

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Indonesia is a country with various ethnic groups. That ethnicity has its own language. One of the ethnic groups is Javanese. They are mostly centered in Central Java and East Java. Their custom and culture are unique, especially with regard to their three major level of styles of speech - krama (high), madya (middle), and ngoko (low).

Nowadays, people who speak Javanese in Indonesia are approximately 80 million people. They spread not only in their native regions, but also in other regions, such as Serang and Cilegon in Banten province; Karawang, Subang, Indramayu, and Cirebon in West Java; kab. Tangerang; Jogjakarta; Central Java; and East Java, Lampung (61,9%), North Sumatera (32,6%), Jambi (27,6%), and South Sumatera (27%). (www.wikipedia.org)

One of the regions in which Javanese people live is Bandung, a predominantly Sundanese city, where different language are also spoken. Being in area or city with multilingual sphere such as Bandung, one can choose a particular code or variety for different social reasons. This condition may threaten an individual's capability of speaking his/her native language. This case may lead to language shift, or moreover to a death of language.

A death of a language can possibly happen if their native stop using it gradually or there is no one speaks that language. Bernard Spolsky (1998) called it as *Language loss*. Many languages in this world are in dangerous, such as

Aborigin in Australia, Bapu, Darbe, Wares (Sarmi Regency), bahasa Taworta and Waritai (Jayapura), bahasa Murkim and Walak (Jayawijaya), bahasa Meoswas (Manokwari), and then bahasa Loegenyem (Rajaampat). (www.jugaguru.com)

Previous research (Berkovich & Tannenbaum, 2005; Castro & Gil, 2009; Lieberson, 1972) revealed that language maintenance process in a community or group of speech possibly happen if people in that community are willing to use that language. Positive attitude towards mother tongue is one of determinant factors in maintenance process of a language. Another factor is the use of mother tongue (L1) in certain domains, such as home, working place, and educational settings (Castro and Gil, 2009).

Another factor that is influential in maintenance process of a language parents' exertion to pass mother tongue to their children in multilingual sphere. Thus, this type of exposure may also affect the child's perception toward L1 (Castro & Gil, 2009). However, this condition does not merely happen in every community or group of speech. For example, a paper reported by Bathula and Kuncha (2009) shows a condition of Telugu people. The paper shows although Telugu people especially parents speak their own community language at home; the children are rapidly losing their language.

In relation to the research mentioned above, the aims of this research are to describe the effort they make to maintain their language, and reasons why these Javanese maintain the language. The research is expected to enrich research on Language Maintenance.

1.2 Research Question

The research is geared toward answering the following questions:

- 1 What types of effort that Javanese make to maintain their language?
- 2 What are the reasons Javanese have to maintain their language?

1.3 Purpose of the Research

Given the research questions, it is aimed:

- 1 To investigate the way Javanese maintain their own particular language
- 2 To find reasons why these Javanese maintain their language.

1.4 Research Methodology

1.4.1 Research Design

The research employs a descriptive method, and it is largely qualitative. The research describes the phenomena in the form of how Javanese people in Bandung maintain their language, and find reasons why these Javanese maintain their language. there are two kinds of data here: the recorded data and the interview data. Both of them are in form of the respondents' utterances. The data analysis is reported by means of verbal description in detail.

1.4.2 Subject

Subjects for the research are ten (10) Javanese people who have been staying in Bandung for more than ten years. They have been purposively selected as the subject of the research. The subjects are categorized into two categories which male and female. This is expected to represent vary of gender in the population.

1.4.3 Data Collection

The data for the research are in the form of language spoken by respondents, language dominantly used by respondents, kinds of effort which make them use particular language, and reasons of the respondents to use particular language. The data are collected through tape recording, interview and questionnaire. Tape recording is needed to see how respondents communicate with others using particular language. Interview and questionnaire are used to investigate respondents' perspective towards languages such as Javanese, Bahasa Indonesia, and Sundanese.

1.4.4 Data Analysis

The collected data are then categorized into ways of how Javanese people maintain their language, what kinds of effort Javanese people make to maintain the language and reasons why these Javanese maintain their language.

In conducting this research several steps have been taken:

1. Listening to the recording from the interview and dialogue between the respondents.
2. Transcribing the recording.
3. Categorizing data in the form of language spoken by respondents, language dominantly used by respondents, kinds of effort they make to use particular language, and reasons of the respondents to use particular language.
4. Analyzing data using related theories.
5. Making conclusions and suggestions for further research.

1.5 Significance of the Research

This research is expected to give support in certain aspects. In sociolinguistics aspect, it should give a description in maintenance process of Javanese language in Bandung. In social environmental aspect, we can give information and knowledge to young Javanese people about the importance of using first language or native language in their daily conversation as one ways to avoid first language (mother tongue) from fossilization.

1.6 Scope of the Research

The research only investigated several type of efforts that Javanese make to maintain their language and several reasons why Javanese people maintain their language.

1.7 Clarification of Terms

- a. Javanese in the research is a language which used by Javanese people who has been staying in Bandung more than fifteen years.
- b. Language loss is “a process by which speakers of a language slowly stop using it, resulting in its dying out” Bernard Spolsky (1998)
- c. Language loyalty is “the ability (or lack of it) of speakers of a language to stand up to the pressure of more powerful ones” Bernard Spolsky (1998)
- d. Language maintenance is “a situation where speakers continue to use a language even when there is a new language available there” Bernard Spolsky (1998)

- e. Language shift is “a situation when a community gives up a language completely in favor of another one” Ralph Fasold (1984)

1.8 Organization of the paper

This paper is organized into five chapter.

Chapter I (Introduction)

It presents background, research questions, purposes of the research, research method, significant of the research, scope of the research and clarification of terms.

Chapter II (Theoretical Foundation)

It reviews some theories relates to the research, those are language shift, language death and loss, language and ethnicity, language attitude, language contact, and a brief history about javanese language and culture.

Chapter III (Research Methodology)

It explains the methodology used in this research, research design, research method, data collection and data analysis.

Chapter IV (Findings and Discussion)

This chapter presents the findings of the study and analyzes those findings in discussion clearly.

Chapter V (Conclusion)

It presents conclusion of the research and suggestion for further research based on the analysis in chapter four.