

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Java Island is the island with the densest population in Indonesia. All kinds of people with various ethnics encounter in Java Islands, many people who come from different regions live in here. Thus, Java island is dominating the economic sectors in Indonesia since the most of Indonesia's important exports companies are grow in here. There are many reasons that lead people to immigrate to Java island, such as for career, education, and marriage. Hence, since the majority is Javanese, people who come from other regions need to learn Javanese language in order to engage with local people.

This case is similar to what the writer has experienced. She is a Bataknese, and she was born in Medan, North Sumatra but grew up in Java especially in Tegal. Though her Bataknese language is not fluent, Indonesian becomes her mother language. She needs to learn Javanese language to speak and contact to the society. She learns her Javanese while she grows up and learns her English language as her second language since she is studying English Literature in Faculty of Language and Arts as her communication on college. Thus, she has 3 more languages besides Batak language that are Indonesian, Javanese, and English that makes her become multilingualism. When the minority group lives in the same place with majority group, usually the more powerful group (majority) is able to force their language upon the less powerful (minority). This condition may lead immigrants slowly begin to forget their own heritage language and shift to the new language. In the beginning, they think that it is important to learn the dominant language to achieve social and economic status. However, without any conscious maintenance of the heritage language, they unconsciously abandon their heritage language and lose it as they do not feel any threat of

learning a new language toward their heritage language. This condition is known as *Language Death*. Language death occurs when the last speaker of a language dies. When nobody speaks the language anymore, language death could not be avoided. Hence, language maintenance is needed. *Language maintenance* is an effort to cope the language shift/language loss and language death. Language maintenance determined by the location where people live, it is important for the immigrants to retain and maintain their identity to preserve their own heritage language.

From the previous study conducted by Igboanusi & Wolf (2009), they explained that mixed marriages may contribute to language shift in the home because they can lead to a change in language use patterns among minority language speakers and their children. This means that the likelihood of preserving a minority language is greater in marriages among individuals who speak the same indigenous language than in situations where spouses speak different languages. This study used qualitative method with open questionnaire as the instrument to collect the data from parents of ethnically mixed marriages to explain how mixed marriages contribute to language shift from minority languages to English (Nigeria's official language), Nigerian Pidgin (informal lingua franca) and the major languages (i.e. Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba) in the home domains. The participant of the research were randomly selected and came from 15 different states of Nigeria. The result of the study shows that the future of minority languages will mostly depend on the roles of families and the value depends on minority ethnic identity by young people, particularly those who comes from mixed homes.

Therefore, research on language maintenance especially the heritage language is necessary to conduct in order to avoid language shift/language loss and language death, so the heritage language such as Batakese language delivered by our ancestors are preserved and used by the minority group especially the young generation of Batakese.

Through this research, the writer wants to analyze language maintenance in mixed marriage Bataknese and Javanese families who live in Semarang and Tegal.

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of the study is Linguistics especially in Sociolinguistics.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The writer conducted research within the domain of Sociolinguistics, especially in Language Maintenance in Mixed Marriage Bataknese and Javanese Families who live in Semarang and Tegal.

1.4 Problem Formulation

The problem formulation of this study is as follows.

1. How do the mixed marriage families (Bataknese-Javanese) maintain their Bataknese language?
2. Which language is better maintain by the mixed marriage families (Bataknese-Javanese)

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows.

1. to find out how the mixed marriage families (Bataknese-Javanese) maintain their Bataknese language
2. to know which language is better maintain by the mixed marriage families (Bataknese-Javanese).

1.6 Significance of the Study

By conducting this research, the writer hopes that it can contribute to the teaching of Sociolinguistics in Faculty of Language and Arts of Soegijapranata Catholic University Semarang. The findings are hopefully beneficial for the lecturers as well as the students to understand how the Batakese mixed marriage families in maintaining their Batakese language and which language is better maintain by the mixed marriage families (Batakese-Javanese).

1.7 Definition of Terms

a. Language shift

It means the process, the event, in which a population changes from using one language to another. As much, recognition of it depends on being able to see the prior and subsequent language as distinct; and therefore the term excludes language change which can be seen as evolution, the transition from older to newer forms of the same language (Ostler, 2017).

b. Language maintenance

Is a situation in which a speaker, a group of speakers, or a speech community continue to their language in some or all spheres of life despite competition with the dominant or majority language to become the main/sole language in the spheres. Both phenomena emerge in the context of language contact (Macwhinney & et al, 2005).

c. Heritage language

Is a minority language learnt by its speakers at home as children, but never fully developed, because speakers grow up with a dominant language, in which they become more competent (Olga Kagan & Rifkin, 2000).

d. Language death

Is a process that affects speech communities where the level of linguistic competence that speakers possess of a given language variety decrease, eventually resulting in no native or fluent speakers of the variety. Language death may affect any language idiom, including dialects. Language death should not be confused with language attrition (also called language loss), which describes the loss of proficiency in a first language of an individual (Crystal, 2001).

e. Mixed marriage

The term used to describe marriages that take place between people who are from different racial or ethnic groups. Mixed marriages are defined as marriages between people who come from two different cultural backgrounds (“Interracial Marriage,” 2018).