CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Batu Bara Malay specifically Batu Bara Malay dialect is a dialect of Malay spoken in Batu Bara Regency, Regency in North Sumatra, Indonesia. Batu Bara Malay is one of Malay dialect spread across Indonesia. The speaker spread out across 98 villages in Batu Bara Regency, particularly uttered by the Malay tribe population and partly by other tribe who have been living and mingling with the Malay tribe population.

Malay is a major language that spread not only in Indonesia but also in neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, the Philippines and some parts of Madagascar. Malay is one natural language among thousand's natural language in the world and classified as the major language of the Austronesia family... (Bauer: 1983).

To this day, Malay language origin is still debatable, Malay language origin is a region where the beginning Malay language was uttered. There are two strong opinions stating Malay Language origin. First opinion stating that Malay language native's land is central Asia region and the second opinion states that the Malay language native's land in one of the regions in Indonesia, the island of Sumatra, which is the kingdom of Srivijava and is regarded as the first national kingdom in Indonesia.

Geographical diversity of speakers of Malay has led to variation in Malay was called Malay dialect. Although at first they were a single origin because the breakdown of the relationship between one group against another in a very long time , then a group set a way of life and use their own substitutions according to the nature and purposes of the state of their respective lives. This is due to the emergency of various dialects in the Malay Peninsula Land.

Time changes all things, there is no reason why language should escape this universal law (Saussure: 2011) Therefore, a language tends to change, even to the world's major languages, such as English, Arabic, French, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish and many others. It is estimated the rates of lexical evolution for 200 fundamental vocabulary meanings in 87 indo-European languages such as English, Spanish, Russian, and Greek (Page, Vendetta, and Meade: 2007). This phenomenon also occurs in Arabic, with classical Arabic and modern Arabic. Classical Arabic has its origin in the central and northern parts of the Arabian Peninsula. This is also known as Quran Arabic. While, modern Arabic is more commonly used in writing and in formal speaking all over the Arab now. Even the morphology and syntax basically unchanged but lexis and stylistic of Modern Standard Arabic and Classical Arabic are different.

Language is always changing. Language change is variation over time in a language's phonetic, morphological, semantic, syntactic, and other features. Lexical change is probably the most frequent type of language change and certainly the easiest to observe. Lexical change is manifested in every single of lexical classes of a language, such as noun, verb, adjectives, adverb, pronoun,

preposition, conjunction and interjection. Lexical changes usually involve the introduction of 'new' lexical items into the language. Changes in the lexicon also occur, among which are changes in the lexical categories of words (their part of speech), addition of new words, the borrowing of words from another language, the loss of the words and the shift in the meaning over time.

Batu Bara Malay dialect is changing too particularly the lexical item of Batu Bara Malay dialect. The word 'bangsi' which are no longer spoken by Batu Bara Malay population regarded as one of lexical loss of Batu Bara Malay. Bangsi is a kind of flute made of bamboo and blown from the upper end (Wahid: 2008). The word no longer uttered in Batu Bara because the flute is rarely found now. Another empirical exemplification of lexical loss is 'kalimomo' (dandruff), The word is not practiced anymore and replaced by the word 'ketombe' which is borrowed from Indonesian language. Another case of lexical change in Malay Batu Bara is the word 'lurut', the word implies a traditional tool of Batu Bara Malay communities used to peel woven leaves to be tender (Wahid: 2008). The object 'lurut' is no longer found in Batu Bara because mat craft is no longer practiced and *pandan* plant which is the base material for the craft is rarely found nowdays; all of these are considered lexical losses of Batu Bara Malay.

Culture has profound influence on language change. The term was first used by pioneer English Anthropologist Edward B. Tylor in his book, Primitive Culture. He said that culture is 'that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society (Tylor: 1871). Culture is the characteristics of a

particular group of people, defined by everything from language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts. From the definitions, we can conclude that language is part of culture, the inclusion of a new culture in the era of globalization was inevitable to give change to the Batu Bara Malay, and this is the influences of modernization of Batu Bara.

Language contact also has a significant effect on language change, language contact occurs when two or more language or varieties interact. Language contact is the use of more than one language at the same place. The most common result of language contact is change in some or all of the language …and the most common specific type of influence is the borrowing of words (Thomason: 2001). The population of the different tribes living in the Batu Bara caused the Batu Bara Malay society use Indonesian language in interacting among themselves. This gradually impact on the lack of the use of certain words of Malay Batu Bara and this caused many Indonesian words are borrowed or transferred into Batu Bara Malay Dialect.

Attitude toward language is also having significant effect on language. Language attitudes are the feelings people have about their own language variety or language varieties of others. Attitude to language appear to be important in language restoration, preservation, decay or death (Baker: 1995). The tendency of youngsters in Batu Bara Malay dialect provides a significant effect of lexical change to the language. They consider the words old fashioned and prefer to practice Indonesian language in their daily lives. Besides youngsters attitudes mentioned previously, other factor that affect language change is technology

(Trask: 2010). The technology development could lead to certain words disappear and formed new word, the word “luko” is no longer practices because the equipment was not found in Batu Bara. The tool is ineffective for use. The tool is a kind of bamboo designed in such a way and can only be used in narrow fishpond and only accommodate a fish.

Linguist also predicts that rapid endangerment and death of much minority language is an irretrievable loss to mankind. By some counts, only 600 of the 6000 or so languages in the world are ‘safe’ from the threat of existinction. On some reckonings, the world will, by the end of the twenty-first century, be dominated by small number of major languages (Crystal: 2003). The reality of lexical change in Batu Bara Malay dialects is in potentially endangered language. In addition, it is obvious that Batu bare Malay dialect is a new phenomenon to which lexical loss takes place.

Having the previous explanation, it is feasible to assert, that lexical change consists of types, patterns and context of changes. The word type define lower taxonomic category selected as a standard or reference for a higher category or something distinguishable as a variety. The types of lexical change defined as the sort of change realized in the lexicon, which might be creation of lexicon, loss of Lexicons like previous examples (Warsi: 2010). The word patterns indicate reliable sample of tendencies, or other observable characteristic of a thing. The pattern of lexical change defined as the tendency or characteristic of the way how the change takes place in lexicon, eg. Pattern of lexical change of the two words “kentaki and kape” is external lexical creation. Meanwhile, the context of lexical

change is the condition that influence the changes in lexical. The context of lexical change is the situation and condition in which lexical change happens.

From the previous discussion it can be said that lexical change occurred in any living language, the writer also found those changes in Batu Bara Malay dialect, and as a young woman who was born and raised in Batu Bara interested to investigate more closely what types the changes are, how the patterns and what the context of the change.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

The problems of the study is presented in the question of "how is the lexical change of Batu Bara Malay dialect?" This question is elaborated into more specific question, such as:

1. What are the types of lexical change of Batu Bara Malay dialect?
2. What are the lexical change patterns of Batu Bara Malay dialect?
3. In what context the Batu Bara Malay dialect changes?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

This research is aimed at studying the new phenomenon on lexical changes of Batu Bara Malay dialect. It particularly attempted to objectively describe the lexical change as well as the ways and contexts of Batu Bara Malay dialect change. Thus, the objectives of this study were elaborated as the following:

1. To investigate types of lexical change of Batu Bara Malay dialect?
2. To describe the pattern of lexical change of Batu Bara Malay dialect?
3. To explain the contexts for lexical change of Batu Bara Malay dialect?

1.4 The scope of the Study

The various language change domains and the numerous classes (or parts of speech) of language result in the researcher's scope of the study to the lexical change, particularly to the change of noun, verb, adjectives, adverb, pronoun, preposition, and interjection of Batu Bara Malay dialect. Particularly, it is an attempt to provide an objectives and explanative description of the lexical change of lexical classes of Batu Bara Malay dialect.

1.5 The Significant of the Study

The purpose of academic research is to gain a better understanding on a certain subject. The findings of this study are especially relevant in the field of linguistics. The findings are expected would be contributed to a deeper comprehension of language change and sociolinguistics in Batu Bara. The findings of this study are also strongly expected to have theoretically and practically indispensible significances. Theoretically, the research findings expected would be valuable contribution for other researcher who will conduct a research in the field of language changes. Practically, on the other hand, the research findings would be beneficial as the evidence of Batu Bara Malay dialect change which serve as a core embryo of consideration for language planning policy of the government of Batu Bara Regency which is urgently useful for Batu Bara Malay Dialect maintenance in the future. This study will provide information to the Batu Bare society, especially Batu Bara's local government of the existence and importance of Batu Bare Malay Dialect. In addition, this study is also

expected to bring awareness to the local government of Batu Bara to take action against the preservation of its language.