

# The Shift of Bahasa Aceh in Delitua Kecamatan Delitua

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## ABSTRACT

This research deals with language shift of Bahasa Aceh in Delitua. The objectives of the study were to explain the reasons of Bahasa Aceh shift occurring among its speakers in Delitua. This research conducted qualitative research. The data were taken from Acehnese people in Delitua. The data of the study was 15 respondents. The instruments used for this study were observations, open questionnaires, and interviews. The data collected were analyzed by applying interactive model of Miles and Huberman which consist of data reduce, data display, data verification and conclusion. The researcher found that there are three reasons of shifting Bahasa Aceh into Bahasa Indonesia namely social success, habitual language use, status of Indonesia language. The researcher found that the highest reasons of shifting Bahasa Aceh in Delitua is social success and status.

**Keywords:** *Language Shift, Bahasa Aceh, Regional Identity*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is not only a tool of communication but also related to a set of behavior and cultural norms and values of which one's self-identity is contracted. It means that difference culture, behavior and norm may have difference languages or dialects. And language also shows the existence, identity and culture in society. In society, language and identity are inextricably linked each other and order to save identity; we must attempt to save our language. Norton (1997) state that very time language learners speak, they are not only exchanging information with their interlocutors, the are also constantly organizing and reorganizing a sense of who they are and how they related to the social world. When language is lost. A world perspective is lost too. As a language is the carrier of different aspects of culture, it is believe that language become endangered when they are not passed on to children or when metropolitan language dominates over others, such as vernacular language as a language identity of each culture in Indonesia.

In Indonesia is a multicultural; country which has lots of varieties of ethnics and vernacular language spread all over Indonesia. The varieties of ethnics group also spread in Delitua. The varieties of ethnics group also spread in Delitua such as, Mandailingnese, Javanese, Chinese, Tobanese, Minangkabau, Karonese and Bahasa Aceh. Because of those varieties, in Delitua develops two kinds of social interaction, there are interaction

between the same ethnics or intra ethnics and interaction between different ethnics or inter ethnic. The interaction between groups in Delitua is potentially occurred marriage between different ethnics or called as intermarriage. Usually Bahasa Aceh when they speak to the same ethnic they will use Bahasa Aceh and when they speak to different ethnic they use Indonesia language. But recently, most of Bahasa Aceh when they speak to same ethnics they use Indonesia language, this caused by migration of Bahasa Aceh to the area which is spoken dominant language or Indonesia language. It makes that shift of the Bahasa Aceh. As Holmes (2001) stated that the potential factor for the shift of language is related to rural-urban migration that encourages the used of language of the wider society and consequent loss in proficiency in the original mother tongue.

Language shift is a process by which a speech community in a contact situation (i.e consisting of bilingual speakers) gradually stops using one of two languages in favor of the other. The causal factors of language shift are generally considered social, and researchers have focused on speakers attitudes (both explicit and unstated) toward a language and domains of language use in the community. Additional research has focused on the effect of language shift, generally on the (changing) structure of the language itself.

Language shifts potentially happen when the community of language is bilingual speakers. Language shift simply means that a community stops to use a language completely in favor of another one.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Language Shift**

Language shift usually occurs in bilingualism or multilingualism community because many factors such as bilingualism, migrations, economic and social factor political factors demographic factors and also value and attitude of the language users.

According Webb and Sure states 2000 Language shift is the process of language speakers' replacing the use of their language into the use of second or third language in communication of more and more social function, like, for example in personal and intimate communication context.

The social function for which a language is used can be called a language domain (Spolsky, 2012). Spolsky (2012) further explains that a language may be used in particular functions, such as working place, family, religion, etc. the language used in working place is said to be used in working domain, a language used in family is family domain, and used in religion is religion domain. While Fishman (1966) claims two more domains, they are friendship domains and education domains.

These explanation means that a shift of language is the removing of minor language into major language may happen in all domains of a language. If it's happening means that language shift makes language dead.

According to Ferguson (1981) the use of a language may be preserved or maintained by a community under certain condition. While according to Dunlap (1985) the use of language may be maintained for certain function based in this concept the shift of minor language into major language in certain function or domains may be perceived as language maintenance in certain domains, while in other domains the language is not maintained speakers of a language may be found in certain domains while in other domains they are not found.

Language shift according to Fasold (1984: 213) 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 member has previously used another language and shift in the number of speakers of language. Similarly, Weinreich (1968 : 79) defines language shift as the change from habitual use of one language to that of other.

Furthermore, Romaine (2001 : 68 ) say this shift is unavoidable when to language compete for use in the same domains.

In short, language shift is perceived as displacing a minor language into the major language in some domains by certain generation, and the more the shift, the less the maintenance. Which all domain use language shift result language death. The more generation shift language the less language maintenance. And the distinct attribute of language shift consist of three aspects (1) displacing of minor language, (2) domains of language use and (3) speaker's generation.

### **2.2 Reason of Language Shift**

In order to understand the reason, a person shift into a dominant language. It is better to understand firstly the role of language as a mean of communication in the society and a role of language in nationalism.

The role of language in the society is language as social behavior. Holmes (2001: 8) states the people shift or choose a certain language in communicating by considering social factors. Firstly, is the participant, who is speaking and who are they speaking to. Secondly, is the setting or social context of the interaction when they are speaking. Thirdly is what the topic and what is the function.

When language shift occur, it is usually shift towards the language of the dominant. Since, according to Holmes (2001:56) the dominant language is associated with status, prestige, and social success. It is used in glamour context in the wider society. For formal speeches on ceremonial occasions, by newsreaders on television and radio, and by those whom young people admire, pop star and fashion models. It is scarcely surprising that many young minority group speakers should see its advantages and abandon their own language.

The role language in nationalism is as unifying and separatist function. The first function is refers to feeling of the members of nationality that they are united and identified each other by using the same language. For instance, the status of Indonesian language as official language and national language has made it as the lingua franca among varieties of people in Indonesia. Holmes (2001:78) described that lingua Franca means language servings as a regular means of communication between different linguistics groups in multilingual speech community. The status of National language is reinforced by universal education, as well as conscription, economic mobility, and other forces that mix up populations. Whereas the separatist function refers to the feelings of the members of nationality that

they are different and separate among the others who speak other language.

Thomas (2004:58) pointed that one of the most fundamental ways we have to establish our identity and shape others' people views of who we are, it is through of language, because language is important in the construction of individual and social identity. It can be a powerful means of exercising social control, identifying your self as belonging to a particular group or community often means adopting the linguistics conventions of that group. This can be called social success.

From the explanation above, it is concluded that there are three reasons why people shift into a dominant language: status (national language and lingua franca), prestige (a dominant language is a symbol of well educated person) and social success (easily interact with other ethnic).

### 2.3 Effect of Language Shift

Holmes (2001) argued when all the people who speak a language die, the language dies with them. Many minority language shift to language of the majority in two to three generations, but that does not constitute the death of their ethnic language because it continues to be spoken by the majority in their old country of origin.

Local language categorize in risk level language. UNESCO (2003:8) six degrees of endangerment :

- Safe, the language is used including children. Any local language that used as national or main language is categorized as safe language.
  - Unsafe, the language is used by some children in limited domains.
  - Definitely endangered, the language is used mostly by the grand parental generations
  - Critically endangered, the language is known to very few speakers, of great- grandparental generation
  - There is no speaker left. UNESCO (2003:13) provide six levels categorize of endangered language.
1. Safe; a language categorize as safe language if all generation use the language in all or nearly domains. It has a large speaker's base on relative to others spoken in the same region. Such as in language of government, education, and commerce.
  2. At risk: a language categorize as at risk if the language is spoken in limited number of domain or has smaller number of speaker than other languages in the same region.
  3. Disappearing: a language categorize as disappearing when there is an observable, a shift to another language in the communities where it

is spoken. With an overall decreasing proportion, the speaker base shrinks because it is not being replenished. Disappearing language of wider communication begins to replace it in a greater percentage of homes.

4. Moribund : a language categorize as moribund if the language that not transmitted to children or young generation.
5. Nearly extinct: a language can be categorized as nearly extinction when only a handful of speakers of the oldest generation remain.
6. Extinct; an extinct language is in one with no remaining speakers.

### 3. METHOD

This study conducted by using qualitative research. According to Bogdan and Binklen, (1982). A qualitative research is the research who obtains information by collecting primary verbal data by means of intensive case studies and then analyzes the data. This is one reason why qualitative research is much more difficult to undertake because the researcher himself/ herself is the main tool for collecting the data ( Borg and Gall, 1989). The study was located in Delitua Kecamatan Delitua.

The technique of data collection in this study were (1) observation, (2) the subject answer to open the questionnaire and (3) transcript of in depth interview. So the technique data were observation, questionnaire, and interview.

Observation was applied in this research in order to obtain the data during the observation is done in there. Transcript of recorder observation was used as data the research.

Open questionnaire is applied in this research to get real data about the language shift in Bahasa Aceh ethnic in Delitua. The subject answers to open the questionnaire. Open questionnaire was distributed for all of the participants of Bahasa Aceh ethnic in Delitua.

Interview was applied in this research to make sure that the answer that given by the participants is answering the questionnaire based on reality. In doing the interview. The researcher was use audio recorder to ask questions based on the questions that prepared before. Transcript of in depth interviews was used as the data of the research.

The analyzing the data, the researcher used interactive model Miles and Huberman, Saldana ( 2014) is used Miles, Huberman, Saldana is elaborated several steps of analyzing the data ; they are (1) data collection, (2) data condensation, (3) data display, (4) data verification/ conclusion.

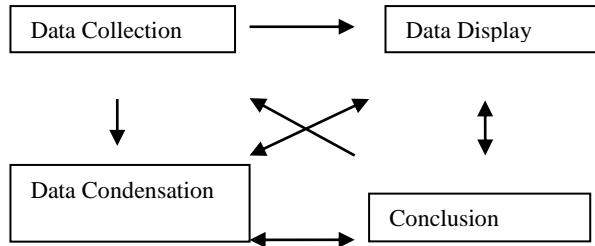


Figure 1 Miles and Hubberman theory.

The data from interview were analyzed through two procedures, during the data collecting and after data collection.

#### 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

When language shift occur, it is usually shift towards the language of the dominant. Since, according to Holmes (2001:56) the dominant language is associated with status, prestige, and social success. It is used in glamour context in the wider society. For formal speeches on ceremonial occasions, by newsreaders on television and radio, and by those whom young people admire, pop star sand fashion models. It is scarcely surprising that many young minority group speakers should see its advantages and abandon their own language.

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The table bellow showed the reasons of language shift that happen In Delitua, there are 15 respondents as the subject of the research.

Table 1. The reason of language shift in Delitua

No	The reason of language shift in Delitua			
	Respondents	Prestige	Social success	Status
1	CI		√	√
2	IW			√
3	TM	√		√
4	AN			√
5	ZH	√		√
6	AND		√	√
7	AV		√	√

No	The reason of language shift in Delitua			
	Respondents	Prestige	Social success	Status
8	DS	√		√
9	BK		√	√
10	RD		√	√
11	YN			√
12	ND	√	√	
13	WY		√	√
14	WK			√
15	ZK		√	√

The reason of language shift in Delitua			
Prestige & Status	Prestige & social Success	Social Success & Status	Status
TM, ZH,DS	ND	CI,AN,AND,AV .BK.,RD,WY,ZK, YN	IW,WK
3	1	9	2

From the table above it can be seen that the reasons of language shift in Delitua caused by status and social success. Because the Acehnese in Delitua as a minority so that they use Bahasa Indonesia as a tool of communication. and make them easy to interaction with others. And also the use prestige (a dominant language is a symbol of well educated person) in work and school that show them as educated person.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The reasons shift Bahasa Aceh in Delitua caused by prestige, social success, and status. From the 15 respondents that has been done in Delitua. It can conclude that highest reason of shifting Bahasa Aceh in Delitua is social success and status.

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