

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the verve expression of the culture. Language and culture are not fundamentally inseparable. At the most basic level, language is a method of expressing ideas. Culture on the other hand, is a specific set ideas, practices, customs and beliefs which make up a functioning society as distinct. A culture must have at least one language, which it uses as a distinct medium of communication to convey its defining ideas, customs, and beliefs, from one member of the culture to another member. Cultures can develop multiple languages, or “borrow” languages from other cultures to use; not all such languages are coequal in the culture. People who speak a certain language share a certain culture too. The relationship between language and culture is correlated.

According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), there are 6,000 languages in the world and 2,500 of them are extinct. UNESCO says that Indonesia, India, America, Brazil and Mexico are countries which have multi varieties of languages, but they are also threatening extinct. In Indonesia, 169 of 742 vernacular languages are facing danger of extinction because their speakers are less than 500 people. (UNESCO, 2009)

Language shift is the process by which a speech community in a contact situation gradually stops using one of its two languages in favor of the other. If the

disfavored language is one that has as its last speakers the members of the community in question, then the language faces endangerment and eventually, language death. The topic of language endangerment and death has recently become an interest to linguists, after dire predictions of the large number of languages that are anticipated to be lost in the next century, and work on the topic has been accelerated as have efforts to reserve the process of language shift.

Indonesia is a multilingual country. It consists of many kinds of culture. Most of the Indonesian people use two languages for communication: they use vernacular language as mother tongue and Indonesian language as National language. Nowadays, language shift potentially happens in vernaculars in Indonesia. Most of the language shift happens in the young generation.

Batak language as one of the vernaculars in Indonesia is divided into six parts. They are Toba Batak language, Karo Batak language, Simalungun Batak language, Mandailing Batak language, Angkola Batak language, Pakpak Batak language. In Batak society, Saragih (2010) also states that Batak language in North Sumatra is on the third stage of extinction, which is an endangered stage. The number of language users of Batak language reduces in numbers as they leave their hometown and do intercultural marriage, Batak language users who usually use Batak language in the family domain, now replace it with Indonesian language. The writer finds that it is important to conduct a study on Batak Toba language shift in Rantau Selatan district.

Most of Toba people live in some regency in North Sumatra, such as Toba Samosir regency, Humbang Hasundutan regency, Samosir regency,

Tapanuli Utara regency and etc. In 2003, Labuhanbatu is one of the best regency of Indonesia in economy. It is one of the people reason from some ethnics to do transmigration. They are Bataknese, Javanese, Mandailingnese, Chinese, Minangkabau, Acehnese, Nias and others. Actually, the original ethnic in Labuhanbatu is Beach Malay. It can be seen from slogan of Labuhanbatu “Ika Bina En Pabolo” that the meaning in Bahasa is “Kita Bina dan Kita Perbaiki”.

In 2008, Labuhanbatu is divided into three regencies. They are Labuhanbatu Utara, Labuhanbatu Selatan and Labuhanbatu. In this study, the writer speaks about Labuhanbatu. It has 9 districts, 23 sub districts and 75 villages. The writer takes Rantau Selatan district, Urung Kompas sub district and the writer lives in this place also. Many ethnics live in Rantau Selatan such as Malay, Bataknese, Minangkabau, Javanese, Acehnese and others.

In Rantau Selatan district, the most inhabitants are Bataknese. In this district, there is a place called Kampung Batak that the most people live in Toba Batak people. This place is adjacent with Kampung Songo, Kampung Suka Dame, Mutiara Housing, Graha Kompas Idaman Housing and others. And the people live in these place have different ethnics. It is impossible for Toba Batak people to use their own language to communicate with people of different vernaculars. Additionally, many of Toba Batak people marry with different vernacular, but same ethnic. So, the use of Bahasa Indonesia becomes increasing. It is a part of bilingualism. Bilingualism is a factor of language shift.

The researcher found in the first observation in one of Toba Batak family (mother and her daughter) who live in Kampung Batak, Rantau Selatan district;

Ibu: Made oooo Made, tolong la nak sapukan halaman kita ini, banyak sampah lo nak.

Made: Iya mak.

(Mom: Made oooo Made, please swept our yard, many rubbish in here)

(Made: ok mom)

After taking the first observation, the researcher interviewed a student;

A: Kalau di rumah anda menggunakan bahasa Batak Toba atau Bahasa Indonesia?

B: Bahasa Indonesia

A: Kenapa nggak menggunakan bahasa Batak Toba?

B: Saya kurang bisa bahasa Batak Toba, karena orang tua saya juga jarang menggunakan bahasa Batak Toba di rumah.

A: Jadi orang tua anda juga tidak bisa berbahasa Batak Toba?

B: Bisa, cuman orang tua saya kalau di rumah menggunakan Bahasa Indonesia, tapi kalau sama ayah saya kadang menggunakan bahasa Batak Toba, kadang menggunakan Bahasa Indonesia.

Based on the first observation above, a mother speaks Bahasa Indonesia to her daughter. She (mother) does not use Toba Batak language in her family. And interview above, a student can not speak Toba Batak language. The researcher concludes that the Toba Batak people in the Kampung Batak, Rantau Selatan district shift of the language of Toba Batak into bahasa Indonesia.

According to Edwards (1985: 71-72), there are some indication of ongoing language shift. Firstly, the language loses its basis of domain and the number of

language users decreases. It means that the language no longer used in a family domain as the basis domain. The language users reduce in numbers. Secondly, the majority language become dominant on minority language and endanger on the minority one. Majority language or the dominant language replaces the minority language in every domain. The minority language is no longer used and it gradually makes the loss of the minority language. Thirdly, the minority language is used only in the rural than in the urban area. The minority language is found only in the isolated area or in the village where community of the minority language originates and the number of the language users of the minority language is the biggest.

This research related with the previous study done by Marpaung (2017) which discussed language shift of Mandailing language on Mandailingnese family in Medan, and Juliansyah (2015) which discussed about language shift of the Javanese in Stabat, and Chairuddin (2018) which discussed about the shift of Acehese language in Pulau Kampai Community North Sumatera. It means that many researchers interested to investigate the language shift include the writer. The second reason, Indonesia consists of many ethnics and languages. Since 1945, Indonesia declared that Bahasa Indonesia is the official and national language. It is estimated that about 90 per cent of the Indonesian population can speak Bahasa Indonesia. It means that the vernacular of Indonesia is endangered. It is seen from Chon and Abtahian (2017) which discussed big languages aren't (necessarily) safe: language shift in the major language of Indonesia and Chon and Ravindranath (2014) which discussed local languages in Indoneasia: language

maintenance or language shift?. The third reason, many of the previous researchers language shift focused on Mandailingnese, Karonese, Pakpaknese, Javanese, and so on, but for Toba Batak still less, so the writer choose the Toba Batak language shift.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

The problems to be investigated operationally are formulated as follows:

1. What is the level of maintenance of the Toba Batak language in Rantau Selatan district?
2. How is the shift realized in their linguistic repertoire across language domains in Rantau Selatan district?
3. Why does the language shift occur in the ways they do in Rantau Selatan district?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. to describe the level of maintenance of the Toba Batak language in Rantau Selatan district.
2. to elaborate how the shift realized in their linguistic repertoire across language domain in Rantau Selatan district.
3. to explain the reasons why the language shift occur in the ways they do in Rantau Selatan district.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

There are many ethnics living in Labuhanbatu regency but this study focuses on Toba Batak language shift in Rantau Selatan district, Urung Kompas sub district that place is in Kampung Batak village. It is focused on the level of maintenance, the realization and the language shift occur of Toba Batak people shift the language into Bahasa Indonesia for the second generation (parents) and third generation (children).

1.5 The Significances of the Study

Theoretically, this study is focused to enrich the theories of sociolinguistics paliably, and to be useful for the next researcher. And other researchers who want to use the findings of this research as the references of conducting the same case but with different vernacular. Practically, the findings are expected to be useful for students, lecturers, the native speakers of Toba Batak language and government as the information about the Toba Batak language shift in Rantau Selatan can cause language death. And it is hoped to be useful for all Toba Batak people to realize that it is important to maintain their language in order to keep the existence of their ethnic group.

Practically, the findings are expected to be useful for:

1. Students, lecturers, and government as the information about the Toba Batak language condition to value their heritage in Rantau Selatan district where language shift can cause language death.

2. The native speakers of Toba Batak language in Rantau Selatan district as the warning that the condition of language shift can cause to their death vernacular.
3. Language observers as information to find out the solution to avoid language shift of Toba Batak in Rantau Selatan district.
4. Government in the field of education to invite to use Toba Batak language