

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is a cultural identity. Language and culture are inextricably linked each other in order to save identity. Language user must attempt to save their language. The existence of language cannot be separated from human life because as human being, absolutely we need language to communicate with the others in an interaction. By using language, we can express our ideas, feelings, intentions and desires. Human grows with the language growth and vice versa. Clark (1997) said that language is one thing that differentiate human from other creatures. In addition, the uses of language can show who we are. It means that we establish our identity through our use of language. Language is purely human and non instinctive method of communication ideas. Language cannot be separated with society. Without human being there can be no languages, viceversa without languages there can be no human being. It seems that everything related to human life in the society involves language because through language the interaction among tribes, ethnic groups and religions can happen.

Indonesia is multilingual country which consists of different ethnic groups. Every ethnic has different vernacular language. Vernacular languages in Indonesia as mother tongue face a challenge against the existence of Indonesia language and foreign language. Based on the data of UNESCO in the year of 2001, there are 6.900 languages in the world. 2.500 of them are extincting. UNESCO said that

Indonesia is a country which has multi varieties of languages, but it is also facing a very big danger of language shift. Based on the data of UNESCO, almost 200 languages do not exist any longer after three generations, because they lost their speakers. 900 languages in the world are in danger of extinction nowadays. Furthermore, based on the record of UNESCO, Indonesia takes the third position with 147 shifting languages. 169 ethnic languages of 742 in Indonesia are facing danger of extinction because their speakers are less than 500 people (UNESCO, 2001). As Yamamoto (2009) said that language are disappearing because people stop using their heritage language and instead start using another, often the language of political, economic, military, and religious dominance.

Nowdays, language shift potentially happen in vernacular in Indonesia. As Gunawan (2004) found that Lampung language is shift because of Indonesian language pressure. Moreover, Siregar (1998) found that language shift happen in the young generation bilingual society in Medan. The data showed that the language shift happens in Indonesia continually.

Weinreich (1968) defined 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 increased or dominant use of another more widely used language. If the language shift cannot be stopped, the minority language will lose. Language is one of ethnic identity symbol. It means that Indonesia will lose one of its ethnic identities. In keeping the existence of ethnic identity needs language maintenance.

Pauwels (2005) said that language maintenance is generally applied to individuals or community 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 used in particular domains or situations. It means that maintaining the language is important. It is supported by Holmes (2001) said that where the language is considered as an important symbol of minority group's identity, it is likely to be maintained longer. Moreover Schiffman (1995) warned that if language is not maintained, there can be several results. One language will die, speakers become bilingual, younger speakers become dominant in another language.

To maintain the existence of their mother tongue, language maintenance influence and is influenced by the various factors. Such In Medan exactly, in this location or community we could find that most of societies come from varieties of ethnic such as: Java, Padang, Malay and Batak. This community has mixed language to interact each others. Furthermore, their 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 teens 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 teens.

Furthermore, the researcher caught this phenomenon as the problem of this study since the researcher noticed an ethnic group where they keep maintaining their Javanese language, as it is in Helvetia. As found in Helvetia that Javanese

teenagers still maintain Javanese language in communication. The researcher was found the maintenance of Javanese language in Medan-Helvetia in the following conversation:

(1) A : Engko ndepek mang, aku arep mandi ndesek

Wait a minute uncle, I'm going to take a bath

B : iya, ojo suwi-suwi.

Yes, don't too long.

(2) A : Kowe arep tuku opo?

What do you want to buy?

B : Mak, aku arep tuku bakso.

Mom, I want to buy meatball.

Based on the data above, Javanese teenagers in Helvetia still maintain their language. They use Javanese language when they communicate with other Javanese people. Moreover, when adult communicate with their children they still use Javanese language. As Carson (2001) said that the maintenance of heritage is vital for self-identity and esteem of its speakers. Therefore language must be protected, preserved and maintained.

The previous research about maintenance of addressing terms has been conducted by Ulfa (2013) with the title "The Maintenance of Addressing terms of Acehese Young Generation in Inter-marriage Family". The subjects were 20 children of inter-marriage family which consist Of 10 children whose parents are Acehese mother and Non-Achese father. The result found that there are

fourteen respondents (70%) maintaining the addressing terms and there are six respondents (30%) shift the addressing terms. There are four factors that influence young generation in maintaining the addressing terms, namely: parents' role, attitude, demography and environment. Family tradition, ethnic identity and politeness are the reason of young generation maintenance the addressing terms.

This research is focused on the language maintenance in community. The research will have the different finding from the previous research. Because of this research about Javanese language maintenance among the Javanese teenagers in Medan-Helvetia is not conducted yet. The researcher interest to study this language case since the matter also happened around her. This study will investigate the Javanese language maintenance among the Javanese teenagers in Medan-Helvetia.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

Based on the above background of the study, the problems of the study are formulated as follows:

1. What factors affect the Javanese teenagers maintain the Javanese language in Medan-Helvetia?
2. How are the Javanese language maintenance preserved by the Javanese teenagers in Medan-Helvetia?
3. Why are the Javanese language maintenance preserved by the Javanese teenagers in Medan-Helvetia?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems of the study above, the objectives of this study are:

1. to find out the factors affect the Javanese teenagers maintain the Javanese language in Medan-Helvetia.
2. to find out how the Javanese language maintenance are preserved by the Javanese teenagers in Medan-Helvetia
3. to find out the reason of Javanese language maintenance are preserved by Javanese teenagers in Medan-Helvetia.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

There are many vernacular languages in Medan but this study only focuses on Javanese language maintenance among the Javanese teenagers in Medan-Helvetia. The scope of this study was the tenageers of Javanese in Medan-Helvetia at the age 15-21 years old.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to be significantly relevant theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the research findings are expected to enrich the theories of language maintenance. This study considers being useful initially to provide the information of Javanese language maintenance among Javanese teenagers. Consequently, it will give better understanding and new insight of language maintenance study and his research finding hoped to be useful

for the next researcher who will do an in dept research dealing about language maintenance or any research about Javanese language.

Practically, the research focuses on Javanese language maintenance among the Javanese teenagers in Medan-Helvetia. It is hoped to be useful for all Javanese people to realize that is important to maintain their language in order to keep the existent of their ethnic group. It helps them to know the Javanese language maintenance are preserved by Javanese teenagers, to know the process of vernacular language maintains by Javanese teenagers, to know the reason for their ways in maintaining their vernacular language.

