



Maintenance Strategy of Cirebonese Language in Globalization Era

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Abstract. During the ruling of Syekh Syarief Hidayatullah at Keraton Pakungwati, Cirebonese language was used as the lingual franca in Cirebon. Cirebonese language was spoken and written in numerous activities and even in government affairs. However, the usage of Cirebonese language become less and less amidst the promotion of using Indonesian as a lingua franca in Indonesia. This was the result of preliminary observation in Cirebon. Although they promote the use of Indonesian language as the main language, Indonesian government also concerned with the maintenance of local languages. The government imposed the policy to include Cirebonese language as on subject at school from elementary schools to high schools. However, students still more often use Indonesian languages as their means of communication among their peers. Qualitative research methodology is applied in this research that focuses on the behavior of native speakers of Cirebonese language in finding the solution or strategy to maintain the local language in Cirebon.

Keywords: Cirebonase Language; Local Language

INTRODUCTION

Bahasa Cirebon has been used since Syaif Hidayatullah built Keraton Cirebon, and has also been used as an instrument for the spreading of Islam in Cirebon. Syarif Hidaytullah as the first Sultan or King of Keraton Cirebon as the main language in government affairs. This proves that Cirebon language has been used traditionally both spoken and written. Since several years ago, Indonesian government has been promoting the use of Indonesian language which put Cirebonese language into a dilemmatic position. At one point the native speaker are obliged to use Indonesian language in the professional circumstances while at another point they need to use it to speak among their own. This opens the possibility of the extinction of Cirebonese language. The extinction of languages around the world is a problem that has been identified and predicted by numerous linguists. Moseley in Atlas of the World's languages in danger mentioned that out of 707 total languages in Indonesia, 146 languages or local dialects in Indonesia are endangered while 12 of them are already extinct.

The extinction of one or more language could possibly cause by several factors such as natural disasters, war and genocide, open repression under the pretext of national unity or

cultural assimilation, economic domination, political domination and cultural domination. It is supported by Austin (2011:5-6), states that the causing factors of the extinction of language can be divided into four categories which are as follows: 1. Natural disasters like earthquake, tsunami, famine, and disease, etc., war and genocide, 3. Open repression, usually under the name national unity, or assimilation including residential by force., 4. Domination of economic, politics, or culture. Based on Lewis et.al., (2015) 's opinion : there are two dimensions when a language is a threatening situation, namely : number of speakers of language or the users of language, the characteristics and the function of language.. One language can be in a threatening situation if very few of the society admit the existence of that language, therefore, they do not teach their children to use the language. Besides, one language categorizes to be extinct if that language is rarely used in their daily activities. Thus, the language loses its social function and communicative.

LITERATURE

Language is a communication tool organized in the form of units, such as words, groups of words, clauses, and sentences expressed both orally and in writing. Language, in the sense of Functional Systemic Linguistics (LSF), is a form of social semiotics that is doing work within a situational context and cultural context, which is used both orally and in writing. In this view, language is a construct formed through functions and systems simultaneously (Wiratno, 2014). Language is essentially signs and symbols that represent something expressed, both spoken and written. The main function of language is the means of interaction and communication of society. In addition to this function, language is a sign of the collective identity of a community group, a means of thinking, and expressing feelings (Mbete, 2015).

Language carries three main functions, namely ideational function, interpersonal function, and textual function. These three functions are called meta functional functions, and they show different realities. Under the ideational function, language is used to express physical-biological reality as well as with regard to the interpretation and representation of experience. Under the interpersonal function, language is used to express social reality and with respect to the interaction between speaker/writer and listener/reader. Under the textual function, language is used to express semiotic reality or symbol reality and with regard to the way of text creation in context (Wiratno, 2014). Regional languages as one of the nation's wealth have a function as a means of communication for the supporting community. Apart

from being a means of interethnic communication, regional languages also function as supporters of the national language, namely Indonesian. Strengthening the existence and continuity of regional languages aims to protect regional languages which are one of the nation's wealth (Asrif, 2010).

METHOD

The qualitative research methodology applied in this study focuses on the behavior of native speakers of Cirebon in finding solutions or strategies to maintain regional languages in Cirebon. According to Subandi (2006) qualitative research methods have become a scientific tradition used in research in the fields of science, especially social sciences, culture, psychology and education. Even in the tradition of applied research, this method has been in great demand because its benefits are more understandable and can directly lead to policy action when compared to quantitative research. Other terms of qualitative research are naturalistic, post-positivistic, phenomenological, ethnographic, case study, humanistic.

DISCUSSION

Languages in Indonesia consist of: 1) mother tongue, those are local languages, Indonesian language as national language, and some foreign languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, and English. These languages are learned due to the importance of these languages in they life. Therefore, Indonesian society will define the attitude in their own choice of the use language. In the early beginning, the attitude is used to point out one's menta status, that is the reaction or response that is still covered from individual. In relation to this, Schiffman, attitude is learned disposition too behave inconsistently favorable way to respect to a given object cited in Sugiyono and Wisnu (2011:38). In addition, Attitude in general is a result from practical learning, and also as the result of the mixture from various traits and abilities. (Iskandar: 2003:9). While, Suhardi argues (1996:4) that there are three components contain in attitude, namely: cognitive affective and conative. Cognitive refers to structure of believe or individual sincerity affective refers to individual emotional reaction, and the last is conative related to the tendency to act in a certain way towards the attitude.

Fishman as cited in Sumarsono (1993) states that the study of language maintenance and language shift is concerned with the relationship between change or (stability) in language usage patterns on the one hand, and ongoing psychological, social or cultural process, on the other hand, in populations that utilize more than one speech variety for

intra-group or for inter-group process. Besides, Holmes states that without active language maintenance, shift is almost inevitable in many contexts. (2015:61). In relation to the previously quotations mentioned, Kridalaksana argues on the term of language maintenance as an effort of a language to be used and respected as a group identity in the society through the teaching of that language, literary works, mass media, etc.

CONCLUSION

The extinction of language is regarded as a totally shift in one language to another in a community, it is not from one language variation to another language variation in one language. It means that the first language that was previously used by a community, but then the community leave the use of that language and they better choose the second language, or it is due to the disappearance of the community of the language user because of natural disaster. Thus, there are some efforts to do to avoid or block the extinction of the language by the recommendation of the awareness towards the language preservation, by the inclusion of the local language as the subject in the curriculum. Thus, the extinction of the language can be avoided.

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