

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is needed for every human being to communicate to other peoples. Language is the basis of all communication. Without language, no culture in the society will not develop because people will lack a means which they can express their ideas to one another. Language can not be separated from human life because it plays an important role in the process of social interaction. Think of language, there happens cooperation and interaction between people. Talk to our friends, families and associates by using a language as a medium of communication. All people in the society communicate and express their feeling by using a language. Sociolinguistics is not study about society but also the correlation between society and the language.

Nowadays, language shift potentially happens in vernaculars in Indonesia. Gunarwan (2004) found that Lampung language was shifted because of Indonesian language pressure. Siregar (1998) also found that language shift happens in the young generation bilingual society in Medan. The data show that the language shift happens in Indonesia continually.

Weinreich (1968) defines that language shift is often used to refer to change at a community level and the terms language loss or non acquisition of language are used in reference to an individual's declining or use of a group's

original language with concurrent increase or dominant use of another more widely used language. If the language shift cannot use of another more widely used language. If the language shift cannot be stopped, the minority language will be lost. Language is one of the ethnic identity symbols. It means that Indonesia will lose one of its ethnic identities. In keeping the existence of ethnic identity, language maintenance is needed.

Pauwels (2005) states that language maintenance is generally applied to individuals or communities of speakers continuing to use their language in a situation of language contact, where there is competition from one or more languages to be the sole language is important. It is supported by Holmes (2001) who said that where the language is considered as an important symbol of a minority group's identity, it is likely to be maintained longer. Language maintenance refers to the situation where a speech community continues to use its vernacular language. Based on theory, it means that language that is maintained by individuals and communities they retain the value that the language will be maintained for regeneration.

Tondo (2009) argued that, one of the factors of language shift is intermarriage, social interaction of interethnic in Indonesia especially marriage between different ethnic groups will cause the process of extinction of vernacular language. The couples of intermarriage families often find it difficult in maintaining their own vernacular language and they have to choose one of the languages which will be used in their daily communication.

Indonesia is a multicultural country which a lots of varieties of ethnics and varieties of vernacular language spread all over Indonesia. The varieties of ethnics group also spread in Kota Langsa, Langsa is a developing city that locate in Aceh province, in Kota Langsa develop two kinds of social interactions there are interraction between the same ethnic or intra ethnic and interaction between different ethnic or interethnic. The interaction between interethnic groups in Kota Langsa is potentially occur marriage between different ethnic or call as intermarriage.

In Kota Langsa is mayorities communication with Bahasa Indonesia from dialy communication with other peoples, school, and friendmate. Bahasa Indonesia is used as the dominant language in Hokkien Chinese families. It means, when Hokkien Chinese is not in common use in those families, it will be dengerous stage. The use of Bahasa Indonesia in all activities makes unbalanced of Hokkien Chinese language and also to protect their language from language globalization that is English beside Bahasa Indonesia and also human error. The inter-marriage family find it difficultto apply their local language because they have different language.

Many Hokkien Chinese can speak different languages in contact their lives because they are immigrants in Kota Langsa such as Aceh language, Java language, act. One of the effective ways to cover children's indigenous language is thought family and parent habitual action because, parent have a dominat role to form the children language use in their environment. The use of vernacular at

home is a good way for nucleus and extend family to keep using the vernacular language to help the maintenance of language.

The writer choosed Langsa City as a location of his research because of Langsa City is a city which consists of multicultural ethnics who live in Langsa City. There are lots of Hokkien Chinese migrants settle and intermarriage in Langsa City. Hokkien Chinese language use as the language of bussiness. Islam is the majority religion in Langsa City, Christian is also a part of the population, Buddhism widely adopted by the community of Chinese. Langsa City is rich of cultural heritage and ethnic differences, however, people still live in peace and have a strong religius tolerence. Langsa City is near to the capital city of Medan, North Sumatera, Langsa City as a strategic city for immigrants

Asfind in Langsa City that Hokkien Chinese still maintain Hokkien Chinese language in communication. The researcher findout the maintenance of Hokkien Chinese in the following conversation betweenHokkien Chinese.

**Table: 1 Chinese Hokkien – English Conversations**

No	Chinese Hokkien	English Language
1	Memey, ai khi talok lu?	<i>Memey, where will you go?</i>
2	Wa ai khi khi'a	<i>I go to talk a walk</i>
3	Kak hamang lu khi?	<i>With whom you go?</i>
4	Wa kaki khi thak hong chia	<i>I go alone by bychicle</i>
5	Lu ciak taim syim boi?	<i>Did you taken breakfast?</i>
6	Chiak liau.	<i>Yes, i did</i>

7	wa khi seng a?	<i>I go fisrt.</i>
8	Siau syim a	<i>Be careful</i>

Based on the conversation above, show that they use Hokkien Chinese language when they communicate with their friend. The transfer of Hokkien Chinese language in young generation is still continue, eventhrough their children use Bahasa Indonesia in daily conversation, but they can speak China Hokkien language. By using Hokkien Chinese language they can show their identity asHokkien Chinese. As Carson (2001) said that the maintenance of a heritage language is vital for the self-identity and esteem of its speakers. The otherhand they must be protected, preserved and maintained.

The phenomena and the theories above the researcher interest to find out the factors affecting language maintenance in Langsa City. How they maintain their language and their reason why they use or maintain Hokkien Chinese language. The previous research try to see environment their communication from friendmate and family. I find out thatHokkien Chinese language community. The factors that influence young generation in maintaining the addressing terms namely: parents' role, attitude, demography and environment. In this case, family tradition very instrumental ethnic identity and politeness are the reasons of young generation maintenance the addressing terms.

## **1.2 The Problems of the study**

This study is focused on language maintenance ofHokkien Chinese, and the sub focus is study will be conduct to investigate how is the Hokkien Chinese

maintain their language. Specially, the study addresses maintenance the following research questions.

1. What factors do effect the maintenance of Hokkien Chinese in Kota Langsa?
2. How do the speakers of Hokkien Chinese maintain their native languages?
3. Why do the speakers of Hokkien Chinese maintain their native languages?

### **1.3 The Objectives of the study**

The objectives of this study are to answer the research question. To be more specific of the objectives of the study are:

- 1) to identify the factors which effect Hokkien Chinese maintenance in Kota Langsa.
- 2) to find out how the speakers maintain their native language.
- 3) to find out the reason why the speaker of Hokkien Chinese maintain their language in Kota Langsa.

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

A study on language maintenance is closely relate to language planning program. The maintenance of a language is meant to avoid its disappearance. It is a fact that the younger generation should be aware of their vernacular that shift in a big city. There are many language used in Langsa City, because the majorities in Langsa City are immigrant from other ethnic. But this study only focuses on Hokkien Chinese language. Hokkien Chinese is investigated Hokkien Chinese language maintenace.

Therefore, the scope of this thesis is Hokkien Chinese community, and the second generation take as the subject. It is of prime important to prevent its existence of the second generation (namely parent), who move from their hometown to other country, the childrens always maintain their language.

### **1.5 The Significant of the Study**

Findings of the study expect to have both theorietically and practicalsignificances for develop. Theorietically, the findings of the study add up more horizons to the theories of language maintain.

Pratically, the findings can be useful guides and references for speakers of Hokkien Chinese or decision makers to perserve and maintain the Hokkien Chinese language. In additions, the findings are relevant and useful for government officials in designing theHokkien Chinese language learning programs and the findings can be reference to further studies of the Hokkien Chinese language. Futher findings of the study can be referencesfor mapping maintainability of the Hokkien Chinese speakers and other result study.