

Factors Contributing Acehese Youth Shift Their Vernacular Language

Maria Ulfa

*Teachers Training and Educational Faculty
Universitas Samudra, Langsa Aceh Indonesia
e-mail: mariaulfa50852@yahoo.co.id*

Purwati

*Teachers Training and Educational Faculty
Universitas Samudra, Langsa Aceh Indonesia
e-mail: purwatidos@yahoo.com*

Irma Dewi Isda

*Teachers Training and Educational Faculty
Universitas Samudra, Langsa Aceh Indonesia
e-mail: irmarafkha@yahoo.com*

Abstract— This Research title is factors contributing Acehese youth in shift their vernacular language. This research method used case study in qualitative research design. This research location is in Langsa City. This research focus on language shift that used by Acehese youth which age range 18-21 years old. The subjects consist of ten (10) respondents for each district in totally fifty respondents (50) as a subjects of this research. The instruments that used in this research are: 1) Observation, 2) questioner, 3) and Interview. The technique of data analysis used the interactive model of Miles' and Huberman which consists of: 1) data reduce, 2) Data display, 3) data verification, 4) and conclusion. From data analysis found that there are six factors of shifting: 1) economic, 2) demography, 3) attitude and, 4) prestige, 5) language use, 6) and social interaction.

Keywords: Language shift, Vernacular language, Acehese Youth

I. Introduction

Language is an arbitrary and conventional system of vocal symbols produced only by human organs of speech, which can be changed into written symbols and used as a means of thinking and feeling, as well as understanding thought and feeling, in the context of communication in a society. Obviously it is very essential for human being and it distinguishes human from other creatures in the world. Language is the human property and originated in man. People use language as a means of thinking and feeling, as well as a means of expressing thought and feeling in a society. There are millions of languages used in the world. It is because language is a product of culture, which means that different cultures may have different languages or different dialects. It is also functioned to show their existence, identity and culture in the society. In other words, a community's way of using language is a part of the community's culture, it is a way of displaying group identity. Ways of speaking function not only to facilitate

communication, but also to identify the social position of the speaker. As Crystal (2003) stated that people keep maintaining their language in order to create cultural diversity, keep ethnic identity, enable social adaptability, increasing security for the children psychologically, and increase the sensitivity of linguistic.

Indonesia is a multilingual country, language shifts potentially happen. Language shift simply means that a community gives up a language completely in favor of another one. Language shift is the process by which a speech community in a contact situation gradually stops using one of its two languages in favor of the other. In this case Arabic language is shifted into Bahasa Indonesia in Arabic community in Medan. If the disfavored language is one that has as its last speakers the members of the community in question, then the language faces endangerment and eventually, language death.

Language shift and language maintenance is similar to two sides of a coin which cannot be divided each other (Fasold, 1984 : 213). They form a collective result of choice. He said language shift simply means that a community gives up a language completely in favor of another one. Language shift is the progressive process whereby a speech community of a language shifts to speak another language. It is in fact crucial for the language survival.

Almost all minority groups who live in such multilingual circumstance lack political and economic power; minority groups often become bilingual in the dominant language for both instrumental and psychological reasons. Even the speakers who are in the process of shifting do not show the same degree of shift all at once in all of the purposes or situations for which they use any language.

The Phenomenon of language shift and maintaining occurs in Langsa city, because of that reason the researcher curious to find out the factors that influence the shifting condition in third generation speaker.

II. Approach and Method

This research research design is a case study by using approach by Miles' and Huberman, there are 50 teenagers as

a respondent in this research. This study was conducted in qualitative research design. According to Guba and Wolf in Bogdan & Biklen (1992:62) qualitative research is frequently called naturalistic because the researcher frequents places where the events he or she is interested in natural occur. This study was located in Langsa.

The techniques of collecting data were done into four steps, they are:

Data were collected by observation, giving questionnaire and interview to young generation, the steps are:

1. The researcher has prepared the questions, and also the researcher has clarified the deep question to find a deep answer from the informant by using the informant answer in the first question.
2. Then, the researcher transcribed the data from the interview.
3. Then the researcher analyzed the data from the questionnaire
4. Finally the researcher analyzed the data from transcribing interview data

Since the study is a qualitative research, According to Bogdan & Biklen (1992: 31) points out that qualitative research has the natural settings the direct source of the data, the researcher collected the data by using observation, questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire was applied to collect the patterns of the maintenance of addressing terms use by young generation in intermarriage family. The audio record was used to record the interview, the data transcribe was used to get the factors of the maintenance of addressing terms and the reasons of the maintenance of addressing terms. According to Bogdan and Biklen (1992: 2), In-depth interviewing is a common way in qualitative research. In this case, a set of interview with a recorder is applied by the researcher.

The data were done through interactive Model of Miles & Huberman (1984: 23), the data from questioner and interview is done through the following two procedures such as first, during data collection and after data collection. The first procedure of data collection is questioner. The data from the questionnaire is analyzed through these following steps:

III. Discussion

Language shift is a part of language planning, which most clearly illustrates the full complexity of societal phenomena, is concerned with language planning. Language planning refers to deliberate efforts to influence the behavior of others with respect to the acquisition, structure, or functional allocation of their codes. Cooper (1989: 45) divides into three sub-dimensions. 1) corpus planning refers to intervention in the form of language, status

planning concerns choices in terms of status of a language (official, national) and acquisition planning which concern the teaching and learning of language – national as well as second and foreign languages. Jernudd & Dass Gupta in Fishman (1972 : 186) states that the study of language planning is the study of organized efforts to find solution to societal language problems. One of the language problems is language shift and maintenance.

Language shift is a process by which a minority language in certain community replaces or shifts to a dominant language. According to Fisman (1991 :1) language shift typically occurs in speech communities whose native language are threatened because their interrogational continuity is proceeding negatively, with fewer and fewer users every generation. According to Fasold, (1984 : 213) language shift refers to changes in language use among a community of speakers such as when a community starts to use one language in domains and functions in which its members had previously used another language and a shift in members of speakers of language similarly.

3.1 Factors of language shift

Holmes (2001: 58) also states that rapid shift occurs when people are anxious to get on in society where knowledge of the second language is a prerequisite for success. People need a language to communicate and interact with others. They choose the dominant language and the language, which they are fluency to use. By speaking the language, they can build a successful communication and assimilation for the migrants.

A. Economic

According to Holmes there are several factors that contribute to language shift, such as ; economic, social and political factors, Holmes argues that the reasons of language shift are often economic, but they may also be political, as what found in this research economic one of the each factors of shifting, The social and economic goals of individuals in community are very important in accounting for the speed of shift. As Holmes (2001: 58) states that obtaining work is the most obvious economic reason for learning another language. Due to the economic value of Indonesian language as the official language, much emphasize is placed on encouraging people to master Indonesian language.

In Langsa Timur there are five respondents (R1, R2, R3, R8, R10) mention that in order to get a good job and to improve their economic condition, both language of Aceh and Indonesia is really needed to know and to use it, but four of them do not agree with that, four of other respondents (R4, R5, R7, R10) said that they only believe that by using national language or Indonesia language that only

can change their economic condition by a good communication in Indonesia language they will get a better job, in other condition, one respondent (R6) has different opinion, because he choose English to his language belive to improve his economic situation. It can be seen from the table above that most of teenagers in Langsa Timur district pretent to shift their language and become bilingual in order to fulfill their economic condition. but bilingual become the language choose of most of teenagers in Langsa Timur. In Langsa Barat area, there are seven respondents (R1, R2, R3, R4, R8, R9, R10) belive that to be bilingual speaker is the best way in order to get a better job and improve their economic condition, and two of others (R5 and R7) belive that only Indonesia language that can change their economic condition become better that before.

The same case with other areas in Langsa Lama, Langsa Baro and langsa Kota , most of the respondents becomes bilingual Aceh and Indonesia language, as showed in Langsa Lama there are six respondents Pretent to be bilingual and four of them belive that Indonesia is the only one language that can improve their economic condition. In Langsa Baroe ,there are sevents respondent use Indonesia language to increase their economic situation, one of them become bilingual, and two others believe that English have the most powerful language in order to get better job and better future. In Langsa Kota there are sevents respondents belive that Indonesia language as language to get a better job and three of other respondents become bilinguals in communication.

From data of all areas above showed that bilinguala become the popular condition of the speaker in Aceh community, Bilingualism is always a necessary precursor of language shift. As Downes (2005 : 61) states that, a number of factors are involved in whether or not bilingualism leads to language shift. It is similar Fishman in Downes (1986 : 61) says that language shift occurs because interacting languages , in cultures are unequal power; therefore the weaker ones become physically and demographically dislocated. Bilingualism does not always mean language competence. The two languages are used freely. Bilinguals may choose the language they like . However ,this situation cannot be performed for a long time. A certain language is gradually liker in speech acts , which are associated with majority language.

Fergusson in Myers-Scotton (2006: 80) defines diglossia as two varieties of a language , existing side by side is distinguisd from the usage of two or more varieties of the same language and from the usage of two different languages in one common (bilingualism), bilingualism with diglossia as the writter observed also happen in Langsa. The dominant language in the case Indonesian language has replaced the use of many vernaculars. Indonesia language priority use in the economic factor.

Table 1. Economic factor of language shift

REGIONS	ECONOMIC FACTOR			
	IL	AL & IL	Other Language	Total
LANGSA TIMUR	4	5	1	10
LANGSA BARAT	2	8		10
LANGSA LAMA	4	6		10
LANGSA BARO	6	1	3	10
LANGSA KOTA	8	2		10
Total	24	22	4	50

From the table above it showed that Indonesia Language become the language choose of most of teenagers, they are belief that Indonesian Language as the language that use in earning a money and getting a better job.

B. Demografi

According to Holmes (2001: 59 -60), there are three demographic factors which are relevant in accelerating of language shift such as urbanization. Secondly is size of community of speakers. If there are number of speaker of the minority language in a community, language shift is slowest. The larger the group is the more social pressure to speak the ethnic language, thirdly is intercultural marriage or different ethnic marriage, this is also supported by Romaine (1995: 5) that extent of exogamous marriage is a factor of language shift. Mother tends to influence language change to her children either by accelerating it toward the dominant language or by slowing it down if her native language is that of the minority.

Table 2. Demography Factor of Language Shift

REGIONS	DEMOGRAPHY				
	AL	IL	AL & IL	Other Language	Total
LANGSA TIMUR	2	3	5		10
LANGSA BARAT		3	7		10
LANGSA LAMA	5	1	4		10
LANGSA BARO	0	8	2		10

LANGSA KOTA	0	6	4	10
Total	7	21	22	50

C. Prestige

Language is an important marker of identity. Identity is the way in which the expression through a particular language. Attachment to language is as strong as people regard of themselves as a social group, which is influenced largely by how the larger society regards them. A negative ethnic identity contributes to the low prestige of the ethnic group. It makes the ethnic group is not highly valued their language because of the status of the minority language. However, if the group described its language as useless then the group usually had no need to learn. Finally, the ethnic group does not use its minority language in a variety of domains; it shifts into a high prestige language.

Table 3. Prestige as a factor of language shift

REGIONS	PRESTIGE				Total
	AL	IL	AL & IL	Other Language	
LANGSA TIMUR		8	2		10
LANGSA BARAT	2	4	4		10
LANGSA LAMA		10			10
LANGSA BARO	2	5	3		10
LANGSA KOTA		7	3		10
Total	4	34	12		50

D. Attitude and value

The negative attitudes and values towards the language can also accelerate language shift. It occurs where the ethnic language is not highly valued and is not seen as a symbol of identity. As Holmes (2006; 61) points out, some aspects contribute language shift; not highly valued of the language, and the language is not seen as the symbol of ethnic identity. He also assumes that positive attitudes of speakers support efforts to use the ethnic language in a variety of domains, these attitudes help people resist the pressure from

the majority group to shift to their language. And he also stated that young people are the fastest to shift languages..

Beside negative attitude, it can be also about positive attitude. The positive attitude on using the language or the loyalty of mother tongue's users extremely affects the existence of mother tongue in communication. The higher the loyalty of the mother tongue users, the more existence of mother tongue which means mother tongue is difficult to be shifted in the society because of language is maintained. Vice versa, the lower the loyalty of the mother tongue's users, the more potential language shift occurs.

Table 4. Attitude and value factor of language shift

REGIONS	Attitude and value				Total
	AL	IL	AL & IL	Other Language	
LANGSA TIMUR	0	8	2		10
LANGSA BARAT	3	4	3		10
LANGSA LAMA	0	7	3		10
LANGSA BARO	3	4	3		10
LANGSA KOTA	0	7	3		10
Total	6	30	14		50

E. Ability of Language use

The ability of language use also become one of the factors that influence Acehnese youth in maintaining and shifting their language, the result from interview between researcher and respondent in five subdistrict in Langsa city showed that most of teenagers that have an ability in using Aceh language well pretend to maintain completely the language. The ability of using language in all regions in langsa as showed in the table below :

Table 5. language use factor of language shift

REGIONS	Ability of Language use				Total
	AL	IL	AL & IL	Other Language	
LANGSA	0	6	4		10

TIMUR				
LANGSA BARAT	1	4	5	10
LANGSA LAMA	1	3	6	10
LANGSA BARO	2	4	4	10
LANGSA KOTA	0	6	4	10
Total	4	23	23	50

F. Social Interaction

Holmes (2001:58) also states that rapid shift occurs when people are anxious to get fit in a society where knowledge of the second language is a prerequisite for success. People need a language to communicate and interact with others. They choose the dominant language and the language, which they are fluency to use. By speaking the language, they can build a successful communication and assimilation with others.

The inferences are people use a dominant language as a means of communication in a larger context and situation for working and for socializing. The people need a lingua franca to unite the diversity of the vernacular.

Table 6. Social interaction factor of language shift

REGIONS	Social Interaction				Total
	AL	IL	AL & IL	Other Language	
LANGSA TIMUR	0	6	4		10
LANGSA BARAT		6	4		10
LANGSA LAMA	0	4	6		10
LANGSA BARO	2	4	4		10
LANGSA KOTA	0	9	1		10
Total	2	29	19		50

This factor much influenced the Acehese people to learn Bahasa Indonesia as fluent as they can. Many of Acehese parents want to prepare their children in order to get fit in a society which requires them to be able to speak Bahasa Indonesia fluently. Bahasa Indonesia is chosen in order to fitting in easily in wider society with different background of ethnics. Beside master Bahasa Indonesia, they also have to master international language, for now it is known English as an international language. It means they only focus on mastering both languages, Bahasa Indonesia and English, and they left Aceh language behind as their indigenous language. As showe in the table above the using of Indonesia language mention by twenty nine respondents.

IV. Conclusion

1. There are six factors of shifting ,they are ; economic, demography,prestige,attitude, ability of language use,and social interaction
2. Economic (48%),Demography (42 %), Prestige (68 %)attitude and value (60 %)ability of language use (46 %), social interaction (58%)
3. Bilingual also become the finding of this research,many Acehese teenagers become bilingual in order to get fit in society and success in social interaction among others speaker in their community.
4. Prestige become a biggest factor of language shift, its about sixty eight percentage of 50 respondents have a bad attitude toward language.

REFERENCES

- Bodgan & Biklen.1992. *Qualitative Research for Education. United State of America: Allyn and Bacon*
- Cooper, R.L.1989.*Language Planning and Social Change: Cambridge University Press.*
- Crystal, D. 2003. *Language Death*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Fasold, R. 1984. *The Sociolinguistics of Society*. New York: Basil Blackwell
- Ferguson, C.A. 1996. *Sociolinguistic Perspective*. New York : Oxford University Press
- Fishman, J.A. 1972. *The Sociology of language*. Massachusetts: Newburry House Publication
- _____. 1991. *Reversing Language Shift*. Clevedon Avon: Multilingual Matters

Fishman, Joshua. 1972. *The Relationship between Micro- and macro- Sociolinguistics in the Study of Who Speaks What Language to Whom and When*. In J.B. Pride and Janet Holmes (eds). *Sociolinguistics: Selected Readings*. Hammondsouth: Penguin Books.

Fishman, J A. 2006 *Do not Leave Your Language Alone*. London: Lawren Erlbaum Associates.

Fishman, Joshua A. 1969 *The Sociology of Language*. United States: Newbury House Publisher.

Gumperz, J. J. (1968). *The Speech Community*. *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. London: Macmillan. In Giglioli (1972) and Gump(1971).

Holmes, J. 1997. Keeping Tabs on Language Shift in New Zealand : Some Methodological Consideration. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, Vol. 18 Issue 1, 1997

.Holmes, 2001, *An Intriduction to sociolinguistics*. Longman, Newyork

Scotton, Carol Myers. *Multiple Voices: An Introduction to Bilingual*. 2006. Australia: Blackwell Publishing.

AUTHORS' BACKGROUND

Your Name	Title*	Research Field	Personal website
MARIA ULFA	S.Pd.,M.Hum	Applied linguistic	-
IRMA DEWI ISDA	S.Pd.,M.Hum	Applied linguistic	
PURWATI	S.Pd.,M.Hum	Applied linguistic	

*This form helps us to understand your paper better, **the form itself will not be published.**