

INDONESIAN SHIFT BY TEENAGERS IN SAMOSIR REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

We investigated the Indonesian language shift done by teenagers in Samosir regency. The subjects were the teenagers in Samosir regency. This study applied qualitative research. Our result was there are four factors of language shift; bilingualism, social, demographic, and attitude. Indonesian as the national language does not influence teenagers to use it. Indonesian shifts in teenagers' community.

Key words: Teenagers, Indonesian, shift.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language shift is the changing of language use by the speakers (Fasold, 1984). Based on the data of UNESCO 2001, in Indonesia there are 147 language shifts. It proves that there are so many languages in Indonesia in danger position. Vernacular language shifts fast. But in Samosir, this does not happen. Based on the observation, all people speak Batak Toba language in Samosir. Indonesia has a national language; Indonesian. Generally, teenagers are students in Indonesia. They learn Indonesian at School. Indonesian is a formal language that is used in formal domain such as school. In fact, they still speak vernacular language. The writers were interested to investigate teenagers Indonesian shift in Samosir regency.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the problem of the study was

“what are the factors affecting Indonesian shift by teenagers at school in Samosir regency?”

1.3 The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study was to investigate the factors of Indonesian shift done by teenagers in Samosir regency.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

The study focused on teenagers' Indonesian shift at school domain.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The significance of the study was to enrich the theory of language shift.

2. Review of Literature

2.1 Language Shift

Language shift occurs when speakers use the dominant language in an area (Fasold, 1984). Language shift is the displacement of minority language to a dominant language (Holmes, 2001). Language shift occurs over time.

2.2 Factors of Language Shift

There are five factors of language shift; bilingualism, migration, social and economic, demographic, and attitude and value.

2.2.1 Bilingualism

Bilingualism means the use of two languages frequently. Bilingualism is the ability to speak two languages equally (Lado, 1984). Language shift occurs because the interaction of languages in cultures (Downes, 2005).

2.2.2 Migration

Migration is the movement of speakers from one place to another place. It builds migrants community. Migrants are virtually monolingual in their mother tongue, their

children are bilingual, and their grandchildren are monolingual in the language of host area (Holmes, 2001).

2.2.3 Economic and Social

Economic influences the use of language (Holmes, 2001). People speak dominant language to get profit not only in financial but also social. People need to communicate frequently, they need language, the speakers speak dominant language to speak (Holmes, 2001).

2.2.4 Demographic

Speakers from minority language who live in majority language speak majority language automatically (Holmes, 2001).

2.2.5 Attitude and Value

The crucial factor influencing language shift is attitude and value. Attitude is divided into two, namely positive attitude and negative attitude (Holes, 2001). Positive attitude supports the speaker to speak his/her language continually and negative attitude influences the speaker to speak the host language continually.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 The Research Design

This study was conducted by qualitative research.

3.2 The Data and the Instrument of Data Collection

The Data are the transcription of Interview and the instruments of data mobile phone and a tape recorder to record the interview.

3.3 The Subjects of the Study

The Subjects of the study are 10 teenagers in Samosir regency. All of them are vocational high school students.

3.4 The Technique of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis was done by applying Miles and Huberman technique (1994). It was done by following; (a) the data from the interviewers transcribe first from tape recorder (b) classify the data from tape recorder and field notes and (c) verify the process of language maintenance, and conclude the process.

3.5 The Trustworthiness of the Data

This study applied triangulation of method. After doing observation, it was followed by interview.

4. Data Analysis and Finding

4.1 Data Analysis

There are four factors of language shift, they are bilingualism, social, demographic and attitude and value (Holmes, 2001).

4.1.1 Bilingualism

Bilingualism means the use of two languages equally and fluently. Based on the data analysis, the subjects speak Batak Toba language and Indonesian fluently, as follows;

Table 4.1 Bilingualism

Subject	Languages		The use of language dominantly at school
	Batak Toba	Indonesian	
1	√	√	Batak Toba
2	√	√	Batak Toba
3	√	√	Indonesian
4	√	√	Batak Toba

5	√	√	Indonesian
6	√	√	Batak Toba
7	√	√	Batak Toba
8	√	√	Batak Toba
9	√	√	Indonesian
10	√	√	Batak Toba

4.1.2 Social

All of the subjects are students, economic does not give effect to their life. The use of language dominantly influences the maintenance and shift of the language, as follows;

Table 4.2 Social

Subject	The use of language		
	Classmates	Staffs	Teachers
1	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian	Batak Toba+Indonesian
2	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian	Batak Toba+Indonesian
3	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian	Batak Toba+Indonesian
4	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian	Batak Toba+Indonesian
5	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian	Batak Toba+Indonesian
6	Batak Toba	Batak	Batak

		Toba+Indonesian	Toba+Indonesian
7	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian	Batak Toba+Indonesian
8	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian	Batak Toba+Indonesian
9	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian	Batak Toba+Indonesian
10	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian	Batak Toba+Indonesian

4.1.3 Demographic

Based on the map and also environment, all of them live in Batak Toba region. All neighbors are Batak Toba. They speak Batak Toba language to their neighbors.

4.1.4 Attitude and Value

The pride to the Batak Toba language is a proof of speaker's positive attitude. Positive attitude touches the subjects to speak Batak Toba language all the time. It is seen from the use of language by subjects;

Table 4.3 Attitude and value

Subject	The use of language		
	Home	Environment	School
1	Batak Toba	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian
2	Batak Toba	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian

3	Batak Toba	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian
4	Batak Toba	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian
5	Batak Toba	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian
6	Batak Toba	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian
7	Batak Toba	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian
8	Batak Toba	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian
9	Batak Toba	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian
10	Batak Toba	Batak Toba	Batak Toba+Indonesian

They speak Batak Toba language everywhere, even there are two languages.

Language competition does not give the big effect to the speakers. It is the impact of speakers' positive attitude.

4.2 Finding

Based on the result of data analysis, the finding is: bilingualism, social, demographic, and attitude are the factors of Indonesian shift by teenagers at school in Samosir regency.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

5.1 Conclusion

The conclusion is bilingualism, social, demographic, and attitude are the factors of Indonesian shift by teenagers at school in Samosir regency. Teenagers have positive attitude to their vernacular language, it touches them to speak Batak Toba Language dominantly at school and speak the national language rarely at school.

5.2 Suggestion

Dealing with the findings, suggestions are stated as following:

1. It is suggested to the government to apply the policy about the use of Indonesian at school.
2. It is suggested to teachers, staffs and students to speak Indonesian at school all the time.

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