

LANGUAGE PREFERENCE USED BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Language preference is an activity to select a default language for language users. In several activities, we, as language users often found that speakers tend to choose certain language to be used in communication. The objective of this research is to investigate the preference of language used by Information Technology (IT) students in Budi Darma University Medan in year 2022, which language they prefer to use, Bahasa Indonesia or English? Especially when they learn and discuss about computer or information and technology matter in the classroom or computer laboratory. The participants of this research are fifty (50) EFL learners in Budi Darma who are the native speakers of Indonesian Language which is called Bahasa Indonesia. The researchers would like to find out which language is preferable to be used in the classroom especially when they talk about technology (IT) related to the computer. Piper (1986) popular with “labspeak” term, is there any relation to use certain language rather than other language when the students in computer laboratory? The investigation is done to find out their reasons why they prefer using certain language when they talk about computer and technology (IT) in the classroom. To find the answer, the researchers observe and interview the students, the preferable language used by the EFL learners and also reasons of those EFL learners become the finding of this research. The motivations of those students using certain language rather than other language when they talk about Technology or Information Technology related to computer is also considered essential to support the finding of this research).

Keyword: *Language Preference, Technology, EFL Learners.*

BACKGROUND

The development of technology especially internet and computer, have affected the spread of English language. Indonesian students as EFL speakers absorb language input from computer technology and internet in their daily activities. This factor could be the main factor of language preference occur in Indonesia. Are the students prefer to use certain language when they deal with technology and computer? The researchers would like to find out the reasons and motivations of fifty (50) EFL learners in Budi Darma University prefer to use certain language than other language when they communicate or learn about technology and computer by observing and interviewing them in computer laboratory.

Language preference is interesting object to be researched due to the dynamic of language and communication occur in social life. Linguistic research on multilingual societies has indicated that there is usually a preferred language for expression of emotion and sentiment (Dewaele, 2010). English is primarily used as language of science and technology. The term of “labspeak” has been investigated by Piper (1986) of how the technology shaped registers of English use, the students who used computer in lab are used to do some activities for example typing, commanding, running the computer program, printing the output of the program, clicking the button, reading the list of resulting from the searches. Are those activities

influence EFL learners to use English as their language preference in computer laboratory? Are those activities in computer laboratory also influence the preference of language among the EFL students in Budi Darma University?

The choosing of this topic is derived from the phenomenon found by the researchers of language preference occur to EFL (English as Foreign Language) learners. The students are native speakers of Bahasa Indonesia or Indonesian language and the researchers would like to find out which language is preferable to be used when they are speaking about computer and technology or information technology related to the computer, is it Bahasa Indonesia as their own national language or English as their foreign language? This phenomenon is interesting because EFL students in Budi Darma University is not used to communicate by using English language in daily life, unlike the students in Malaysia and Singapore where English are their second language. The research was taken in Budi Darma University Medan, Indonesia. There are fifty (50) participants of this research, the participants are the third semester students of Information Technology Study Program in Budi Darma University Medan. This phenomenon is the background of the study who motivates the researchers to investigate and find out the answers, so the title of this research is Language preference Used by Information Technology Students.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous research by Haryanto, Sulistiyo, Khairani, & Wulan (2017) "Indonesian or English? EFL Student's Preference and Perception on the Language Use in the Classroom" stated that the fifty-seven 57 participants of the research in a University in Jambi province equally excited to use English language (L2) as the medium of instruction in the classroom and they also welcome Indonesian language (L1). The research found that they prefer to use English language in two subject taught, they are listening and speaking.

Ahmadi (2018) stated that by using technologies, English language learners increase learning skills, by defining the term technology

and technology integration, explained the use of technology in language classroom, reviewed previous studies on using technologies in improving language learning skills, and stated certain recommendations for the better use of these technologies, which assist learners in improving their learning skills. The literature review indicated that the effective use of new technologies improves learners' language learning skills".

Ismail, Talif, & Abdullah (2017) in Language preference for science and technology at tertiary level in Malaysia. *Journal of Modern Languages*, 11(1), 79–91 found that English is the medium of instruction for science and technology at tertiary level. The result showed that all the respondents felt that gaining knowledge in science and technology is easy if one knows English. Eighty percent of the respondents felt that It was necessary for a student to be proficient in English for him/her to excel In his/her studies. However, 68% of the respondents did not agree that students who are more proficient In English are smarter than the studies than those who are not.

The highlight of this research will investigate the language preference used by EFL learners in Budi Darma University Medan, Indonesia who are using Bahasa Indonesia as their national language and used in daily communication both in the classroom and outside the classroom. The finding of language preference is computer laboratory considered interested because the researcher would like to find out which language are preferable to be used when the information technology students deal with technology like computer lesson. Are they prefer to use Bahasa Indonesia or they prefer to use English?

RESEARCH METHOD

This research acquire observation and interview method. The researchers observe communication activities of Information Technology students in computer laboratory for two months. Then the researchers take sample of fifty Information Technology students as participants to be observed and interviewed. The data is taken from the language uttered by the

students in the class when they mention parts of computer or computer terms. The researcher administers some words or vocabulary which were mentioned by the students when they speak about computer. which language they tend to say, English or Bahasa Indonesia? For example: the student prefer to mention “press” rather than “tekan”. The most frequently computer terms mentioned by the students in certain language will be the major data. Then the researcher will interview the students and find out why the students tend to say the term in certain language rather than the other one? The most answer from their reasons will be the data which support major data. The phases of this research are:

Phase 1: Observation

Phase 2: Data Collection Collecting the notes of two months observation and interview, then administering the data, after that calculate the most frequently language

mentioned by the students and also the interview. The result will be served in table of percentage.

Phase 3 : Data Analysis

Phase 4 : Summary and Report.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After researching by observation in computer laboratory over the communication activities of Information Technology students in two months, the researcher take sample of fifty Information Technology students as participants to be observed and interviewed. The data is taken from the language uttered by the students in the class when they mention parts of computer or computer terms. The researchers will administer some words or vocabulary which were mentioned by the students when they speak about computer, the terms administered are:

Table 1. The Percentage of Language Preference Used by The Students

IT Terms	The Percentage of IT Terms Uttered in Bahasa Indonesia	The Percentage of IT Terms Uttered in English
Press = Tekan	56 % = 28 students	44 % = 22 students
Copy paste = Salin tempel	0 %	100 % = 50 students
Bold = Tebalkan	64 % = 32 students	36 % = 18 students
Underline = Garis bawah	60 % = 30 students	40 % = 20 students
Input = Masukkan	44 % = 22 students	56 % = 28 students
Replace = Ganti	52 % = 26 students	48 % = 24 students
Update = Memperbaharui	0 %	100 % = 50 students
Hack = Meretas	0 %	100 % = 50 students
Scan = Pindai	0 %	100 % = 50 students
Download = Unduh	0 %	100 % = 50 students
Upload = Unggah	0 %	100 % = 50 students
Delete = Hapus	40 % = 20 students	60 % = 30 students
Undo = Mengembalikan	0 %	100 % = 50 students
Browse = Ramban	0 %	100 % = 50 students
Log out = Keluar	68 % = 34 students	32 % = 16 students

CONCLUSION

From the results of the research and discussion it can be concluded that from the observation in the computer laboratory, found that 25,6 % students utter the IT terms in Bahasa Indonesia, while 74,4 % students prefer to utter the IT terms in English. It shows that the IT terms is preferable to utter in English language during

the lesson in computer laboratory. Somehow, the language preference like copy paste, update, hack, scan, download, upload, undo, and browse are preferable to utter in English rather than in Bahasa Indonesia and on those terms 100% students tends to utter the terms in English because according to the interview they rarely hear and use the meaning of those IT terms in

Bahasa Indonesia like *salin tempel*, *memperbaharui*, *meretas*, *memindai*, *mengunduh*, *mengunggah*, *mengembalikan*, dan *ramban*. Some of the students also said that they prefer to utter in English because of the practicality reason, it is much easier and practical to say in English rather than in Bahasa Indonesia.

The preference of students utter IT terms in computer laboratory also supports the previous research by Eddy Haryanto et al. (2016) "Indonesian or English? EFL Student's Preference and Perception on the Language Use in the Classroom" stated that the fifty-seven 57 participants of the research in a University in Jambi province equally excited to use English language (L2) as the medium of instruction in the classroom and they also welcome Indonesian language (L1). The research found that they prefer to use English language in two subject taught, they are listening and speaking.

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