

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1. The Background of the Study

Language defines who the person is and what linguistic and a social group he/she belongs to. Language is a classified system of communication that is carried out by means of sounds and symbols. Language defines the cultural identity, which makes it crucial for a person to know his language well, and to identify with a group of people of common language. Language is the principle means used by human being to communicate with one another.

Language has an important role in communication. The role of communication can not be separated from the social context and culture. Every human being has their own Mother Language as the main medium of communication on their country. The role of Mother Language can not be separated from the context of socio and culture. In Indonesia, there is not only Mother Language, every human being in Indonesia has National Language, it is Bahasa Indonesia which is functioning to unity the multicultural ethnic societies on the communication system. It shows that language has defined the cultural identity.

Indonesia is a very rich nation; it can be seen on the natural, cultural and languages side. Rohmadi (2014) stated that the rich of ethnic languages and traditional cultures in Indonesia spread from Sabang to Merauke and it used as the medium of communication. Further, Ethnic Language has important role to

construct this multicultural nation, the ethnic language affected the societies not only from communication effect but also on the norm, culture, economic, religion, and education in Indonesia. So that it is important to maintain the all ethnic languages on Indonesia on each context of life.

Most of Indonesian societies are bilingual, but in fact, many vernaculars in Indonesia are shifted and even endangered. Safriandi (2010) stated, there are 174 of 746 vernaculars in Indonesia are endangered and 14 of them are lost. Only 13 vernaculars have more than one million language users. They are Java language, Batak language, Bali language, Minang language, Madura language, Bugis language, Aceh Language etc.

Saut Poltak Tambunan (Kompas, 2013:6 in Muhammad Rohmadi in Kongress Internasional Masyarakat Linguistik Indonesia 2014) stated that there are not many people in Indonesia who care about the information from the Minister of Education and Culture on 2011 which is informed that 90 % of ethnic languages are on the endangered situation on last of 21 century. Further information, from 746 ethnic languages, there will be only 10 % of ethnic languages or 75 ethnic languages which can be existed in Indonesia.

In recent years, ethnic languages are influenced by globalization. The globalization affects action, awareness, and attitudes of ethnic community to the use of their vernacular. This can be seen in the phenomena of less frequent of using vernaculars, where they tend to speak Indonesian rather than their own vernacular in daily interaction in working place, family, and public places. For instance, the influence of TV programs in Indonesia which are using Bahasa

Indonesia, toward the young generation, nowadays, most of young generations are tend to speak Bahasa Indonesia than their vernaculars. The challenge is should be anticipated with a good plan, conceptual and intellectual, and wise treatment. The challenge could be come internally and externally. The intern challenge is coming from the speakers of the vernaculars itself, and the extern challenge is coming from the globalization, information and technology.

In the case of Sibolga, as one of city in North Sumatera has a jargon “KOTA BERBILANG KAUM”. It means that Sibolga is a multiethnic region; it is consisted of Tobanese, Mandailingnese, Javanese, Padangnese, Chinese, Karonese, Malaynese, etc. The globalization has also affected the movement of Sibolga societies, even it is in social, economics, politics and further their vernaculars.

As a people of Sibolga, the writer assumed that the influence of the globalization through societies has affected to the using of Bahasa Pesisir Sibolga {(Bahasa Baikko) ethnic language in Sibolga} in any social aspects, especially on the young generation of Sibolga. Furthermore, most of them tend to use Bahasa Indonesia (BI) as their daily language, and parents are more proud to facilitate their children to studies foreign language (English, Hokkien) than their children speaks in Bahasa Baikko. It can be seen from their daily life, most of them speak in Bahasa Indonesia at home, school, work and market domain. Young generation or teenagers defined as a young person whose age falls within the range from thirteen through nineteen (13–19). They are called teenagers because their age number ends in "teen". Someone aged 18 or 19 is also considered a young adult

(Oxford Dictionary). Fishman (1965) defined domains as total interactional contexts of communication, such as the home, work, school, church, etc. The writer also assumed that Bahasa Baikko has no longer spoken on every domain of language use.

The using of foreign language has also influence the young generation especially on the school domain, where there are many English contests, and English clubs in Sibolga. The increasing of the using Bahasa Indonesia in Sibolga has affected to the using of Bahasa Baikko in Sibolga, such as words, “*ta’uti, ta’ajo, ungon, teta, mak tanga, mak uwo, cecek,*” are rarely used nowadays. Most of those words are replaced by word Indonesian, such as “*kakak ipar, abang ipar, kamu, kakak, uwak, tante, kakak*”. It shows that there is a phenomenon of less of the using of Bahasa Pesisir Sibolga on certain domain. Nowadays, Bahasa Baikko is only spoken on the traditional ceremony of Sibolganese societies or family domain. This indication is very risky for the existence Baikko.

Based on this situation, the writer is interested to find out the phenomenon of Bahasa Baikko. The writer assumes that most of the young generation nation nowadays have negative attitude towards BPS.

Based on a preliminary research, the reasons of the lack of the using ethnic languages in several areas in Indonesia are: first, Bahasa Indonesia as National Language has a strength power, it has been used in all domain of language use especially on the teenagers. Second, teenagers also has a proud when they speak in Bahasa Indonesia on the environment domain or education domain, assumes like that because the teenagers has affected of the electronic media such as

television and other social media. Third, migration process has affected to the using of Baikko.etc.

In refers to those above, it has a strong relationship with Language Attitude. An attitude is an expression of favor or disfavor toward a person, place, thing, or event (the attitude object). (Fasold 1984: 148). Attitudes are crucial in language growth or decay, restoration or destruction: the status and importance of a language in society and within an individual derives largely from adopted or learnt attitudes. In accordance to attitudes, Baker (1992) stated, attitudes are an important part of language life. Therefore, a closer look at language attitudes might help to reveal characteristic patterns of minority language retention. Further, Anderson (1974), there are two types of language attitude, namely: language toward attitudes and language toward non attitudes. Language toward attitudes is defined as long beliefs about language or object of language that gives one`s tendency to behave as s/ he likes. It may happen in positive and negative sides. Positive attitude means we view the certain language as a good side or give a high value of the language, whereas negative means that we view the certain language as a low value.

According to Anderson (1974) Negative attitude to language can also be happen when the people or a group of people do not feel proud of their own language anymore, it occurs when ethnic language is not highly valued and is not seen as a symbol of identity. This is happen when teenagers or young generation gradually abandon to use ethnic language or vernacular in daily communication, or if members view their language as hindrance to economic mobility and

integration into mainstream society, they may develop negative attitudes towards their language (Unesco:2003).

Sneddon (2003) says that the pressure of Indonesian to local languages is very great and leads to their endangerment. It implies that the speakers' loyalty to their vernacular is in challenge. Moreover, Musgrave (2009) states that using the national language could be viewed as a mark of good citizenship. It implies that there is a high pressure to the use of Bahasa Baikko.

To this, there are two indications of Bahasa Baikko usage can be taken into consideration; when they have high loyalty, it means they maintain their vernacular. But when their attitude shows negative or less respectful to their vernacular, it means their language may be altered by another one or in another word their local language is shifted. As stated by Yusri (2011) attitude towards a language refers to the perception of a community towards that language. Therefore it has a tendency to react in a certain way either positive or negative.

According to Edwards (1985:71-72), there are some indications of ongoing language shift. First, the language is lost its basis of domain and the number of language users' decrease. It means that the language no longer use in family domain as the basis domain. Second, the majority language become dominant on minority language and endanger on the minority language. Majority language replaces the minority language in every domain. Third, the minority language is used only in the rural than in the urban area.

Fishman (2001), there are some factors which caused the attitude change on the language attitude on the language use, the factors creating such a situation

may be social (e.g. a mixed marriage in which deemed appropriate to use only the dominant language, often the language of the father in the home), economic (the dominant language is the language used in workplace), or political (use of the ancestral language is forbidden). Language attitudes can contribute to the stability of language use in the contact with a dominant language, when such attitudes are positive or negative. By the fact that language contact is interpersonal, the changes that result affect much more than the language, though they are evident on the surface of the language as well. The introduction of technology, for example, will show up in a linguistic change, but it will likely show up in many other societal changes as well, some obvious and some subtle (Kaplan and Baldauf, 1997).

In Sibolga, Bahasa Indonesia becomes the dominant language. Bahasa Indonesia has been used in the family domain. It means that Bahasa Baikko has lost its basis of domain. When there is no serious attention from societies of Sibolga to maintain Bahasa Baikko, it will be on endangered and if it is no longer spoken anywhere, it will be lost.

Before stating that Bahasa Baikko is on shifted or endangered condition, as a societies of Sibolga, the writer thought it is important to conduct a research about the attitude of the teenagers in Sibolga toward Bahasa Baikko. There are two main reasons for this research. First, perpetuating the vernacular in Indonesia is the mandate of Indonesian constitution. As stated in UUD 1945, chapter XII and article 32; point 21 that the government respects and keeps maintain vernaculars as the national culture. Second, the vernacular is the element of

national culture. The death of Bahasa Baikko may cause the death of Sibolga ethnic also.

I.2. The Problems of the Study

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

1. What languages do the teenagers of Sibolga speak on their daily life activities?
2. How is the attitude of the teenagers in Sibolga toward Bahasa Baikko?
3. Why do they have such attitude?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problems of the study, the objectives of this research are,

- (1) to describe the languages spoken by teenagers of Sibolga in their daily life.
- (2) to describe the attitude of teenagers in Sibolga towards Bahasa Baikko.
- (3) to explain the reasons of why the teenagers' have such attitude towards PBS.

1.4. The Scope of the Study

This study will be focused on the attitude of the teenagers on Sibolga toward Bahasa Baikko. There will be 20 Sibolganese teenagers will be chosen as the source of the data. To get the representative of the research, the researcher will

choose them on two different ways, whether 20 teenagers as students of senior high school from SMK Negeri 2 Sibolga will choose, and they will divide into 4 groups based on the regions in Sibolga, namely Sibolga Kota, Sibolga Selatan, Sibolga Sambas and Sibolga Utara. In this research, the researcher will focus only to describe the attitude of the teenagers on Sibolga toward Bahasa Baikko.

There are three main aspects will be observed in this study. First, the languages that use on the basis of domain language use on teenagers on Sibolga. Second, attitude of teenagers in Sibolga toward Bahasa Baikko. Third, reasons or factors that influence the attitude of the teenagers in Sibolga to have that attitude.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

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

Theoretically, the findings of the study are expected to provide new contribution to the theory of language attitude towards vernacular language. In addition, the findings are expected to add more horizons in language planning issues.

Practically, the findings are expected to awake the awareness of the societies of Sibolga speakers, especially the youth generation in multilingual context. In addition, the findings are relevant to language planners in efforts to maintain endangered languages.