The Language Attitude of English Language Education Department Students toward British English (RP) and American English (GA)

THESIS

By:

Nur Halimah

20110100311230

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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UNIVERSITY OF MUHMAMDIYAH MALANG

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This thesis is submitted to meet one of requirements to achieve Sarjana Degree in English Language Education

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This thesis written by Nur Halimah was approved on October 10th, 2016.

By:

Advisor I,

Advisor II,

Nurakhfini Septiany, M.A., M.Ed

Teguh Hadi Saputro, M.A
This thesis was defended in front of the examiners of Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of University of Muhammadiyah Malang and accepted as one of the requirements to achieve Sarjana Degree in English Language Education on April 29th, 2017

Approved by:
Faculty of Teacher Training and Education
University of Muhammadiyah Malang

Dean,
Dr. Ponegoro Wahyono, M.Kes

Examiners:

1. Drs. Soeparto, M.Pd
2. Rosalin Ismayoeng Gusdian, S.S., M.A
3. Teguh Hadi Saputro, M.A
4. Nurakhfini Septiany, M.A., M.Ed

Signatures:
LETTER OF AUTHENTICITY

The undersigned below:

Name : Nur Halimah

NIM : 201110100311230

Department : English Language Education

Faculty : Teacher Training and Education

I hereby declare that in this thesis there has not been yet any thesis or paper that have been proposed to receive a bachelor degree, and there is no ideas or notions written or published by another person, unless what has been written in this thesis and mentioned in the bibliography.

Malang, April 28th, 2017

Researcher,

Nur Halimah
Motto and Dedication

Motto

berIman, berIlmu, berAmal

"Even the swiftest of spiritual wills cannot pierce the walls of destiny"
(Al-Hikam, Ibn 'Ata Allah al-Iskandari)

"There's no one can help you better than you! Try, when fall, then rise."

"Maka sesungguhnya beserta kesulitan itu ada kemudahan"
(Al-Insyiraah 5 – 8)

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to:

My angels of the earth
Bapak ABD. Wahid & Fatmawati

My Brothers & sisters
M. Yusuf, Mukarromah, St. Khalifah, Rahmat Hidayat, St. Nur Jannah

My Future Husband
Ikhyak Ulumuddin

All my lecturers and teachers with no exception

My Second Home
Islamic Association of University Students (HMI)

My helpmates from A to Z

For the light in my dark, warmth in my cold, and courage in my fear
THE LANGUAGE ATTITUDE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STUDENTS TOWARD BRITISH ENGLISH (RP) AND AMERICAN ENGLISH (GA)

ABSTRACT

Learning language is related to the attitude toward the language. Language attitudes refer to personal values and beliefs and promote the choices of language. Students’ perception on English varieties is perceptive in terms of students’ awareness of accent varieties. Teachers or lecturers’ awareness about students’ motivation of accent is important to create teaching effectiveness. In this study, students in the seventh-semester were chosen because of the assumption that they had good level of English proficiency. Further, the study was concerned to investigate students’ attitudes toward English based on 13 semantic dimensions of status and competence and social attractiveness categories at English Language Education Department (Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang).

The purposes of this study are to investigate students’ perception about English varieties of Received Pronunciation and General America and to probe students’ accent motivation at English Language Education Department, Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang. The mix-method design was employed to reveal students’ attitudes toward Received Pronunciation and General America. The data were collected from the seventh-semester students of English Language Education Department. The instruments of this study were audios, questionnaires, and interview guidelines.

The findings of this study showed that RP favored than GA for overall dimensions. In the first category, status and competence, RP dominated five of eight dimensions of intelligence, ambition, leadership skills, self-confidence, and social status. Meanwhile, GA took two places for dimension of formality and politeness. Moreover, the current study found that RP and GA were equal in educated dimension. In the second category of social attractiveness, this current study found that RP dominated four of five dimensions of reliability, likeability, popularity, and attractiveness. Meanwhile, GA dominated only in one of five dimensions, namely sense of humor dimension. The result suggested that the participants argued that their choices of accents were complex and dynamic. The unique findings were RP rated as ‘prestigious’ and GA rated as ‘likeable’ and ‘easy to understand’. Somehow, the attitude of the participants toward English varieties is RP is regarded as formal to learn, meanwhile, GA is regarded as easier to understand to use to communicate.

Keywords: language attitudes, language varieties, Received Pronunciation, General America

Advisor I, Researcher,
Teguh Hadi Saputro, M.A. Nur Halimah
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_Hamdalah wa syukrun lillah wa shalawatun ‘ala Rasulillah_ are irreplaceable words to begin in every occasion for the blessing and uncounted graces, especially the faith.

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