

Toba Batak Language Shift in Rantau Selatan

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Abstract— This study observed Toba Batak Language

Shift in Rantau Selatan. The main objectives of the study were to answer the research problems under study that 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. The method of this study was qualitative research. The subjects were twenty eight Toba Batak people who live in Kampung Batak, Urung Kompas, Rantau Selatan district. The subjects were divided into two groups; first group as the second generation (parents) and the second group as third generation (children). The data were taken from the interview, questionnaire and observation. The findings show that (1) the level of mastery or maintenance of the Toba Batak language for the second generation is Severely Endangered at grade two. And the level of mastery or maintenance of the Toba Batak language for third generation or children is Critically Endangered at grade one. (2) the dominant domains are education domain and work place domain. (3) the reasons of Toba Batak language shift into Bahasa Indonesia; bilingualism factor, migration factor, economic factor, social factor, demographic factor, institutional factor, attitude factor, environment factor, status, and social success. Attitude is Toba Batak language, it can be maintain the Toba Batak language but if the speaker has negative attitude about Toba Batak language, the Toba Batak language can be extinct.

Keywords— *Language Shift, Toba Batak Language, Language Endangerment, language domain.*

I. INTRODUCTION

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.

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 languages faces endangerment and eventually, language death. The topic of language endangerment and death has recently become an interest to linguist, after dire predictions of the large number of languages that are anticipated to be lost in the next country, and work on the topic has been accelerated as have efforts to reserve the process of language shift.

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, [1] also states that Batak language in North Sumatera is on the third stage of extinction, which is endangered stage. The language users of Batak language reduce in numbers as they leave their hometown and do to intercultural marriage, Batak language users who usually use Batak language in the family domain, now replace it with Indonesia language. The writer finds that it is important to conduct a study on Batak Toba language shift in Rantau Selatan district.

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 [2-5].

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

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.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This study is conducted in qualitative research. Creswell (2014:32) says that qualitative research is an approach for explaining and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretation of the meaning of the data.

The data of this research were the sentences of the participants. The researcher would try to analyze the data with all of their riches as closely as possible to the form in which they are recorded and transcribed. The data sources of this research were the Toba Batak people who live in Rantau Selatan district,

Urung Kompas sub district, Kampung Batak village, Labuhan batu. The subjects in this study were 14 families. The subjects were divided into two groups; first group as the second generation 14 subjects and the second group as third generation 14 subjects, so the total of the subjects are 28 subjects.

The researcher collected the data by using interview, questionnaire sheet and audio-recorder. In doing interview, she wrote a very general guideline as the source of the question during the interview and the question would be developing in depth interview. The questionnaires in this study used open ended question. . An audio-recorder was used to record the conversation make during the data collection and took fields notes of the communication event that could not be interviewed. The data analysis was done by applying [6-12], they were (1) data condensation

(2) data display (3) verification/conclusion.

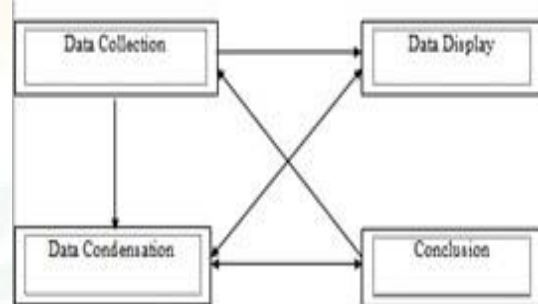


Figure Miles, Huberman's and Saldana Interactive Model (2014)

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on data analysis presented previously, this research come up with some research findings regarding to the Toba Batak Language Shift In Rantau Selatan:

Table The Result of Toba Batak Language Shift

Language user	Language use	Percentage
Second generation	BI	100
	BIBT	22.88
Third Generation	BI	100
	BIBT	4.29

Note: BI : Bahasa Indonesia

The researcher conclude that the level of mastery or maintenance of the Toba Batak language for second generation or parents in Rantau Selatan district is Severely Endangered that grade two (2). According severely endangered mean the language is spoken only by grandparents and older generations; while the parent generation may still understand the language, they typically do not speak it to their children. The level of

mastery or maintenance of the Toba Batak language for third generation or children in Rantau Selatan district is Critically Endangered that grade one (1). According critically endangered mean the youngest speakers are in the great grandparental generation, and the language is not used for everyday interactions [13-16]. These older people often remember only part of the language but do not use it, since there may not be anyone to speak with.

Education domain is a significant factor which influence Toba Batak language shift in Rantau Selatan. And it is the most influence factor for each of generation. Education domain is a role center of language using in social and public. Education domain is effect in language shifted. It is impacted negative of Toba Batak language. Therefore Toba Batak language seldom or no anymore using Toba Batak language in the school, the majority of language that used in the school is Bahasa Indonesia and English. It make that each of generation of Toba Batak ethnics is shifted their language from Toba Batak language to Bahasa Indonesia.

Work place domain is a factor that brings Toba Batak ethnics to shift from Toba Batak language to Bahasa Indonesia. In this study, it is happen only for second generation or parents because the subjects of the third generation still be students, only one person has have job. In the work place domain, they were active individual that meet and speak with many different people from different ethnic group every day. Most of them are government employees, private officer, and entrepreneurs. They use Bahasa Indonesia as the united language in this domain.

Attitudes and value is one important reason of Toba Batak language shift to Bahasa Indonesia. The second and the third generation have negative attitude in speaking Toba Batak language. And most of the subjects of second generation and third generation actually have a positive value on Toba Batak language. They assume that Toba Batak language as their symbol of identity as Tobanese. The third generation on Toba Batak language gradually loss their loyalty on Toba Batak language. All of them admit that they rarely use the language. The third generation decided to use Bahasa Indonesia since they are communicate with their family. In other words, they never use Toba Batak language in daily conversation because their parents seldom speak the language to them. Some of them understand Toba Batak language but could not speak it. Having lack of such competence, they prefer to use Bahasa Indonesia when they get communication each other. Children become monolingual in Bahasa Indonesia.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on data analysis presented on the previous chapter, several points can be concluded according to research problems: The level of mastery or maintenance of the Toba Batak language for the second generation is Severely Endangered at grade two. And the level of mastery or

maintenance of the Toba Batak language for third generation or children is Critically Endangered at grade one. (2) In the second generation, Toba Batak language shift into Bahasa Indonesia in two domains namely; in education domain and work place domain While in the third generation, Toba Batak language shift into Bahasa Indonesia in four domains namely; family domain, friendship domain, religion domain and education domain. (3) In the second generation, the reasons of Toba Batak language shift into Bahasa Indonesia; bilingualism factor, migration factor, economic factor, social factor, demographic factor, institutional factor, attitude factor, environment factor, status, and social success. While in the third generation, the reasons of Toba Batak language shift into Bahasa Indonesia; attitude factor, economic factor, social or environment factor, migration factor, demographic factor, institutional factor, status and social success.

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