

CHAPTER I

INTRORDUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Attitude studies figure in many scientific fields, such as psychology, which first began to focus on it, followed by sociolinguistics, social psychology of language, cultural anthropology, ethnography, and education (e.g. bilingualism). Accordingly, attitudes may vary from ephemeral to enduring, which means that a number of attitudes have the ability to stay unchanged, while others are subject to change.

By agreeing with Fillmore's standpoint that "speaker attitude" as a non-linguistic parameter of the social contexts is a very important topic in contrastive pragmatics. Here, as in contrastive sociolinguistics, comparisons of attitudes of speakers towards their languages may help to achieve an attitude change. People favor a particular language when they find that the language is a tool to achieve high status, economic advantage, basic security and survival and matters related to self-orientation. Integrative attitude, on the other hand, concerns someone's attachment with a particular speech community. People show such attitude in order to be identified as a member of the desired community.

Field studies on social evaluation of language have been conducted among linguistically and socially different participants. The results can change, as traditionally 'standard' speech varieties may lose ground, and less mainstream varieties may be judged more positively. It is assumed that the general loosening

of socio-structural norms may lead to new directions for attitude measurement. In a further effort, language attitudes should include attitudes towards language maintenance and planning. In fact, language attitudes affect a “continuum” constituted by language and society as its central notions. The same changing language attitude goes for the choice of a foreign language where the “niche” and the “needs” determine the language status.

Language attitudes, at least in the scientific field of sociolinguistics, have been researched for the last four decades, and have aided a better understanding of the concept of language attitudes and language behavior.

Many researches states that language maintenance is occurred in the minority ethnic in a society, like the thesis of Jung Duckyoung Korean immigrant in America as the minority has been shifted their heritage language so the parents’ guidance is needed to change their children attitude toward their heritage language. It is same with Hudyma’s thesis that investigated the Scandinavians people in Canada where the language has been shifted in the four or five generation caused by the generation followed the majority language in Canada.

The first language as known as the mother tongue is the language that we have accepted as the first time since we are born. In this case many Indonesian people has their first language as their ethnic languages, it means that Indonesian is their second language. Second language itself means the language that is used after the mother tongue. This is happened because in the beginning Indonesia is consisted of many kingdoms that have their own language that is used from the heritage to their generation till now. The unity language is made to handle the

problem where many of the people in Indonesia cannot understand each other except they are come from the same ethnic. So the youngsters decide to make a unity language and the decision becomes Indonesian.

The effect is nowadays many Indonesian people do not use their ethnic language as their first language anymore especially for the persons who has moved from their native place. It is actually suitable with the Ideology of Indonesia that the people should use Indonesian language but the ethnic language is one of the heritages of Indonesia that makes Indonesia become a rich country with the various ethnicities.

Nowadays, there are so many young generation who do not want to use their first language as their daily language in their society. Even though there are many young generations who cannot able to speak their heritage language. This fact have been happened in many cities in Indonesia, one of the city that the writer can find the phenomena is in Padangsidempuan which is one of the area in North Sumatera that the Angkolanese ethnic live there. The language that is used in this city is Angkola language but in this era the young generations especially teenagers do not use the local language anymore in their daily life. They often even always use Indonesian as the dominant language in their communication, it means that the local language has been shifted in Angkolanese teenagers' speaker.

The phenomenon is elaborated in the conversation of the teenagers in Padangsidempuan that is taken from the researcher's observation:

1. Boy 1: *ulang lupa dah naron jam 5 futsal.*

Boy 2: *olo.*

(Boy1: don't forget to play futsal at 5 p.m.

Boy2: alright)

2. *Girl 1: nanti jadikan kita nonton futsalnya?*

Girl 2: iya, jumpa dimana kita?

Girl 1: kujemput kerumahmu aja.

(girl1: we will watch the futsal match today, won't we?

girl2: of course. Where will we meet?

girl1: I'll take you at your home.)

3. *Boy: jangan lupa datang ya jd supporter.*

Girls: oke!

(boy: don't forget to come to support our team, ya?

girls: okey!)

It reveals that there are the differential languages that are used by the teenagers. On the first conversation the teenagers used Batak Angkola language as their medium in holding the conversation. Then on the second conversation the teenagers used Indonesian language and the third used Indonesian. The conversations are done by different gender of the teenagers, first conversation is done by male teenagers, the second is done by female teenagers and the last is done by both of the gender.

From the conversation the researcher conclude that there is a different attitude of the teenagers toward their ethnicity language where the male teenagers are more often used Batak Angkola in their daily conversation than female teenagers. But when the male join the female conversation they changed their

language become Indonesian which the female used. So that this is needed to find out the reason why it is happened considering the region where the phenomenon is happened is on the majority community.

By comparing the theory that is taken from the thesis's and the phenomenon that is happen in the field, the language maintenance was not only happened in the minority ethnic but now it is also happened in the majority ethnic especially bilingual ethnic such what is being happened in Padangsidempuan which the society is dominantly Batak Angkolanese but the community especially the teenagers' do not used their ethnicity language anymore as their communication language.

Thus, there is a connection between language attitudes and language maintenance, the study also involved language status that will explain the factors that influenced why a language can be shifted and should be maintain. By combining with the observation that has been held the researcher found that the phenomenon is happened on the teenagers in Padangsidempuan which mostly do not use Angkola (the local language) anymore in their daily activity. This caused the teenagers in Padangsidempuan have not understood many vocabularies, terms of Angkola language. Based on this phenomenon the researcher is interested to research why it is happened. Considering Padangsidempuan is the region which most of the society is Batak Angkola ethnic if this is not handled perhaps the Angkola will be replaced by Indonesian and the teenagers dominantly have the positive attitude toward Indonesian than Angkola as their first language.

1.2 The Focus of the Study

Attitude has been a subject of research interest among the sociolinguists and social scientists over the years and they have done significant contributions. The findings of different attitude studies state that attitudes vary from favorably to unfavorably or vice-versa in language learning and acquisition, choice and use of language in different domains and thus, surveys of attitudes provide social indicators of changing beliefs about language and the chances of success in language policy implementation. Attitude has been studied from various perspectives with reference to a number of languages in a variety of settings such as attitude towards mother tongue; attitude towards a second or foreign language; attitude towards national language; attitude towards varieties of languages; attitude towards language in education policy; relationship between attitudes and motivation; the relationship between attitudes and learning strategies; the relationship between attitudes and level of achievement and so on.

The data that have taken from observation make the researcher decided that the research is focused on to the language attitudes toward language maintenance on Angkolanese teenagers' speaker. In this research the researcher want to know why the teenagers in Padangsidempuan prefer using Indonesian to Angkola language as their daily activity, considering Angkola language is their heritage language and Padangsidempuan is one of the cities in North Sumatra that the most of the community is Angkolanese.

In this research the researcher also focused on to the factors that influence the teenagers' attitude toward Indonesian and Angkola language. The researcher

also discusses about the language attitudes and language maintenance as the based sources instead the problem that the researcher want to research is appeared.

1.3 Research Problems

In relation to the background, the problems of the study are formulated as the following

- 1) What are the attitudes of the Angkolanese teenagers toward the Angkola language maintenance in Padangsidempuan?
- 2) How are the attitudes realized among the Angkolanese teenagers?
- 3) Why are the attitudes maintained by the Angkola teenagers in the ways they are?

1.4 The Objectives of the Research

Related to the research problems the objectives are

- 1) to describe the Angkolanese teenagers' attitudes toward the Angkola language,
- 2) to describe realizations of the attitudes among the Angkola teenagers, and
- 3) to state the reasons for the attitudes of the Angkola teenagers.

1.5 The Significances of the Research

It is expected that findings of the research are relevant and useful theoretically and practically. Theoretically, findings of the study are expected to enrich horizons in theories of sociolinguistics. In addition, the findings can be references for further studies. Practically, the findings are expected to be

useful for all of the social community included children, parents, schools' society, government, the figures of society, figures of culture because language is so generally indeed the scope of research influence so many aspect. This research is expected useful in understanding the importance of maintaining the mother tongue language and watch the development of the language in social community. The attitudes of someone to a language affect the development of a language that can cause a language become shift or loss. So the researcher sure this research is completely should be done.

