

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is recognized as the most powerful means of communication. The existence of language cannot be separated from human life because as human beings, people cannot be separated from the process of communication. In their lives, people need to interact with others since they cannot live by themselves. Language allows humans to form social groups as a fulfillment of their need to live together with language in a different social environment. The existence of these social groups, causes the language used varies. This is in line with what has been suggested by Wardaugh (1992: 8) who states that “Language allows people to say things to each other and expresses communicate needs”. In short, language is constantly used by humans in their daily life as a means of communication. Communication is also defined as the interaction between two persons. In communication, the society deals with the meaning. Whereas a word can have the different meaning. It means that speaker and listener must have the same perspective or goal.

In sociolinguistic studies, language is not only understood as a sign system, but is also seen as a social system, a communication system, and as part of the culture of a particular society. Mesthrie et al. (2009: 5) said that sociolinguistics is focusing on language in society on social contexts throw upon language. In social life, each region always has its own dialect as its group identity. Each region has dialect characteristics that are different from other regions. The differences in dialects found in each region lead to language variations.

Language variation is the different ways of human language to express the same meaning at different structure. Variation at different levels of linguistic structure are phonetic levels, morphological levels, syntactic levels, semantic levels (vocabulary choice). Hudson (1996, p. 22) defines a variety of language as “a set of linguistic item with similar distribution”, this definition also allows us to treat all the language of some multilingual speaker, or community, as a single variety, since all the linguistic items concern have similar social distribution. A variety can therefore be something greater than a single language as well something less, less even than something traditionally referred to as dialect.

According to Wardhaugh (2006:136) one way of characterizing certain variations is to say that speaker of a particular language sometimes speak different dialects of that language. Language variation seeks to explain the characteristics of language variation and establish the correlation of the characteristics of variations of language with social characteristics. In a sociolinguistic view, language variations or differences are studied and assessed in terms of form and use, as well as their relation to social factors.

As a multicultural country, Indonesia has so much variety of language. In addition to the official language, Indonesian people also have regional languages in each region. Rokan Hilir is one of them. Rokan Hilir, where the majority of the population is Malay, has a special regional language, namely the Malay language. Therefore, the use of Malay language in Rokan Hilir is not homogeneous or uniform. The use of Malay language always differs based on place. So that there are several variations of the Malay language in Rokan Hilir.

Riau Malay language is a language that is rich in dialects from every district, sub-district, and village in all regions in Riau. The widespread Malay ethnicity makes the Malay language in each region have its own characteristics, for example, the Malay language in Rokan Hilir district is different from the Malay language in others district. Rokan Hilir Regency which is part of the Riau Malay tribe also has its own distinctive language. Each region in Rokan Hilir also has language differences. Although the difference is only in accent or in certain words, this slight difference is able to prove the diversity of languages that exist in Rokan Hilir Regency. There are 18 sub-districts in Rokan Hilir Regency and from the people of Rokan Hilir Regency who are Malay ethnic, there are almost differences in each area in the sub-districts in Rokan Hilir.

Previous study by Fathira (2018) studied about Issoglosses Boundary in a Language Mapping of Malay-Riau Language. This research focused to elaborate the language mapping in dialectology by isoglosses boundary. Method of the research used qualitative method explained descriptively. In this research, the researcher conducted a dialectology research in Rokan Hulu Regency by 21 observation spots. In collecting data, there were 200 Swadesh words had been recorded, had been transcribed in phonetic transcription, and had been drawn in language mapping. The result showed that language mapping in Malay-Riau language was easy to analyze the differences of language used by using isoglosses boundary. The language mapping founds a language with some dialects used, Malay-Riau language with Bengkalis Minang dialect, with Mandailing dialect since the position of Rokan Hulu Regency lies among 3 regions having different in languages. They are West Sumatra Province with Minangnese

language, North Sumatra Province with Bataknese/Mandailing language, and Bengkalis Regency with Malay Riau Island language. The most dominant was Malay-Riau language, Malay-Riau language with Mandailing dialect. It means that, there is only one language used in Rokan Hulu Regency. It is called Malay-Riau language with Mandailing Dialect.

The other relevant study by AR, Auzar and Ras. (2018) discussed about Local Wisdom Based on Riau-Malay Language in Kuantan Singingi Regency. The purpose of this research is to analyze the form and field of meaning of local wisdom based on Malay language in Kuantan Singingi Regency. The method used with qualitative-descriptive approach. The data collecting techniques used technique of referring, technique of note, and technique of interview (cakap semuka) by used instrument of Swadesh vocabulary and addition of certain vocabulary variation. The results obtained were the form of lexical phonetic innovation in this study was found as many as 11 glos with 33 variants that still retain local wisdom in Kuantan Singingi community that is *khitanan*, *berkebun*, *hajatan*, *kerja bakti*, *tukang menggali kuburan*, *tukang memandikan mayat*, *tukang pantun*, *tunangan*, *yasinan*, *menuju hari*, and *menuju bulan*, while the morphological innovations found in this study were 22 gloss with 75 variants, that is 1) morpheme *ber-* become *bo-*, *ba-*, *mo-*, *ma-*, and morpheme release *ber-*; 2) morpheme *me-* becoming morpheme *bo-*, *ma-*, *mo-*, and *ba-*; 3) morpheme *pe-* becoming morpheme *po-* and *pa-*; 4) morpheme *be-* becoming morpheme *bo-* and *ba-*; and morpheme *men-* becoming morpheme *mo-* and *ma-*. Fields of meaning of Riau Malay language as the local wisdom of Kuantan Singingi's innovative community are found 12 (twelve) mean fields, namely: kinship 20 glos, village

life 18 glos, house and surrounding 22 glos, household appliances and sleep equipment gloss, plants and fruits 14 glos, tools and fishing rod 15 glos, food and beverage 24 glos, nature and flavor 19 glos, color 18 glos, activity 50 gloss, musical instrument 6 glos, clothing and 13 gloss jewelry.

Based on a number of Riau Malay language variation studies done by some researchers show that none of them has examined the variation of Riau Malay language in Rokan Hilir Regency. Therefore, this language research is important to do so that the Malay language Rokan Hilir is maintained at any time and this piece of language research is important to enrich the linguistic repertoire of the world.

Rokan Hilir district consist of various ethnics, namely the Malays, Javanese, Batak, Minangkabau, Chinese etc. The diversity of tribes in Rokan Hilir Regency does not eliminate the Malay culture in Rokan Hilir Regency because the majority of the population in Rokan Hilir Regency is of Malay ethnicity. The difference in Malay language in Rokan Hilir Regency proves that there are variations in Malay language in Rokan Hilir Regency.

These variations may be influenced by the regional and social variations, differences of social status, age, religion and culture. This difference can be seen from the lexical, phonology, and grammar that the author knows based on observations in several districts in Rokan Hilir Regency. For example;

Table 1.1 Language Variations in Rokan Hilir Regency

No	Dialect	Phonology	Lexis	Grammar
1	tanah Putih	[kelapo]	kelapo	boli ae kelapo sebonta
2	kubu	[nio]	nio	boli aiie nio sokoja
3	bangko	[nio]	nio	boli ai niosebonta
4	english version	[¹ kəʊkənʌt]	coconut	buy me coconut water for a minute, please!

These data are classified into variation of Riau Malay language. Because the utterances is different from one place to another place. From the example it shows that different places have different dialect. Variations may occur in the speech community that has two or more languages. Variations of these languages is the diversity of language and reflect the cultural diversity in Rokan Hilir Regency. Of course, the diversity of language variation contained in Rokan Hilir background underlying the occurrence of a varied language. The writer talk about the variation of Riau Malay language because there are some differences, when people from different place talk about some words or they communicate each other there are some differences, so, the writer wants to conduct the research about the variation of Riau Malay language in Rokan Hilir Regency, even the meaning is same. The variations of Riau Malay language in Rokan Hilir Regency give us information about the variation of language, to make a deep understanding to the readers about the variation of Riau Malay language in Rokan Hilir Regency, so it can utilize the variation in their daily life. That's why, the writer chooses this topic to be analyzed the variations of Riau Malay language in Rokan Hilir Regency.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problems of this study were:

1. What kinds of variation are there in the Malay Language spoken in Rokan Hilir Regency?
2. How are variations of Riau Malay language realized in their utterances?
3. Why are the variations of Riau Malay language realized in the way they are?

1.3 The Objectives the Study

In line with the problems, the objectives of the study were:

1. to analyze kinds of variation are there in the Malay Language spoken in Rokan Hilir
2. to describe the variations of Riau Malay language realized in their utterances
3. to explain the reasons of the variations of Riau Malay language in Rokan Hilir Regency realized in the way they are.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

This research is limited to only 3 districts out of a total of 18 sub-districts in Rokan Hilir Regency they are Tanah putih, Kubu and Bangko districts. The Theory by Saragih (2017) was used to analyze the kinds of variations, the realization of variation by Crystal (1989) and to explain the reasons of the variations of Riau Malay language in Rokan Hilir Regency was used theory by Saragih (2017).

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study will be expected to be relevant theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, the study will be considered to enrich the theories of language variation especially the variation, the realization and the reason of the Variation Riau Malay language in Rokan Hilir Regency.

Practically, the results of the study will be considered to be used as a reference to enhance the college student's knowledge about language variation. The last, hopefully the result of this study contributes in a new research to discover more finding about the variation, realization and reason of the variation Riau Malay language in Rokan hilir Regency

