

# **A STUDY OF MALANGAN JAVANESE ACCENTS TOWARDS STUDENTS' ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION: STUDENTS AND TEACHERS' PERCEPTION**

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**Abstract:** The way people pronounce English sometimes is influenced by how they pronounce their mother tongue. Their English will sound accented and affect the phonological system of English. This study aimed to describe the influences of Malangan Javanese accent in students' English-speaking skill in terms of pronunciation. The descriptive qualitative approach was used in this study. The population in this study is EFL students of 2018 academic year as well as the lecturers. The researcher interviewed some students and lecturers, then analyze the influence of Malangan Javanese accent toward their English-speaking pronunciation. The researcher conducted this research to analyzed the problem. To collect the data, this research used Triangulation data as the instrument which includes observation, interview, and documentation. The findings of this study indicated that environment was a contributing factor and it influenced the way how the students speak in English. It is because their natural culture, habit, and behaviour of a society. They live with friends, neighborhood, and family who speaks Malangan Javanese. The responses of the interview in this research shows that how the environment takes over the way a person speaks. In the previous research, it was in line with Senowarsito and Sukma (2019) stated that in <the> [ndə], and <then> [nden], the participants loved to add alveolar nasal /n/ to the initial voiced alveolar plosive consonant /d/. It was caused by the Javanese habitual of adding /n/ to 'demok' [ndə.mək] or 'delok' [ndə.lək]. The result of reading aloud of short story showed that students mispronounced consonants five vowel; / ð/, /d/, /b/, /dʒ/, /g/.

**Key words:** Influence, Malangan Javanese accent, pronunciation

## **INTRODUCTION**

According to Trudgill in McGee (2009: 168), accents specifically refer to the speaker's pronunciation. There is some importance of accents in language learning, for example when a teacher is teaching English in class with a strange accent, there is a big chance the students do not understand what the teacher means. Same as when the students speak in class with some strange accent, the other students or even the teacher

have the difficulties to know what they mean. According to Rose (2017) A language learner needs to actually meet various accents and become sensitive to the variations in pronunciation in order to understand others and communicate clearly. Accent refers to the way a speaker makes a variety of utterance sounds.

Accent variations are owned by everyone, even if they are unknowingly tied to each person, and when speaking in public, they appear to say the word in local language or national language. People generally do not think it is matter to speak English with a local accent, but for some English students in Malang it is different. They were sometimes shy to speak English because they feel weird with their accents. Some of them also have problems pronouncing English words.

Geographical differences and traditions interact with society in the use of Javanese accents specifically Malangan Javanese. Like a speaker from the Javanese tribe of East Java, with a variety of community-engaged accents, it is routinely influenced by the Javanese language used. Specifically, like Malangan Javanese, there are very complex level systems. It makes Malangan Javanese accent society different from their high lows. Even though for some other Javanese people, Malangan Javanese is quite rude or not as polite as the other Javanese Language, there are still some stages that are same as the other Javanese language. And for the accent, it's usually more medok or louder than the other Javanese speaker. Even the pronunciation of words that is sometimes distorted due to the accents spoken since childhood. Research has shown that most students speak English with Malangan Javanese accents, even when speaking in class. As a result, they found it sometimes difficult to pronounce English words. As we know, the Javanese especially Malangan Javanese accents and are known as heavy accents. Due to the fact, the researcher is interested in studying how Malang students can speak English. Because when people of this tribe speak in different languages, they sometimes use their local accents.

On top of that from the research problems discovered during preliminary research, the researcher wants to know about the influence of Malangan Javanese accent in students English speaking skill in terms of pronunciations. Therefore, the research problem in this study are: (1) "In what extent Malangan Javanese accent influences the students' English-speaking pronunciation?". Based on the research problem, the purpose

of this study are: (1) The extent to which Malangan Javanese accent influences students English speaking pronunciation.

## **METHOD**

The researcher used a qualitative approach. In line with Sugiyono (2016), he stated that a qualitative approach focuses on the process of investigating and understanding the meaning of individual or group behavior, and it is also called naturalistic research because they are conducted in the natural environment. In this study, the researcher used purposive sample. Purposive sampling is used to capture purpose-based data rather than layer, area, or random. Because the researcher was interested in the phenomenon of Malangan Javanese accents, therefore a case study design is chosen by the researcher as the research design. The subjects were selected based on where the students come from, in this case the researcher selected students that were born and raised in Malang.

The participants of this research is the EFL students of 2018 academic year as well as the lecturers. The researcher interviewed some students and lecturers, then analyze the influence of Malangan Javanese accent toward their English-speaking pronunciation. And then the researcher explains the research procedures starting from pre-observation to observation. Pre-observation was doing the observation to find the appropriate subjects who specifically have a Malangan Javanese accent, as well as the lecturer. After doing pre-observation by selecting EFL students of 2018 academic year as well as the lecturers in University of Islam Malang, the researcher chose the participants based on two conditions, (1) They grew up in Malang, and (2) Use Malangan Javanese language for daily communication. Two students were invited as participants and asked for their perception on how Malangan Javanese accents influence their English-speaking performance whereas two lecturers were interviewed about how Malangan Javanese accent affects their students speaking output. There are four interview questions for students and three interview questions for lecturers which are adapted from Yulianti (2019). Then, observation by focusing on the activity of the

chosen students for the interview, the next step is to interview the lecturer about what they think about the influence of Javanese accent towards students' English speaking.

The researcher used to collect the data through interviews with students and lecturers. After that, the researcher used data reduction strategy to reduce the amount of data that the researcher has collected from both observation and interviewing activities.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the researcher found that students' English consonant pronunciation is not a huge problem. Most Javanese students can pronounce English correctly, although there are certain issues, such as the sound /p/ being substituted for the sound /f/, the sound / ð / being substituted for the sound /d/, and five consonants being influenced by Javanese accent, including : /b/, /d/, /g/, /dʒ/, and / ð / (Purwaningsih & Nurdiawati, 2020:08). Before interview, the researcher had given the students a short story to read, which the researcher would then analyze to discover certain consonants that sounded Malangan Javanese. The researcher found some consonants influenced by Javanese accent, several error pronunciations are described in the table following:

**Table 4.1 The Differences between English and Javanese Pronunciation**

| Consonants | Examples                                                             | English                          | Javanese                         |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| / ð /      | <u>T</u> here, <u>T</u> hen, <u>T</u> hat, <u>T</u> he, <u>T</u> hem | [ðer], [ðen], [ðæt], [ðə], [ðəm] | [der], [den], [ded], [de], [dem] |
| /d/        | Im <u>m</u> ediately                                                 | [ɪ'mi:diətli]                    | [imidiedli]                      |
| /b/        | A <u>b</u> out                                                       | [ə'baʊt]                         | [ebót]                           |
| /dʒ/       | En <u>j</u> oying                                                    | [ɪn'dʒɔɪ]                        | [enjoying]                       |
| /g/        | <u>G</u> reenery                                                     | ['gri:nər.i]                     | [grineri]                        |

It can be seen in the table 4.1, the students had five consonants which are influenced by Malangan Javanese accent, the consonants are / ð /, /d/, /b/, /dʒ/, /g/. This causes a variety of pronunciation problems on their tongue. For example, when the students pronounce “*Then*”, they pronounce with “*Den*” with a strong accent.

Based on the data collected, the researcher realized that not every Javanese student spoke English with a Javanese accent. Some of them could speak without bringing their Javanese accent, but others still did because the Javanese language had absorbed on their tongue. After the researcher analyzed about their pronunciation, the researcher did an interview with fourth question to know more about the extent to which they are influenced by Malangan Javanese language.

#### **A. The Result of the Interview of Student**

The researcher wants to learn more about a strong Malangan Javanese accent which influences the students' English-speaking.

- **“What do you think the main characteristics of Malangan Javanese?”** and the responses for student 1 and 2:

*“The main characteristic of Malangan Javanese is having more suppression on sounds [d], [g], and [dʒ]. For instance, in Malangan we pronounce the word “kidding” sounds like /ˈkɪddɪŋ/ with more suppression on [d]. Besides Malangan, they just pronounce it with single [d], /ˈkɪdɪŋ/. Then the additional sound [a] at the end of open-ended questions, such as *wes mangan a?* (Have you eaten a?) or *kon gak rene a?* (Don't you come here a?) etc.”*

It can be concluded the responses from the student 1 and 2 that they had errors of pronunciation with the tongue influence by Malangan Javanese accent and affected by the affix -a that are the most common ways in speaking Malangan Javanese accent.

- **“How does Malangan Javanese affect the way you speak English?”**  
**(Please explain in detail)?**, here are the responses from student 1 and 2:

*“Yes, it is. I try to speak English smoothly without having more suppression as Malangan accent had. At first, it's quite hard to change the dialect because it is my habit since I originally was born. But sometimes unconsciously I do it when speaking in English, for example the word middle, the word middle is pronounced like *thidel*" but sometimes I pronounce it like *Middel*."*

From student 1, the researcher found the common habit of the person who lives with the Malangan Javanese language is affected by the strong pronounce of the /d/ sound. That is heavy sound with a breathy vowel. The examples are shown in order such as: *middle* [midel], *standard* [standad], etc.

- **“Can you mention some of the words that you have difficulties in saying because you have Malangan Javanese Accents?”**, the responses from student 1 and 2 has so many various words, there are:

*“Weird, eight, separate, accommodate, entrepreneur, pneumonia, paradigm, standard, approve, middle, gone, judge, doing, does, difficulties”.*

The researcher found that she was confused with diphthong or consonant and the researcher describe how to pronounce in Javanese while speaking English.

**Table 4.2 The Pronunciation of Javanese**

| IPA Phonetics Symbol | Examples                                   | English                            | Javanese                           |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| /eɪ/                 | <u>e</u> ight                              | [ eɪt ]                            | [ egg ]                            |
| /aɪ/                 | we <u>i</u> rd                             | [ wɪrd ]                           | [ wid ]                            |
| /d/                  | accomo <u>d</u> ate, standa <u>r</u> d     | [ ə'kɒm.ə.deɪt ]<br>[ 'stændərd ]  | [ akomodet ]<br>[ standad ]        |
| /dʒ/                 | <u>J</u> udge, <u>d</u> oing, <u>d</u> oes | [ dʒʌdʒ ], [ 'duː.ɪŋ ],<br>[ dəz ] | [ jaj ]<br>, [ duing ],<br>[ das ] |
| /f/                  | diff <u>ic</u> ulties                      | [ 'dɪfɪkəltɪz ]                    | [ difikultis ]                     |

And from student 2:

*“Tragedy, queue, phenomenon, mischievous”*

The researcher found that he had some difficulties in diphtong with the words that having two sounds, such as “phenomenon”, it pronounces /fɪ'nɒm ə nə/, and the other is “mischievous”, it pronounces \mis-'chē-vē-əs\.

## B. The Result of the Interview of Lecturer

- **“What do you think about Malangan Javanese Accents?”**, and here are the responses:

*“I think Malangan Javanese accent is very unique and has very special intonation such as additional sounds [a] and [i] at the end of sentences. For example: iyo a? (are you sure a?). I think it is special thing from Malangan Javanese accent.”*

It could be conclude that the lecturers have the same opinion that Malangan Javanese accent has an unique accent.

- **“Do you think Malangan Javanese accent affecting students' English speaking and pronunciation? Why?”**, the lecturer 1 said that for all

Javanese students, they have more suppression with heavy breath on sound [d] and [g] when they try to speak in English.

- **“Do you think social environment or students’ surroundings really affect students’ accent and the way they pronounce English?”**, the lecturer 1 and 2 have the same response that the environment is really affected the way people speak and influence the students’ performance in class. The student just use English only in class, but when they were outside the class, they always use Indonesian.

Here are the response from Lecturer 1:

*“I think our accent and intonation are really influenced by environment especially our first language mother tongue really influenced our pronunciation.”*

Meanwhile, the lecturer 2 said:

*“Of course, language is much influenced by surrounding like an infant who learn to speak and they are much influence by their parent’s native language. This is also dealing with the students where they do not have any chance to speak English with their friends because they always use Indonesian rather than English. I assume that they are only use English when they are asked to present in front of the class.”*

The findings of this study is the environment, it is one of the problems can affect how the students speak. It is because their natural culture, habit, and behaviour of a society. They live with friends, neighborhood, and family who speaks Malangan Javanese. The responses of the interview in this research shows that how the

environment takes over the way a person speaks. In the previous research, it was in line with Senowarsito and Sukma (2019) stated that in <the> [ndə], and <then> [nden], the participants loved to add alveolar nasal /n/ to the initial voiced alveolar plosive consonant /d/. It was caused by the Javanese habitual of adding /n/ to 'demok' [ndə.mək] or 'delok' [ndə.lək]. The result of reading aloud of short story showed that students mispronounced consonants five vowel; /ə/, /d/, /b/, /dʒ/, /g/ (See table 4.1).

On the fact that the participants have difficulties when speak Malangan Javanese accent. They have to pronouncing the words with heavy accents. In line with Ayesa and Miva (2016) stated that Javanese accent has significantly longer letup /d/ utterance duration than non-Javanese native speakers. The present results also support Purwaningsih & Nurdiawati (2020:08) that Javanese students produce /b/, /d/, /g/, /dʒ/, and /ð/ with a bilabial noncontinuous sound, while it should be pronounced with a bilabial plosive. Another sight of Malangan Javanese language is stated by Yanuar and Kadarisman (2019: 41) that Malangan Javanese speakers do personalizing initial stops in several toponyms.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The present research investigates the perceptions of students and lecturers on how Malangan Javanese accent toward students' English pronunciation. Through qualitative study, this research invited two students and two lecturers of English Language Education in University of Islam Malang to explore deeply on four participants' perceptions about this topic. After the data analyzed, it is concluded that there are different perceptions among four participants.

Student 1 believed that her Malangan Javanese accent affects her English pronunciation particularly [d] sounds. She explains that Malangan Javanese accents has characteristic on those three sounds. In similar with Student 1, Lecturer 1 revealed that her Javanese students, not specifically Malangan Javanese speakers, speak more suppression on [d] sound. Yet the influence of her students' mother accent does not significantly affect her students' English-speaking performance.

In contrary, Student 2 admits that his Malangan Javanese accent does not influence his English pronunciation as he revealed that Malangan Javanese accent lies in the additional sounds of [a] sound at the end of open-ended questions. So does Lecturer 2, he states that he never heard his students speaking English with Malangan Javanese accent. It might because his students could perform English- speaking smoothly, even though they have Malangan Javanese language as their mother tongue.

The different perceptions among invited participants could occur as each participant has his/her own perception on Malangan Javanese characteristics. Student 1 reveals that Malangan Javanese accent lies in having more suppressions on sounds [d], [g], and [dʒ]. Student 2 opines that adding sound [a] at the end of open-ended questions is Malangan Javanese uniqueness. While Lecturer 1 stated Malangan Javanese has additional [a] and [i] at the the end of sentences. Those three views of Malangan Javanese characteristics might result the various perceptions.

The suggestion for the lecturer and teacher, based on present findings, it is suggested to English lecturer and teacher to be more sensitive on how Malangan Javanese accent affects and influences student's English pronunciation. It is expected

that the teacher and lecture further can provide some methods to help their students to be more fluently in English-speaking.

For English students, particularly having Malangan Javanese accent, it is suggested to be more sensitive to how their mother accent affects their English pronunciation.

For future researcher, as this research has limitation on small parts of Malangan Javanese speakers, further it is expected to the future researcher to analyze more about the effect of the way students speak Malangan Javanese. Future studies may investigate into the differences between Malangan Javanese and English accents in terms of speech characteristics. Speech characteristics can be roughly described by a few major features, such as speech flow, loudness, intonation and intensity of overtones. Speech flow refers to the frequency and length of speaking pauses as well as the rate at which utterances are generated. When considered as a time-varying quantity, loudness also represents the dynamic expressiveness of the speaker and the amount of energy used in the articulation of the speaker's words. The technique of producing utterances with rise and fall in tone, or with tonal shifts in either direction of the speaker's mean vocal pitch, is known as intonation. Overtones, which are the higher tones that obliquely follow a fundamental tone, give sounds their tonal variety. It may also help English-speaking students gain a better grasp of the impact of their mother tongue (Malangan Javanese).

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