

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Indonesia has many ethnics group and indogenous languages. Sumatera Island is one of the biggest island in Indonesia that has varieties culture and language. South Labuhan Batu, as a part of regency in Sumatera Island, has a important role to contribute the varieties in language. Especially in South Labuhan Batu, there are many ethnics group in Labuhanbatu Selatan. The most of ethnic is Mandailingness. The ethnics group that migration in South Labuhanbatu such as Javanese, malay and chinese. Javanese is minority group in South Labuhanbatu, especially in Simatahari Indah Village, because the majority is Mandailingnese. Although, javanese is a minority group, but they can maintain their language. They use their language in daily communication.

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.

Desa Simatahari exactly, in this location or community we could find that most of societies come from varieties of ethnic such as: Mandailing and Java. 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.

In this village, it's not easy to find java boys and java girls. because they are surrounded by mandailing tribes as a minority but we can find out from the use of their language when communicating between Javanese adolescents who still use Javanese vocabulary for example, they use Indonesia language with their friends in their environment while they speak javanese with their family at home or to other people who come from the same ethnic. The java boys and girls usually still very active in javanese language in everyday , especially when joking and playing together at home or school.

The phenomenon of Javanese community in South Labuhan Batu, especially in Desa Simatahari Javanese had lived because of migration. They are farming and gardening . As a minority group, they can maintain their language and culture. 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 desa Simatahari. As found in desa Simatahari that Javanese teenagers still maintain Javanese language in communication. They maintain their language with using their language in daily communication. There are several factors that can maintain their daily Javanese language such as the use of the term kinship in the family such as romo (father), embok (mother) mas (brother), mbak (sister), mbah wedok (grand mother), mbah lanang (grand father), the use of language in the environment around the residence, learners of the Javanese language, the social environment of the youth

They use their language at home in daily activity such as the conversation. As she found in the first observation in one of Javanese families (mother and her daughter) who live in desa Simatahari.

One of previous study which conducts the study about language maintenance is Hadi Sahputra (2014). This previous study and this research are discussed the same topic about language maintenance in his study about the Maintenance of Acehnese by Its Speakers at the Eastern Coast of Serdang Bedagai Regency, states that the existence of the speakers of Acehnese are at the level of safe but in their children or their generation is at the level of unsafe and it leads to the language shift to a dominant language, that is Indonesian language as well as Malay language or other local language which are the major population, which dominates the use of vernacular.

Fishman (1991) further argue that language maintenance has not only been an interest of linguists, but also a great concern due to the fact that by the third

generation, there is often a complete shift from the heritage language to dominant language in migrant families.

In line with the explanation about language maintenance above, in reality during the interaction between boys and girls, there is different phenomenon, such as in the following.

1. Boy : *Ojo lali dolanan bola jam limo.*
(Don` t forget to play football at 5 p.m.)
Boy : *Iyo*
(Alright)
2. Girl : *Mengko kita sido ndelok bolane kan?*
(We will watch the futsal match today, won` t we?)
Girl : *Iyo, petok nang endi kita?*
(Of course, where will we meet?)
Girl : *Aku jemput nang omahmu wae.*
(I` ll pick up at your home)
3. Boy : *Ojo lali teko yo dadi supporter yo.*
(Don` t forget to come to support our team, yeea?)
Girl : *Iyo !*
(Okey !)

Based on the first observation above that the teenagers thinks that Javanese is the important communication tool which is still relevant in a teenager for this modern era. The teenagers really feels as Javanese people if the teenager uses javanese to communicate each other. From the conversation of the teenagers

above is one of strong maintaining to maintain Javanese in Desa Simatahari, South Labuhan batu. The participants are Javanese teenagers. Boy and Girl are the third generation. As Silva-Corvalan (1994) stated that in sociolinguistic terms, the parents are the first generation, the children second, and the grandchildren the third. Their conversation shows that, boy speaks Javanese language with his friend. It means that boy as a third generation still maintains Javanese language. This situation motivates the researcher to do the research.

Based on the observation above, the young generation can maintain their language. They use Javanese in daily communication. They have awareness to use Javanese. They also have solidarity to use their language to keep their ethnic group. In this condition is found that Javanese teenagers who live in Desa Simatahari Indah In South Labuhan batu competent to due to regeneration of their vernacular to their generation because their generation competent in using active Javanese in daily communication. Although some of them more often use Indonesia language than Javanese. Thus, based on the phenomena which have been mentioned above, this research tries to find out the types of language maintenance that influence Javanese language maintenance in Desa Simatahari, how the process and the reasons of Javanese people maintain their language.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

The focus of this study is the language maintenance of Java language in South Labuhan Batu. Based on this focus the problems of the research formulated as below:

1. What types of maintenance do the Javanese teenagers of South Labuhan Batu preserve?
2. How do the Javanese teenagers of South Labuhan Batu maintain their language?
3. Why do the Javanese teenagers of South Labuhan Batu maintain their language in the way they do?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are:

- 1) To investigate what language maintenance do the Javanese people of South Labuhan Batu preserve.
- 2) To elaborate the ways Javanese people maintain the language in South Labuhan Batu.
- 3) To explain the reasons why the Javanese people of South Labuhan Batu maintain their language.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

This study is also focused on the current conditions of the Javanese teenagers in desa Simatahari in terms of utterances. The scope of this study is

teenagers of javanese in Desa Simatahari Indah at the age 15-18 years old who can speak Javanese language in daily activity although they also speak Indonesian language in daily life. The number of the subjects are 15 javanese teenagers.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The findings of the study are expected to be useful and relevant theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically Significance

The findings of the study are useful for developing of the theory of language maintenance. This reasearch findings will be also useful for improving the knowledge to add more horizons in language planning issues about the vernacular language.

2. Practical Significance

The result of the study will be useful as a reference for the university students who are interested in studying language maintenance. This research finding will be also useful for the next researchers who are interested in conducting any further studies in language maintenance.