

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. The Background of the Study

People use language as a means of expressing thought and feeling in a society. There are millions of languages used in the world. It is because of language is a product of culture, which means that different cultures may have different languages or different dialects. It is also functioned to show their existence, identity and cultural in the society. Language and identity are inextricable linked each other and in order to save identity, language users must attempt to save their language. Similarly, Thomas (1999) says that the use of language is one way that is used to establish our identity and shaping of other people's views of who we are. Thus, language plays important role in defining who we are, and makes us instantly recognizable to other members of our particular speech community

Indonesia has many ethnics group and indigenous languages. Sumatera Island is one of the biggest island in Indonesia that has varieties culture and language. Labuhanbatu Utara, as a part of regency in province of North Sumatera, has a important role to contribute the varieties in language. There are many ethnics groups in Labuhanbatu Utara such as Javanese, Bataknese, Malaynese, Minangnese, Acehnese, Chinese and Balinese. Based on the data of Population Percentage by Ethnic and District 2011, the majority is Javanese is 22,01 % and Bataknese is 63,32 %. Meanwhile Balinese is just minority group in Labuhanbatu

Utara, especially in dusun IV KNPI desa Damuli Kebun Kecamatan Kualuh Selatan. Although, Balinese is a minority group, but they can maintain their language by using their language in daily communication and also keeping the culture.

Discussing the minority language, Kaplan and Baldauf (1997: 62) said that:

If both languages can serve all of the same functions and domains, the n minority speakers are often drawn to the majority language because it offers greater access to material rewards, employment and economic opportunities. It may also be that there is status to be gained by linguistic and cultural association with the majority group.

In addition, urbanization situations, where minority individuals are drawn into urban centers-essentially for the same reasons of employment and economic reward-minorities are required to learn and use the majority language. Over time, these conditions lead to an environment in which the young have no incentive, and perhaps little opportunity, to learn the minority language.

These statement, indicate that a group of people or the immigrants who come or move in certain region which the multilingual situation and ethnic cities do not have a chance to use their heritage language because their language is minority.

In Labuhanbatu Utara one of the minority languages is Balinese language and the majority is Indonesia language. The people who live in Labuhanbatu Utara use Indonesia language as lingua franca. Indonesia language is uses in all aspect of communication, at school or in environment. In this location on Labuhanbatu Utara has mixed language to interact each others. Furthermore, the children who lived in this area come from different ethnic. When they are interacting one each other they should use a language. It is possible for them to

use two languages in a single communication. In fact, the children whose get their language from their family as their mother tongue sometimes cannot use their family language or mother tongue as their communication with other children.

Balinese language exactly is as a tool of communication by Balinese people in their daily activities. Balinese immigrants seek to maintain the language of their home because this language is one that gives them sense of familiarity and self-worth, that is they feel desire for language maintenance. Language must be maintained, because language will show the identity of the language users. As Holmes (2001:63) stated that where language is considered as important symbol of a minority group's identity, the language is likely to be maintained longer. Moreover, Corson (2001:174) said that the maintenance of a heritage language is vital for the self-identity and esteem of its speakers. Therefore, language must be protected, preserved and maintained. So, if Balinese language is not spoken anywhere, it will be lost. As Schiffman (1995:12) stated that if language is not maintained, there can be several results. One is language death, the speakers of certain language become bilingual and the younger speakers become dominant in other language. Language maintenance refers to the situation where speech community continue to use its vernacular language. Based on theory, it's mean that language maintain by individuals and communities. They retain the language value will be maintaining for regeneration.

In line with the explanation about language maintenance above, in reality during the interaction between a mother and a son, there is phenomenon by first

generation, and second generation acquiring to the third generation. It can be seen in the preliminary data below in one of Balinese family (mother and her son).

Mother : (**Ayo makan Nyoman!**)
 (**Lets eat Man!**)
 (*Lan Man me dahar*)

Nyoman : (**Ayo bu**)
 (**Lets Mom**)
 (*lan meme*)

(**Apa yang akan kita lakukan bu**)
 (**What will be doing Mom!**)
 (*Ian suba su'ud me dahar apo bakal gawe*)

Mother : (**Kita akan pergi ke ladang**)
 (**We will go to field**)
 (*Wen nuwas ke tegale*)

The conversation above by Balinese families (mother and her son) who live in Desa KNPI. It is occur on Sunday at 10.00 pm in a participant's house on Dusun IV KNPI Desa Damuli Kebun, in Kecamatan Kualuh Selatan, Labuhanbatu Utara. Nyoman is a male, third generation, and Mother is a female, second generation. As Silva-Corvalan (1994) stated that in sociolinguistic terms, the parents are the first generation, the children second, and the grandchildren the third. Their conversation shows that, Nyoman speaks Balinese language with his mother. It means that Nyoman as a third generation still maintains Balinese language. This situation motivates the researcher to do the research. Then, the preliminary data above also has connection with previous study from Habtoor (2012) that has relation with this study, the previous study, the speakers speak Tigrinya mostly at home and this study, the researcher find the data, the speakers speak Balinese language at home because the researcher found the informants at home by using Balinese language.

In another situation is conversation between mother and her son

Nyoman : (**Bu aku mau pergi ke sekolah**)
 (**Mom I want to go to school**)
 (*Me tiang lakar luas ke sekolah*)
Mother : (**Hati - hati di jalan**)
 (**Be careful on the road**)
 (*Hati – hati di marjine*)

The second conversation above occurred on Friday at 01.00 pm shows us that the mother uses the Balinese language to his Son to make them understand of Balinese language although the Son is not able to speak Balinese language fluently but as he often hears his mother to speak by using the Balinese language so he can understand and speak it. From this, the old generation still keep maintain their language to young generation. They use Balinese language in daily communication. They have awareness to use their Balinese language to keep their ethnic group. Although some of them more often use Indonesia language than Balinese language. As Djamereng (2014) indicates that factor of attitude contributing to the maintenance of Balinese language among transmigrant communities, language maintenance of Balinese language occurs in transmigration until this time because some factors. However this condition will not take place for along time if there is no continuity of the use of mother tongue to next generation. Therefore, parents need to inherit the language. It is in line with Liberson (1980:17) who promoted the language maintenance through intergeneration process and it is the process of shifting language use from first generation to next generation.

Furthermore, this phenomena shows us that the Balinese can be maintained although there are some dominant languages, they can speak Balinese

language but they more often used Indonesia language than Balinese language. It means that when Balinese is not a dominant language in communication. It can be seen that it depends on the speakers. It will be endangered. The using of Indonesia language made the decrease of Balinese speaker in Labuhanbatu Utara. It is the reason the important to conduct a study on Balinese in Labuhanbatu Utara. it is important to conduct a study about Balinese language maintenance. Thus, based on the phenomena which have been mentioned above, this research tries to find out the factors of language maintenance that influence Balinese language maintenance in Labuhanbatu Utara, how the way process and the reasons of Balinese people maintain their language.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problems are formulate as the following .

- 1) What factors affect Balinese people to maintain their language in Labuhanbatu Utara?
- 2) How do the Balinese people maintain their language in Labuhanbatu Utara?
- 3) Why do the Balinese people maintain their language in the way they do?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are :

- 1) To examine the factors affect of the Balinese language in Labuhanbatu Utara

- 2) To describe the ways in maintaining the Balinese language in Labuhanbatu Utara.
- 3) To explain the reasons of the speakers Balinese people maintaining their language in Labuhanbatu Utara.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the discussion of the factors, the ways and reasons which occurred among the Balinese speakers in Labuhanbatu Utara. There are 9 Balinese speakers as the participant of this study. This is also relate the ways of Balinese people maintain their language. This study focused on the maintenance of Balinese language in Labuhanbatu Utara.

1.5 The Significant of the Study

The findings of the study are expected to be useful and relevant theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, the findings of the study are useful for develop of the theory of language maintenance especially about Balinese language in Balinese ethnic in Labuhanbatu Utara.

Practically, the study will be u seful as a reference for young generation and parents to teach and use Balinese language in their daily communication as support the maintenance of Balinese language in Labuhanbatu Utara. For government to help them make a well planned of language planning especially to keep maintaining Balinese language so the language does not loss.