

## The Use of Bilingualism in Society and The Factors That Influence

Nurul Fitri Azzahra<sup>1</sup>, Webi Herlin<sup>2</sup>, Lusiana Suciati Dewi<sup>3</sup>

English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Subang University<sup>1,2</sup>  
[nurulfitriazzahra6@gmail.com](mailto:nurulfitriazzahra6@gmail.com), [webihr193@gmail.com](mailto:webihr193@gmail.com)

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### ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by people who rarely use monolingual languages (1 language). But in everyday life, there are still many people who use two languages (bilingual). At least people who use regional languages and Indonesian. This research was conducted on Subang University students. The results showed that the linguistic situation of Javanese and Sundanese speaking students at the University of Subang was characterized by language contact which made Javanese and Sundanese speaking students at the University of Subang a bilingual society. This study uses a sociolinguistic approach and is a field research. The Sociolinguistic Approach is a methodology that focuses on communication developed using qualitative data. Words become data. The results of this study indicate that the use of bilingualism in society can make it easier for them to adapt to new environments, as well as being a language link or translator for people who have difficulty communicating.

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### Corresponding Author:

Nurul Fitri Azzahra, Webi Herlin, Lusiana Suciati Dewi

English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Subang University

Email: [nurulfitriazzahra6@gmail.com](mailto:nurulfitriazzahra6@gmail.com), [webihr193@gmail.com](mailto:webihr193@gmail.com)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

All children are born with the capacity to acquire the language that they are exposed to. The children do not need to put a special effort to learn the structure and vocabulary of their mother tongue (Haznedar, 2021) Bilingualism has a long history as people have a need to communicate with people from different languages and culture. Bilingualism has existed as a phenomenon in every civilization. The individual becomes bilingual for various reasons such as immigration, education, extended family, temporary settlement. These differences are linked to differences in contexts, social class, educational opportunities and expectations, access to support systems, opportunities to gain experience, and home language environment. Bilingualism brings along a psychosocial dimension that deeply affects children (Bialystok, 2006, p. 183).

There are several factors that influence the bilingual phenomenon or a person's dual language skills. Here are some factors that significantly influence a person's bilingual ability:

1. Family Environment: The influence of the family environment is very important in influencing a person's bilingual abilities. If family members use more than one

language in daily communication, the individual is likely to be exposed to these languages since childhood and has the opportunity to practice and develop bilingual skills.

2. Education: The educational factor also plays an important role in bilingual ability. Individuals who receive formal education in a bilingual environment or in schools that use more than one language as the language of instruction will have greater opportunities to develop their bilingual skills.
3. Presence of a Bilingual Community: If a person lives in a community where more than one language is widely spoken, they will have more opportunities to practice and use both languages in everyday situations. The existence of a bilingual community can affect a person's ability to speak multiple languages.
4. Age: Age also plays a role in influencing one's bilingual ability. Children's ability to learn new languages tends to be faster than adults. Therefore, individuals who are exposed to two languages at an early age are more likely to develop better bilingual skills than individuals who are exposed to two languages in adulthood.
5. Motivation and Cultural Awareness: Individual motivation to learn and use more than one language and awareness of its benefits also influence bilingual ability. Individuals who have high motivation to communicate with various cultural groups and are aware of the important value of being bilingual tend to be more enthusiastic about developing their abilities.
6. Availability of Resources: Availability of resources, such as books, study materials, courses, and programs that support language learning, also plays a role in influencing a person's bilingual ability. If someone has good access to these resources, they can more easily develop their skills in both languages.

It is important to remember that each individual has a unique bilingual experience, and the above factors can interact with each other and affect their bilingual ability.

This research is expected to produce dual language skills that make it possible to communicate with people who speak different languages. We can interact with more people, understand their culture, and form better relationships. This can expand social networks and enable cross-cultural collaboration.

## **2. METHOD**

This study uses a sociolinguistic approach and is a field research. The Sociolinguistic Approach is a methodology that focuses on communication developed using qualitative data. Words that become data.

This research is realized in fragments of Javanese and Sundanese speech among Subang university students. The observation method in this study used two advanced techniques, namely the skill engagement listening technique and the speaking engagement free listening technique. In the engineering see involved caucus, the researcher participates in listening and engaging in conversation. Whereas in the advanced free-involvement technique, the researcher is not involved or does not participate in a speech event, but only listens to the utterances of a speech event. In this study, the researcher only used listening techniques without involving conversation but the researcher tried to find out the intent of what the speaker said.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Results Researchers conducted a field study to find information and data that had been prepared beforehand. In obtaining information, researchers asked questions through individual interviews with several Subang University students as a sample of this study.

From the first question, the informants have been bilingual since they were small because they have to adapt to their surroundings, it's just that they only realized that they are bilingual when they studied this knowledge of bilingualism. They are aware that so far from their subconscious they have been using several languages such as Javanese, Sundanese and Indonesian in their daily conversations.

Environmental factors as answers to further questions for them greatly affect their language skills. If their mother tongues are Sundanese and Javanese, then at school they inevitably have to adapt to the National Language, namely Indonesian. That is one of the motivating factors for those who are bilingual.

The influence of the application of bilingualism on child development produces several options including, namely:

*"In my opinion, children's brains are more adaptive, there is a lot of hype "children learn languages easily" especially in terms of adding vocabulary. it makes children have more vocabulary and it's good if done from a young age." – sources 1 and 3*

*"It seems that it would be great if the child was introduced in the right way, because nowadays there are so many examples of bilingualism in early childhood." – sources 2*

The final question about the benefits of being bilingual, one of the informants said,

*"It is difficult to make a strong statement about this. I find this useful for a lot of things, especially when it comes to increasing vocabulary, but it's probably just a feel. But it's going to expose you to a lot of new material from a different culture, that might make you reconsider a lot of things, and that's a great thing about it."*

Some of them argue that being bilingual makes it easy to adapt the language to their new environment. Apart from that, he can also become a translator between two new people who have difficulty communicating with several languages he masters.

Based on the results of this study, breaking the myth about introducing two languages from a young age can hinder children's speaking abilities. Being bilingual also has advantages for yourself and others. so it is good to be applied to children from a young age to be applied in everyday life.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The conclusion from the results of this study is that the environment is one of the supporting factors that influence the occurrence of the bilingual phenomenon. This research also shows that the use of bilingualism in society can make it easier for them to adapt to new environments, as well as being a liaison or language translator for people who have difficulty communicating. So that you can interact with more people, understand their culture, and form better relationships. This can expand social networks and enable cross-cultural collaboration.

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