

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, research questions, purposes of the study, scope and limitation of the study, significance of the study, research methodology, clarification of the terms, and paper organization.

1.1 Background of the Study

Context may influence the language use when people communicate one with another. In Indonesia context where several languages may be used, the one with whom we communicate can influence which language is chosen as the tool to fulfil the purpose. It is in line with Edwards (1985, cited in Katubi 2006) who said that language choice can function as an indication to perception of situation. For example, a person who migrates to Bandung from Padang will decide to use *Bahasa Indonesia* with local people which functions as *lingua franca* since s/he perceives the situation is inappropriate to use her/his own ethnic language.

The context of Indonesia as said above is usually known as multilingual (Tanner 1967). Multilingual communities are as “one of the results of migration” (Spolsky 1998, p. 51). One of cities known as multilingual city is Bandung. There are several ethnics including Minang ethnic who is an ethnic from West Sumatera province. They have Minang language as their native language. In Bandung, Minang people are also called Padang people.

Minang people spread in every corner of Indonesia since it is about 70 % of them live outside Minang areas (Alma 2002). In Bandung, the existence of

Minang people could be seen from various kinds of associations, such as *Perkumpulan Keluarga Minang (PKM) Bandung*, *Gonjong Limo*, *Persatuan Keluarga Daerah Padang Pariaman (PKDP)*, *Ikatan Keluarga Lubuk Basung (IKL)*, and so on.

In multilingual society, language choice occurs (Fasold 1984). Based on Greenfield's research (1992, cited in Fasold 1984), there are three factors, namely interlocutors, settings, and topics, which affect the language choice used by speakers. For example, Minang people in Bandung might have different language choice to speak to different people. Minang people may use Sundanese with their neighbour who is from Sundanese and speak Minang language to their Minang neighbour.

The length of migration will influence Minang people in choosing language (Baker 1992). In addition, Borbérly (2005) also suggested that the proficiency or ability of a language or more also influence their language choice. Someone who is able to speak Sundanese, Minangnese, and Javanese may use those languages when she/he meets another person who is from one of the ethnics.

Actually, people usually choose a language which is easier to use and more understandable by most of people (Holmes 2001). Therefore, *Bahasa Indonesia* is dominantly chosen by Indonesian society in multilingual context.

Having experience with a language or languages make people have an attitude toward it. Attitude, in general, is defined as a mental state of willingness, organized through experience (Allport, cited in Pickens 2005). As Minang people in Bandung, they have experienced at least with Sundanese beside Minang

language and *Bahasa Indonesia*. Therefore, some Minang people may perceive a language more positive than another language. Since what an individual interprets or perceives may be substantially different each other, a closer look at the issues that help to investigate individual's response toward language, such as language attitude is needed. In addition to language attitude, language use is another important factor that impacts language shift and maintenance toward a particular language in a speech community (Gardner 1985, Holmes & Harlow 1991, cited in Kuncha and Bathula 2004; Fasold 1984; Holmes 2001).

Language maintenance, here, occurs when a group of community collectively decides to continue using a language. Meanwhile, language shift is choosing a new language and slowly leaving the old language (Fasold 1984). Related to attitude, language shift and maintenance can be seen from speaker's response. For instance, when a person responds positively toward a language through keeping using the language, the effect is language maintenance. In contrast, when there is a negative response toward a language, it may be a sign that "language shift is in progress" (Fasold 1984, p. 213).

There are many researchers who investigate language attitude in terms of language maintenance and shift. However, since the study is included in social and psychology field, it is still essential to broaden the study in sociolinguistic context pertaining to the issue.

A study which was conducted by Zhang (2008) focused on Chinese immigrants' family in USA. It is closely related to attitude in terms of shift and maintenance. He reported that Chinese parents generally have positive attitude

since they value their native language very much and make great efforts to maintain it in their second-generation children. More obviously, Zhang (2008, pp. 103-104) reported some reasons for the emergence of the positive attitude. Some of the reasons are that language is “as closely related to their ethnic identity” and that it is “a necessary family link that reinforces family ties and contributes to family cohesion”. It is in line with Fasold (1984) who relates attitude to group identity.

Then, a pilot study conducted by Kuncha and Bathula (2004) reported the attitudes toward English and Telugu (the official language of Indian state of Andhra Pradesh) of a new immigrant community in New Zealand. The study suggested that the community tends to have positive attitude toward English and *in contrast*, negative attitude towards Telugu. The attitudes emerge since they consider that English is more important to learn than Telugu in New Zealand. Therefore, the use of Telugu shift to English in New Zealand context.

A local study in Indonesia context is about attitude of Javanese toward *Bahasa Indonesia* and Minang language in Sitiung (West Sumatera). The study done by Irnawati (1996) reported that Javanese people in Sitiung have positive attitude toward both languages. It is influenced by some factors. First, *Bahasa Indonesia* and Minang language are moderate language without indicating social strata too much, so that it is easier to learn. Then, Sitiung is located closed to Minang speaker’s area. Finally, the will to be accepted by the local society is also a factor that influences their attitude toward both languages.

Unlike the previous study, the present study investigates language maintenance of Minang people who live more than 15 years in Bandung toward Minang language. The measurement of the maintenance is conducted by seeking their attitude to Minang language. The length of migration probably influences their attitude toward their native language which will influence their language maintenance. For example, Minang people who live in Bandung for a long time will use *Bahasa Indonesia* and Sundanese rather than Minang to socialize with local society. Therefore, there are probably no efforts to maintain their Minang language.

In addition, the use of *Bahasa Indonesia* and Sundanese in most of Sundanese's interaction internalizes Minang people into that culture. It will influence more to their new languages proficiency. For instance, when Minang people interact with Sundanese, they tend to use either *Bahasa Indonesia* or Sundanese, for communication since Sundanese is the majority society in Bandung. Hence, investigating language use of Minang family in low domains is also conducted.

Considering the importance of this study as a contribution to sociolinguistics study in Indonesia, it becomes essential to investigate regional language which concerns with language attitude. In conclusion, this study is projected to discover the attitude of Minang people toward Minang language in such a multilingual context at Bandung.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the above background of this study, some research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What languages are used by Minang family in family, friendship and neighbourhood domains?
2. How is Minang family attitude to Minang language in such a multilingual context at Bandung?
3. Are there attempts deliberately made by Minang parents to maintain their native language to their children?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

The aims of this study are:

1. To identify languages are used by Minang family in family, friendship and neighbourhood domains.
2. To investigate Minang family attitude to Minang language in such a multilingual context at Bandung.
3. To investigate the attempts made by Minang parents to maintain their native language to their children.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is a sociolinguistic study which relates to sociology field since an individual becomes the subject of this study. Then, it also relates to psychology field since attitude is investigated as the object of this study. Therefore, this study

is limited to investigate Minang language maintenance of two Minang families in Bandung by investigating their language use and attitude.

Since this study focuses on comprehending a case, two Minang families are chosen as a case based on social status differentiation. Therefore, these families are from lower and upper class. As stated by Romaine (2000), many sociolinguistic studies are conducted by grouping into social class on the basis factors such as education, occupation and income.

Meanwhile, those participants are chosen since they have lived more than 15 years in Bandung. It has pre-assumption that taking a long time to live in Bandung makes some probabilities to Minang family's attitude toward Minang language which also influences their language use in Bandung context.

Since attitude becomes one of the factors that impacts language maintenance and influences language use, measuring Minang language maintenance is conducted by investigating language use and attitude of Minang family.

This study focuses on low domains (L) such as family, friendship and neighbourhood domains. It is because of regional or native language is taking place in non formal situation (Holmes 2001).

1.5 Significance of The Study

There are many studies which have discussed about regional languages in terms of language maintenance. Unfortunately, the studies which discuss Minang language are rarely found. Maintaining in Minang context is more focused on

culture than language. In fact, language is a part of culture that has to be maintained as Indonesia's wealth. Therefore, this study is important to enrich sociolinguistics field which focuses on Minang ethnic language. Thus, it also becomes important since Minang people's attitude is not investigated yet in sociolinguistics field, especially in Bandung.

1.6 Clarification of Terms

In order to comprehend the basic notions underlying of this paper, the following key terms are clarified:

- Language maintenance means to keep using one language dominantly in bilingual or multilingual contexts consistently though there are other languages.
- Language shift is leaving a language and using another language which the new language is more dominant than the language that used before.
- Language attitude or attitude to language in this study is the feelings of people toward their ethnic language in multilingual context.
- Minang people are one of ethnic groups in Indonesia who are from West Sumatera. Minang people in this study are also an ethnic which are from pure blood of Minang parents.
- Minang language is one of Indonesian's ethnic languages which is used by Minang people.
- Family domain is when a speaker is at home talking to another member of her/his family member about an everyday topic.

- Family members are broadening terms: parents, children, cousin, nephew/niece, and uncle/aunty.
- Friendship domain is when a speaker takes conversations with their friends. It is divided into two, friends are from Minang and friends are not from Minang.
- Neighbourhood domain is when a speaker takes conversations with their neighbour. Like in friendship domain, it is also divided into two.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

The report is presented into five chapters. The chapters are subdivided into subtopics that elaborated the given issue.

1. Chapter I is introduction. It encompasses the background of the study, research questions, purposes of the study, limitation of the study, significance of the study, research methodology, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.
2. Chapter II provides theoretical framework of the topic. It provides language shift and maintenance, language choice, Minangkabau language and dialects, and previous studies.
3. Chapter III includes the method of the study which discusses subjects of the study, procedure of the study and data analysis.
4. Chapter IV reports the result of the study, which embraces the answer of the research questions.
5. Chapter V is about the conclusions and suggestions of the study.
6. The paper ends with bibliography.