

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Language is tool of communication. People use language to communicate with each other. They can express their mind with communication. Language is important part of human express their ideas. Indonesian has many ethnics' group and indogenous languages. Especially in Langkat North Sumatera, there are many ethnics group in Langkat such as Javanese, Malayanese, Banjarnese, Bataknese, Chinese, and Bantenese. The native inhabitants of Langkat is Malayanese and the ethnics group that migration in Langkat such as Javanese , Bataknese, Banjarnese and Bantenese. Bantenese is a minority group in Langkat, especially in Tanjung Ibus Village, because the majority is Javanese. Although, Bantenese is a minority group, but they can maintain their language. They use their language in daily communication. In Langkat, Bantenese is a very minority than another ethnic group.

The phenomenon of Bantenese community in Langkat, Bantenese had lived in Langkat since Dutch era, because migration. The population of Bantenese in Tanjung Ibus Langkat is 465 people in 2016 year. They were constructed and employed by Dutch. As a minority group, they can maintain their language and culture. They have traditional culture like *Ngariung* and *radi'*. A tradition ceremony is *Radi'*, that is like martial arts that performed at the wedding ceremony. And then *Ngariung*, it is the event to do thanksgiving in Bantenese

society. It could also be done in wedding ceremony or in the religion event. They maintain their language with using thier language in daily communication. They use their language at home in daily activity such as:

*The conversation :*

Yatiman : “ndek kemana ka’ ?”

Jasam : “kule’ ndek ka leueng. Iya’ nte’ ka leueng ?”

Yatiman : “kule’ nde’ ndahar helan.”

Jasam : “oh.. ee. Kule elan ye .”

Yatim : “ee ka’ .”

They use their language in daily activity to maintain their language, because language is a symbol identiy of ethnic group. Banten language is a symbol identity of Bantenese. Language is used by the people in communication to show their identity such as Banten language. Banten language is one of indigenous language in Indonesia. Ethnic identity is the way in which the expression through a particular language.

Language must be maintained because language showed the identity of the language users. As Holmes (2008:63) states that where language is considered as important symbol of a minority group’s identity, the language is likely to be maintained longer. Moreover Corson (2002:174) say 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.

Based on the observation the young generation can maintain their language. They use Banten language in daily activity. They have awareness to use

Banten language. They also had solidarity to use their language to keep their language ethnic group. The generation of Bantenese in Langkat is at the age 15-25 years old. Since Milroy and Gordon (2003:52) argue that pattern of language maintenance would not appear without sampling across generation of speakers.

The language used phenomenon of Bantenese in Langkat used two languages even multilingualism. They use Banten and Indonesian language in daily communication. Although they use Banten and Indonesian language in daily communication but some of them more often use Indonesian language than Banten Language. This condition made danger for Banten language. If the language was not spoken anywhere, it would be endangered and lost.

In this case was found that Bantenese family who live in Langkat competent to due to regeneration of their vernacular to their generation because the generation competent in using active Bahasa Banten in daily activity. Although some of them more often use Indonesian language than Banten language. As Asni (2012) indicated that the difference of language choice between the role of parents and children. According to her, children prefer to use Indonesian language whereas parents use both Indonesian and Mainering language. According to Hussein (2012) indicated that Second generation Tigrinya teenagers speak Tigrinya mostly at home because their parents generally speak to them in Tigrinya, but the teenagers are able to understand, speak, read, and write in Arabic better than Tigrinya. The use of Tigrinya is seemingly decreasing and the use of Arabic is increasing. According to Mercy (2012) indicated The Efik community of speakers have become bilingual over the years in the English

language and are gradually shifting allegiance to English therefore losing their original heritage.

Hussein, Ali.2012. *Language Maintenance and Language Shift among Second Generation Tigrinya-speaking Eritrean Immigrants in Saudi Arabia*. Finland:academy publisher Manufactured.

Ugot, Mercy I.2012.*Minority language maintenance the cae of the Efik language in south Nigerian*.Finland: academy publisher Manufactured.

It is also similarly to the generation of Bantenese, some of them preferred to use Indonesian language. They could speak Banten language but they more often used Indonesian language than Banten language. It means that when Banten language was not a dominant language in communication, it would be endangered. The using of Indonesian language made the decrease of Banten language speakers in Langkat.

It was important to conduct a study on Bahasa Banten maintenance. There were some factors to maintain Bahasa Banten. As Holmes (2008) There were living in an area dominated by Bantenese, visiting homeland regularly, intra marriage, use of the language in family domain, use of the language in neighborhood domain, use of the language in workplace domain, use the language in education domain, ethno linguistic vitality, use of the language in religion domain and practice of adat istiadat (traditional) ceremony.

Looking at the fact in Banten society, there was another factor to maintain their language. The farctor was the solidarity of Bantenese to use their language together in daily communication. So in this research investigated the factors which support Bahasa Banten maintenance based on Holmes theory (2008) and

the factor phenomenon in Banten society. The expectation of the research based on factor phenomenon could enrich the factor to maintain a language.

### **1.2 The Problems of the Study**

Based on the background of the study, the problems are formulated operationally in following.

1. What do the factors support Bahasa Banten Maintenance in Langkat ?
2. How do the speakers of Banten maintain the language ?
3. Why do the speakers of Banten language maintain the language ?

### **1.3 The Objectives of the Study**

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

- 1.) to describe the factors which support Bahasa Banten maintenance in Langkat.
- 2.) to describe how the speakers of Bahasa Banten maintain the language in Langkat.
- 3.) to describe why speakers of Banten language maintain the language in Langkat.

### **1.4 The Scope of the Study**

This study were limited on the maintenance of Banten people live in Langkat that still speak Banten language in daily activity although they also speak with Indonesia and Banten language in daily life. The scope of this study

was the generation of Bantenese people of langkat in Tanjung Ibus Village at the age 15-25 years old. Three main aspects were observed in this study. First, the factor of maintenance Banten language in Langkat. Second, the way to maintain Banten language in Langkat. Third, reason of Banten people maintain their language in Langkat.

### **1.5 The Significances of the Study**

Findings of this study were expected to be theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the study was considered to enrich the theories of language planning especially on Bahasa Banten maintenance in Langkat.

Practically, it was useful for Bantenese to use Banten language in their daily communication to support the maintenance of Bahasa Banten in Langkat. Then, it was also useful for government, in this case language centre, hopefully the result of this study helped them to make a well planned of language planning especially to keep maintaining Banten language so the language does not loss and to enrich the factors to support language maintenance.