

INDONESIA LANGUAGE INFLUNCES SHIFTHING IN SIMALUNGUN LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

This study focused in Indonesia Language influences shifting in Simalungun Language. The problem of the study is “How is Simalungun Language shift in Pematangsiantar.” The objective of the study is to determine the factor influences Simalungun Language shift in Pematangsiantar. The significance of the research are: 1) Theoritically, the study considered to enrich the theory of language planning especially about Simalungun language shift in Pematangsiantar and the reason of Simalungunese shift into Indonesian. 2) Practically, the result of the study is considered to contribute information about language shift in Simalungunese for the researcher. The findings of the research are Language shift (especially Simalungunism) in the second and the third generation is influence by bilingualism, migration, economic factor, value and attitude, The pattern of Language shift is done through the shift of Simalungun Language to Indonesian Language in second and the third generation and The reason of the language shift (Simalungun language) into Indonesian are social success and the status of Indonesian Language.

Keywords: Language, Shifting, Simalungunese

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

The study of language maintenance and language shift is concerned with the relationship between change and stability in habitual language use, on the one hand, and ongoing psychological, social or cultural processes, on the other hand, when populations differing in language are in contact with each other. In fact investigating language maintenance is often done through the identification of domains and situations in which the language is no longer used or is gradually making way for the use of another language. The term language maintenance is used to describe a situation in which a speaker, a group of speakers, or a speech community continue to use their language in some or all spheres of life despite competition with the dominant or majority language to become the main/sole language in these spheres.

Simalungun is one of the vernaculars in Indonesia that is used mainly in Pematangsiantar – a multi ethnic and multi lingual city. Faces such as Language phenomena.

The Problem of The Study

The focus of this study is “How is Simalungun Language shift in Pematang Siantar” and the problem formulated to answer the question:

What is the Factor Influence Simalunguan Language Shift in Pematang Siantar?

B. The Objective of The Study

The objective of this study is to deter mice the factors influences Simalungun Language shift in Pematang Siantar.

The Significant of The Study

Theoretically, the study considered to enrich the theory of language planning especially about Simalungun language shift in Pematang Siantar and the reason of Simalungunise shift into Indonesian.

Practically, the result of the study is considered to contribute information about language shift in Simalungunise for the researcher.

The Scope of The Study

There are so many vernacular in Pematangsiantar, but this study only focuses on Simalungun language. Simalungun Language is investigated through the language use of the second generation or parents group and third generation on Simalungunese Family in Pematangsiantar.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Definition of Language Maintenance and Language Shift

Definition of Language Maintenance

Language maintenance is the continued use of the ethnic language. The continued use of the ethnic language by an immigrant or minority community across successive generations is language maintenance process. Mesthrie (1999) in Donghui Zhang journal defines language maintenance as the continuing use of language in the face of competition from a regionally and socially powerful or numerically stronger language. It can called as reserve of Language shift, it means that if language maintenance are success in domain of language user, so there is no language shift, that is change from habitual use of one's minority language to that dominant language under pressure of assimilation from the dominant group, Fishman (1966).

Language shift according to Fasold (1984) refers to the changes in language use among a community start to use one language in domains and function in which its members had previously used another language and a shift in the number of speaker of a language. Similarly, Weinreich also defines language shift as the change from the habitual use of one language to that of another. The language shift is seen through language users in a variety of domain as the indicator of language use. The ongoing of language shift also can be seen with the dominant language use in family domain.

Language shift is significantly different with language change. Language shift is a move from a certain language into a dominant language.

B. Factors That Influence Language Shift

a. Bilingualism

There are several factors associated to language shift. However, the most fundamental is bilingualism. Fasold, (1984) stated that bilingualism can ultimately lead to language shift in society and is often marked by intergenerational switching of the language. Bilingualism means the practice of alternatively using two languages will be called bilingualism. As Downes (2005) argued Bilingualism is always necessary precursor of language shift. It can said that Language shift happen because interacting languages, in cultures are unequal power, but bilingualism does not mean language competence. The two languages are used freely. The speaker may choose the language they like.

b. Migration

Based on Holmes (2001) migrants are virtually monolingual in their mother tongue, their children become bilingual, but the grandchildren turn monolingual in the language of the host country.

c. Economic and Social Factors

Economic and Social factor also influence language shift, Holmes (2001) states the obtaining, and work is the most obvious economic reason for learning another language.

d. Political Factors

Based on Holmes (2001) explain that where a migrant minority groups moves to a predominantly monolingual society dominated by one majority group language in all major institutional domain school, TV, Radio newspaper, and etc. the example of government policies concerning language use in all institutional domain.

e. Demographic Factor

According to Holmes (2001) there are three demographic factors:

- Urbanization, tends to making language shift to be faster. Improved roads, buses, TV, telephone, internet are agent of language shift.
- Size of community of speaker. If there are a large number of speakers of minority language in community, language shift is slowest. The larger the group is the more social pressure to speak the ethnic language. the smaller number of the speaker in a group, the more potential the speaker shift to the language of dominant group. In other word can said the language shift tends to occur faster in a group with small numbers of speakers than in a group with a large numbers of speakers.
- Intercultural marriage or different ethnic marriage,

f. Attitude and Values

Language is an important maker of ethnic identity, which is express trough a particular language. Holmes also assume that positive attitudes of speaker support effort to use the ethnic language in a variety of domain, the attitude help people resist pressure from the majority group to shift to their language.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Data

Data in this research take from Simalungun Family in Pematangsiantar, Data is the descriptive of the situation and condition of simalungun Family in Pematangsiantar. The data taken from five families who live in Pematangsiantar and analyze based on the theory.

2. Subject of Research

Subject of this research are Simalungun Family in Pematangsiantar, the parents of the family actually are immigrant in Pematang Siantgar, they are come from Simalungun Family and different located and also different background in family name and also the education and job. Subject of research was interviewed by the writer, and the writer also observed to their family, and come to their house and make the note from the observation in their house.

3. The Pattern of Language Shift in Simalungun Family Language and Observation

Language shift is defined as a situation in which one language in contact with a more dominant language, within a nation, over a period of time, is partially or completely replaced by the dominant language, namely some or all of the former domains in which the language was used are replaced by the dominant language (De Fries 1992; Paulston 1985; Stoessel 2002).

According to the Weltems (1986) the pattern of language use among bilingual speakers can be taken as indication of an ongoing process of language shift. Main while, Khorizin also argued that the first generation of immigrant begins as monolingual in the minority language.

From the Introduction above, the writer makes a discussion based on the observation. The writers try to observe the language maintenance and language shift in Simalungun Language, domain of language shift here are Simalungun ethnic family as the immigrant in Pematangsiantar city, and the data will analyzed trough five domains according to the Fishman in Holmes (2001) identify the domain such as, family, friendship, religion, education and employment. Data was collect from five families (simalungunism) and from the observation can transcribe:

1. Data 1 (Mr/ Mrs. Damanik)

Even though the leader of this family was died, the writer described it as the observation, and was talked about this problem before. This Family consists of 4 sons and 5 daughters. In Simalungunism was a leader of Culture of Simalungun or in Indoesian called as *Tokoh Simalungun*, but in that Family, their Sons nor Daughter there is no using of Simalungun Language, the reason of him are because of we are immigrant family from SIDAMANIK, and at home also using Indosian Language, so Simalungun Language was shift into Indonesian Language. In this case the father of this family also use Simalungun Language in their Family Pray, as a leader in a prayer he always use Simalngun Language, and to talk with his children also use Simalungun Language.

2. Data 2 (Mr/Mrs. Damanik)

In this family as domain of language shift, they have one son and one daughter, Based on the interview in observation in this domain also done language shift from Language ethnic Simalungun language into Indonesian language, and this is happen because of some reason, they are migrant family, and also dominated of Indonesian language in their environment. This domain of language of language shift is also try to maintenance the simalungun language, the parents also sent their children to the ethnic church (GKPS) so their children can acquire their mother tongue as their first language.

3. Data 3 (Mr/Mrs. Purba)

The family of Mr. Purba, has three daughter and two sons. Their family is one intercultural marriage, and their home there is no Simalunagun Language anymore, because of their mother tongue also different with their father language as Romanie (1995) states that the of exogamous marriage is a factor of language shift. Mother tends to influence language shift or change the language in use to her children either by accelerating it towards the dominant language or by slowing it down if her native language is that of the minority. And this situation also happen in this family, so even though their father fluent in Simalungun Language their children language was shift from simalungun into Indonesia language and it influence by intercultural marriage. In this situation, the father also make some way to maintenance the simalungun language in their family, He always play simalungun songs in their home, so their children still hear and can acquire their native language Siamlungun by hear some simalungun songs.

4. Data 4 Mr/ Mrs. Damanik

This domain has three sons, and in this family also intercultural marriage between simalungunism and Karonism. In their family, the three numbers of their sons there are no using simalungun language, because their mother has different mother tongue with their father. But to maintenance the simalungun language their father try to introduce the simalungun cultural to their children and make it closed to their children by his profession as the leader of ASPPI Sumatera Utara (ASOSIASI PELAKU PARIWISATA INDONESIA in Sumatera Utara), he also ask their children to follow the Simalungun ethnic program especially in Tourism.

5. Data 5 Mr/Mrs. Purba

This family consists of Father (Work as Civil servant) and his wife is a teacher, they have two sons, In that family as Mr. Purba told the writer that in their home, there is no using of Simalungun language anymore, the language was shift into Indonesia and English Language. it is happen because they are also migrant family in medan, and their sons also rejected to use Simalungun because some reason like: there no media/ institutional using Simalungun Language and their sons also said the era was changes and ethnic language is not important.

In this Family, there are also some efforts that use by the parent to maintenance simalungun language one of them is try to show his son every culture ceremonial and ask their children go to their hometown as often as possible. So even though the language was shift in use, but they still know/understand the language.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the data that we have found in five Simalungun Family, It can be described that the factor influence Language shift especially in Simalungunism family, the pattern of Language shift and the reason of shift is the use of Indonesian Language. And the conclusion are stated that:

1. Language shift (especially Simalungunism) in the second and the third generation is influence by bilingualism, migration, economic factor, value and attitude.
2. The pattern of Language shift is done through the shift of Simalungun Language to Indonesian Language in second and the third generation.
3. The reason of the language shift (Simalungun language) into Indonesian are social success and the status of Indonesian Language.

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