed to a positive impact that it helps students to learn a new dialect, as well as a negative impact that the Tulungagung dialect will experience dialect death and dialect loss. This study has is limited in investigating the phenomenon of Tulungagung and Surabaya. However, this study may help the researchers to discuss more regional dialect shift. Thus, further studies may explore regional dialect shifts within the different regional dialects to see if the results show the same patterns.

**Authors' Contributions.** Intan Marta Puspitasari conceived and planned the research. Intan Marta Puspitasari and Slamet Setiawan carried out the the research. Intan Marta Puspitasari, Slamet Setiawan, and Suhartono contributed to the interpretation of the results. Intan Marta Puspitasari took the lead in writing the manuscript. All authors provided critical feedback and helped shape the research, analysis and manuscript.

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