

## LANGUAGE SHIFT IN SIMALUNGUN LANGUAGE

By: Lila Novra Dini Saragih<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini adalah pergeseran bahasa pada bahasa Simalungun. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukannya faktor – faktor dan alasan terjadinya pergeseran bahasa Simalungun. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan penelitian kualitatif. Data penelitian ini adalah hasil interview dengan beberapa warga Simalungun. Berdasarkan analisis yang dilakukan ditemukan bahwa Bilingualisme dan monolingualisme adalah faktor-faktor pergeseran bahasa Simalungun. Faktor ekonomi, sosial, dan politik signifikan dalam menggeser bahasa Simalungun.

**Kata Kunci:** pergeseran, bahasa, Simalungun

## A. INTRODUCTION

People who live in a particular country or area have their own native language in order to communicate with others. This native language called vernacular language. Nowadays, vernaculars in Indonesia as mother tongue face a challenge against the existence of Indonesian language and foreign languages. Many vernaculars in Indonesia shifted even endangered. As it was informed in Kompas (2007), about 726 of 746 vernaculars in Indonesia are endangered. Only 13 vernaculars have more than one million language users. They are Javanese, Batakese, Sundanese, Balinese, Bugis language, Madura language, Minang, etc. Even there are many vernaculars that language users are only ten.

Indonesia is a multilingual country which may cause language shift potentially happen in vernacular in Indonesia. Lampung language is shifted because of Indonesian language pressure.<sup>2</sup> Batak language in North Sumatera is on the third stage of extinction, which is endangered stage. Simalungun language is one of vernaculars in Indonesia that is mainly used in Simalungun Regent.

Simalungun language is an Austronesian language that is spoken in Indonesia. According to historical facts, Simalungun language basically spread to almost all

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<sup>1</sup>Lecturer of English Department, FTIK, IAIN Padangsidimpuan

<sup>2</sup>Gunarwan, A, *Kajian Serba Linguistik*, (Jakarta: BPK. Gunung Mulia, 2004), p. 58.

regions in North Sumatra, especially in the eastern region even to Riau. The statement is based on the amount of evidence that indicates that. The evidence is quite strong among many other names of places / areas berbahasakan Simalungun, such as the name of the village Pamatang Crush, Build Purba, Parbahuman (Perbaungan), Tobing High, Mount Para, Sipispis, Dolog Marlawan and Dolog Masihol in Deli Serdang and Serdang Bedagai (Sordang Mandogei).

The study deals with language shift which happens in Simalungun language. Some factors that influence language shift in Simalungun language that showing the indication of language shift especially in the second generation and third generation. Therefore, the researcher conducts this study in order to answer what the factors and the reasons of language shift in Simalungun language.

## **B. CONCEPT OF LANGUAGE SHIFT**

### **1. Language Shift**

Planning or policy is specifically utilised in choosing the national language or official language, the consequences are crucial because they affect not only a few individuals but the entire nation. The selection process is a crucial imperative, for it involves social and political factors. It must be noted that whatever language is chosen or selected, it must serve a variety of functions: it must be a language that is unifying, separatist, prestigious and has frame-of-reference function.<sup>3</sup>

Language planning and policymaking is also complicated, for it includes the regular patterns of choice, beliefs about choices, values regarding varieties or variants of particular languages, and also the efforts made in order to change the choices and beliefs of others.<sup>4</sup>

Language planning refers to deliberate efforts to influence the behaviour of others with respect to the acquisition, structure, or functional allocation of their codes. Cooper divides into three sub-dimensions. Corpus planning refers to intervention in the forms of a language, status planning concern choices in terms of status a language ( official, national etc) and acquisition planning which concerns the teaching and learning

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<sup>3</sup>Holmes, J., *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, (Edinburgh: Pearson Education, 2001), p. 78.

<sup>4</sup>Spolsky, Bernard, *The Cambridge Handbook of Language Policy*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), p. 100.

of languages.<sup>5</sup> Jernudd & Dass Gupta in Fishman states that the study of language planning is the study of organized effort to find solution to societal language problems. The problems are language shift and maintenance.<sup>6</sup>

Language shift normally occurs as the result of some form of social, cultural, political, economic and or military pressure. What varies from one situation to another is simply the degree of the pressure. Language shift is significantly different with language change. Language shift is a move from a certain language into a dominant language. Language change is the manner in which the phonetic, morphological, semantic, syntactic, and other features of a language are modified over time.

The term 'language shift' was coined by Fishman to describe the lack of use of its heritage language by a specific speech community. This generally occurs due to competition from a regionally and socially more powerful or numerically stronger language.<sup>7</sup> Fasold states that language shift occurs when "a community gives up a language completely in favour of another one". Sociolinguists have studied the causes of shift (noting the impact of political domination and economic change) and the course of shift (frequently via domains of use).<sup>8</sup>

Language shift usually occurs in bilingualism or multilingualism community because of many factors such as bilingualism, migration, economic, and social factor, political factors, demographic factors, and also value and attitude of the language users. Fishman states that language shift typically occurs in bilingualism or multilingualism community. Then, when communities are small, there is a high possibility that marriages will be exogamous.<sup>9</sup> It has often been argued that exogamous marriages lead to language shift.<sup>10</sup> language shift in favour of case studies that show how educational level, religion, employment prospects, marriage, generation and gender combine to influence language choice at the family level.

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<sup>5</sup>Cooper, R. L, *Language Planning and Social Change*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), p. 45.

<sup>6</sup>Fishman, J.A, *The Sociology of Language*, (Massachusetts: Newbury House Publication, 1972), p. 145.

<sup>7</sup>Fishman, J.A, *Reversing language shift*. (Clevedon Avon: Multilingual Matters, 1991), p. 89.

<sup>8</sup>Fasold, R, *The Sociolinguistics of Society*. (New York: Basil Blackwell, 1984), p. 213.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>10</sup>M. Nambiar, 'Exogamous marriages and out-migration among Malaysian Malayalees', in David, (ed.), *Methodological and analytical issues in language maintenance and shift studies*, (Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2002), p. 125-134.

In this study, language shift happens in simalungun language in Simalugun Regent. The study focused on intermarriage in Simalungun. The shift is signed by the dominant use of Bahasa Indonesia in the intermarriage family.

## 2. Dimension in Language Shift Study

Fishman formulated a comprehensive model for a systematic study into the field of language maintenance and language shift. He proposed three major topical subdivision in language shift, namely: <sup>11</sup>

- a. Habitual language use at more than one point in time or space under conditions of intergroup contact.
- b. Antecedent, concurrent, or consequent psychological, social, and cultural processes, and their relationship to stability or change in habitual language use.
- c. Behaviour toward language in the contact setting, including directed maintenance or shift efforts.

## 3. Factors that Influence Language Shift

There are many different social reasons for choosing a particular code or variety in a multilingual community. Several factors associated to language shift which the most fundamental is bilingualism. Fasold states that bilingualism can ultimately lead to language shift in a society and is often marked by intergenerational switching of the languages. <sup>12</sup>

Besides bilingualism, many factors are also responsible for language shift. They are migration, social factors, economic factors, political factors, demographic factors, and attitude and values factors.

### 3.1 Bilingualism

Bilingualism is always a necessary precursor of language shift. As Downes says that language shift occurs because interacting languages in cultures are unequal power; therefore the weaker ones become physically and demographically dislocated.<sup>13</sup> In the

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<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 110-117

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 213.

<sup>13</sup>Downes, W, *Language and Society*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), p. 61.

same manner, Romaine argues if two languages compete for use in the same domain and the speakers are unable to establish the compartmentalization necessary for survival of the low variety then language shift maybe unavoidable.<sup>14</sup> Bilingualism does not always mean language competence. The two languages are used freely. Bilinguals may choose the language they like.

### 3.2 Migration

Among the frequently cited causes of language shift among the Indians in Malaysia are migration, exogamous marriages, school language, urbanisation and the higher prestige and economic advantage associated with the new language. Interviews with first-generation respondents were conducted to study migration patterns to supplement available information on the early arrival and settlement of the Indian community in Malaysia. As a result of migration, the Malaysian Indians are inclined to forsake their ethnic languages either for an international language or the national language.<sup>15</sup> The new languages they shift to are seen as languages that empower them. The Malay and English languages were seen as essential for earning a living. Such shifts also reflect the basic dichotomy within the Malaysian Indian community – the division between the English.<sup>16</sup> Language shift or maintenance is determined by a combination of factors such as cultural core values, the extent of inter-marriage, the degree of cultural similarity with the dominant group, local recognition and institutional support.<sup>17</sup>

### 3.3 Economic, Politic and Social Factors

The most obvious factors is that the community sees an important reason for learning the second language. The reason are often economic, but they may also be

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<sup>14</sup>Romaine, S, *Language in Society: An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), p. 49.

<sup>15</sup>Naji, 'Do minorities have to abandon their language? A Case study of the Malaysian Tamils', (The International Scope Review, 2000), p. 1-15.

<sup>16</sup>Poon, A, 'Pick and mix for a global city: race and cosmopolitanism in Singapore' in Goh, Daniel P. S. et al. (ed.), *Race and Multiculturalism in Malaysia and Singapore* (London: Routledge, 2009), p. 70-85.

<sup>17</sup>Janik, *Horticultural reviews*. (Cambridge: Wiley, 2007), p. 67.

political. Obtaining work is the most obvious economic reason for learning another language.

The second important factor, then, seems to be that the community sees no reason to take active steps to maintain their ethnic language. They may not see it as offering any advantages to their children, for example, or they may not realize that it is in any danger of disappearing. At first, it appears very important to learn the majority language in order to achieve social and economic success. The social and economic goals of individuals in a community are very important in accounting for the speed of shift. That they take most advantage by speaking the majority language.

### **3.4 Demographic Factors**

Demographic factors are also relevant in accounting for the speed of language shift. Resistance to language shift tends to last longer in rural than in urban areas. This is partly a reflection of the fact that rural groups tend to be isolated from the centres of political power for longer, and they can meet most of their social needs in the ethnic or minority language.

### **3.5 Attitudes and Values**

Language shift tends to be slower among communities where the minority language is highly valued. When the language is seen as an important symbol of ethnic identity, it is generally maintained longer. Positive attitudes support to use the minority language in a variety of domains, and this helps people resist pressure from the majority group to switch to their language.

## **4. The Effect of Language Shift**

Language shift normally occurs as the result of some form of social, cultural, political, economic and or military pressure. What varies from one situation to another is simply the degree of the pressure. Both language shift and language murder lead, obviously, to language death. Equally obviously, if all the speakers of a particular language are involved in the process, then we are faced with the death of a language - the total and, under normal circumstances, totally permanent and irrevocable loss of a language from the face of the earth.

A consideration of the death of languages in the 1990s shows that a large number of even very well-known languages are under more or less severe threat. In most parts of the world, this is part of a larger picture of galloping linguistic homogenisation. Even in Europe, where some languages have been lost in relatively recent times - Cornish, Dalmatian, Livonian, and Manx, for instance - many more must be considered to be in a precarious situation: Irish, Scots Gaelic, Breton, Welsh, Basque, North Frisian, East Frisian, North Sami, Central Sami, South Sami, Sorbian, Kashubian, Romansch, Ladin, Romany, Yiddish, and Ladino, to name but some. Less dramatic, but part of the same overall picture of homogenisation, is the large number of language varieties which, although the total death of a language is not involved, are under threat through language death in locations where they are minority languages: German in France, Denmark, and Italy; Catalan in France; French in Italy; Dutch in France; Turkish in Bulgaria and Greece; Greek in Albania, Bulgaria, and Turkey; Bulgarian in Greece - and so on. We can also mention as part of the same trend the dramatic reduction in regional dialect variation in most parts of Europe as a result of urbanisation and standardisation, accompanied by dialect death and lexical attrition of dialect vocabulary.<sup>18</sup>

### 5. Reason for Language Shift

When language shift occurs, it is usually shift towards the language of the dominant. The dominant language is associated with status, prestige, and social success.<sup>19</sup> It is used in the 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 stars, fashion models, and disc jockey.

The function of language in nationalism is as unifying and separatist function.<sup>20</sup> The status of national language is reinforced by universal education, as well as by conscription, economic mobility, and other forces that mix up populations. Whereas the separatist function refers to the feelings of the members of a nationality that they are different and separate among the others who speak other language.

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<sup>18</sup>Trudgill, P, *The dialects of EngZand*. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990), p. 76.

<sup>19</sup>Holmes, J. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. (Edinburgh: Pearson Education, 2001), p. 56.

<sup>20</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 60.

Language is so important in the construction of individual and social identity, it can also be a powerful means of exercising social control. Based on the explanation, it is concluded that there are three reasons why people shift into a dominant language; status ( national language), prestige ( a dominant language is a symbol of well educated person), and social success (easily interact with other ethnic)

## **6. Simalungnese and Simalungun Language**

Simalungun language is an Austronesia language that is spoken in Indonesia. According to historical facts, Simalungun langugae basically spread to almost all regions in North Sumatra, especially in the eastern region even to Riau. The statement is based on the amount of evidence that indicates that. The evidence is quite strong among many other names of places / areas berbahasakan Simalungun, such as the name of the village Pamatang Crush, Build Purba, Parbahuman (Perbaungan), Tebing tinggi, Gunung Para, Sipispis, Dolog Marlawan and Dolog Masihol in Deli Serdang and Serdang Bedagai (Sordang Mandogei).

Talking about the dialect, language or Sahap Simalungun Simalungun divided into several dialects, which dialect Sin Raya, Sin Dolog, Sin Purba, Sin Panei, Sin Bandar and nothing else other dialects that can not be classified as a dialect in the jahei-jahei (which borders the Malays). The main dialect of the dialects that are used as a benchmark or standard is Sin Raya dialect used by people who live in the District Simalungun Kingdom and the Kingdom Kahean. The dialect is admittedly not much influenced by the language around him, such as language Toba, Karo and Malay. Because it is the people in this area is still highly anticipating the Toba community influence (Parhuluan) and the Karo.

All of the above dialects initially is the same as dialects Raya, but due to the rapid influence of the surrounding language that originated from the border area, gradually faded Simalungun originality language. Just as experienced by people Simalungun who settled along the coastal area of Lake Toba or Horisan area, such as in Sub Girsang Sipangan Bolon, Sidamanik, Pematang Sidamanik, Dolog Pardamean, Haranggaol Horisan, and Purba; where due to frequent interaction with speakers of Toba, who came from the island of Samosir and beyond, then the language Simalungun in that area much mixed up with their language (Toba). Similarly, those who live in the



District Dolog Panribuan, Jorlang Hataran, Tanoh Java, Java Maraja Bah Jambi, Huta Bayu King, Bosar Maligas, and Ujung Padang, where the speakers are turning Simalungun or pious being Toba language speakers, even more dominant Tobanya than Simalungunnya, so is not it amazing when people Simalungun in this area many do not know marsahap Simalungun.

In the language of Simalungun there are a number of phonemes that are rarely found in other Batak language. Phonemes that exist in the form of some form of consonants and diphthongs. Phonemes is / ou /, / ei /, and / ui /, / h /, / d /, / g /, and / b /, and all located at the end of the word.

### **C. METHOD OF RESEARCH**

The design of this study is qualitative design. Observation is used in this design which tries to find out the factors and the reasons of the shift of Simalungun language in Simalungun regent.

### **D. DATA AND DATA ANALYSIS**

The instrument of data collection is interviewing. To make the questions are easy for the respondent, give alternative answer to the subject. The subject answers the questions concerning the planning given by choosing freely the option. The data were collected by interviewing. The researcher prepared the main questions. When the interview performed, the informant geve the first answer. When the researcher thought that the answer has been clear, the researcher turned into the next questions. The data taken by questionnaire. The questionnaire was analyzed to identify the factors the shift happens in Simalungun language. Then conclude the factors that affecting language shift in Simalungun.

### **E. FINDINGS**

This study deals with Simalungun language shift. The subject of the study are five Simalungunese families. The families are parents group as the second generation and children group as the third generation. Questionnaire was conducted to the subjects to get data of factors influence the language shift and reason of Simalungunese shift.

#### 4.1.1 Factors that Influence Simalungun Language Shift

Table 1

Factors	Second Generation				
	KS	SS	SpS	AS	MS
<b>Bilingualism</b>	√	√	√	√	√
<b>Migration</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Economy</b>	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind
<b>Social</b>	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind
<b>Politic</b>	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind
<b>Demographic</b>	Sim	Sim	Sim	Sim	Sim
<b>Value and Attitude</b>	√	√	√	√	√

Based on the data above, 100% of samples (second generation) choosed that they are bilinguliasm, 100% of samples choosed economy, social and political factors influenced the shift of Simalungun language and 100% of samples agreed that it is important to maintain Simalungun language.

Table 2

Factors	Third Generation				
	LS	DS	PS	SS	NS
<b>Bilingualism</b>	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Migration</b>	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Economy</b>	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind
<b>Social</b>	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind
<b>Politic</b>	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind	Ind
<b>Demographic</b>	Toba	Toba	Java	Java	Karo
<b>Value and Attitude</b>	√	√	√	√	√

Based on the data above, it found that the third generation can not speak Simalungun, because they only can speak Bahasa Indonesia. The third generation did not migrate, and economy, social, politic, demographic factors are influenced all the sample to shift Simalungun language. And, all the samples agree that it is important to maintain Simalungun language.

From the data analysis, some research findings are specified below;

1. Bilingualism, migration, economic factor, social factor, political factor, demographic factor are the significant factors, which influence the second generation, and the third generation are not bilingual, it means that they only can speak Bahasa Indonesia.
2. The second generation alternatively speaks Bahasa Indonesia and Simalungun language in economy, social, political factors. The third generation only use Bahasa Indonesia in every occasions.
3. The Simalungun shift into Indonesia because of the status Bahasa Indonesia and social success.

## **F. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **1. Conclusion**

Bilingualism and monolingualism are the factors of Simalungun language shift. economy, social, and political factors are significantly affect Simalungun language shift. Social success is the reason why people shift Simalungun language. All the samples stated that maintain Simalungun language are needed.

### **2. Suggestion**

The shift of Simalungun language occurs in those families. Although Bahasa Indonesia is the national and official language in Indonesia, but it is important that Simalungunese can speak Simalungun language. Because vernacular language is the culture to richen our country.

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