

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language as a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings has many functions. One of the functions is a communication device. Like two people meeting in a bookstore, in the beginning, they may talk about things like a recommended novel, if they have the same hobby, reading a novel. They choose novels to open the conversation not because they are in a bookstore, but it is only to open the conversation.

The choice of books as an opening topic shows that language can be used in establishing such communication with another person. That is why language is very important for communication. Without language, people cannot make a conversation or cannot find much information. For example, when people go to another country for the first time, and people cannot find a way or something. Only with language can people ask something to other people.

Language is not only functioned for communication device but it can also be used to share the social status and personal relationship between its users. Languages used by people in the village and the city are different because they have different cultures and habits. Many languages in Indonesia are used by people every day.

This research focuses on Tegal people who live in Semarang. They are immigrants from Tegal who work, study, and maybe get married to local people. In this case, the writer tries to analyze the Tegal dialect, one of the local dialects

in Central Java, Indonesia. This dialect is a unique one. People in Indonesia call it “*Bahasa ngapak*”. Tegal people who have a community in Semarang have a slogan, “*Ora ngapak, Ora kepenak*” which means ‘they will not feel comfortable if they do not use “*ngapak*” for communication’. If people listen to Tegal language, they consider it funny and unique. The way the language pronounced is different from another language in Java.

Geographically, Tegal is a part of Central Java. It is a big city which has many unique things. For example, foods, culture, habits, and language. Tegal’s traditional food is very delicious, they are *lengko, sauto, ponggol, tahu aci*, etc. Moreover, Tegal has many traditions that are dominated by Tegal Chinese descendants because Tegal has many traders who are Chinese descendants. Many stores in Tegal are owned by Chinese. During Imlek, Chinese people in Tegal had a festival on the road. The name of the festival is *Toa Pekong*. It is one of the unique traditions in Tegal which is interestingly joined by not only Chinese people but also by other ethnic groups living in Tegal. The domination of Chinese Indonesian in Tegal affect the language used.

The writer chose this topic because it is a very unique topic for research and very interested in the Tegal dialect.

For the thesis, the writer will specifically analyze Tegal’s people who use Tegal’s language since many Chinese descendants from Tegal lives in Semarang. The writer wants to know whether they still use Tegal’s dialect in another city (*Semarang*) and the reasons they use it or not because some migrants forget their language and try to change their language but some migrants still use their

language to communicate. The findings are very necessary to know the existence of the Tegal dialect which can be considered as a heritage language that should be preserved.

1.2 Field of the Study

The study is about social factors that influence Tegal people to use Tegal dialect to speak even when they are in another city. The study is within the domain of Sociolinguistics.

1.3 Scope of the Study

In this study, the writer analyzes the Tegal dialect. This study takes Tegal people who live in Semarang as its respondents. This study analyzes language maintenance.

1.4 Problem Formulation

This study has the following problem formulation:

1. How do Tegal people maintain their Tegal Dialect?
2. What is Tegal people's perception of Tegal Dialect?

1.5 Objective of the study

This study has the following objectives:

1. To investigate how Tegal people maintain their Tegal Dialect
2. To find out Tegal people's perception of Tegal Dialect.

1.6 Significance of the study

The writer hopes this study can make people know more about social factors that influence its members in choosing one of the languages they can speak. The writer also expects that people can learn or know local languages in Indonesia. It provides information on the local dialect in Central Java.

1.7 Definition of Term

1. Language Maintenance

A term used in Sociolinguistics referring to the extent to which people continue to use a language once they are part of a community in which another language has a dominant position. For example, immigrant groups may maintain their language, out of a sense of language loyalty despite the dominance of the language of their host country (as has often happened in the USA); or a community may continue with its language successfully despite the presence of a conquering nation (as happened with English after the Norman Conquest). (Crystal, 2008). Both phenomena emerge in the context of language contact (Macwhinney, 2005).

2. Heritage language

A heritage language is used to identify languages other than the dominant language (or languages) in a given social context (Kalleher, 2010).

It is a minority language learned 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)

