

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses several points; namely background of the study that contains the academic reason of conducting this study, research question as the core of this study in which providing the questions aimed to be answered, objectives of the study, significance of the study which discusses the use of the study theoretically and practically, scope and limitations of the study contained framework of this study and the things that are not included in this study.

1.1 Background of Study

Language is a fundamental aspect of human communication and interaction. It enables us to share complex thoughts, negotiate agreements and make joint plans. Moats (2020) stated that traditionally it is stated that language is a tool to interact or tools to communicate, in a sense, means to convey thoughts, ideas, concepts, or even a feeling. Language is a communication tool that allows us to convey ideas, feelings, and thoughts, as well as understand what others are saying. It is essential component of human culture and communication. In our daily activities, language plays an important role in the continuity of communication in society. Moreover, he said that people use language to communicate and exchange information, both individually and in groups. Language is also a means of self-expression and serves as a tool to show one's identity (Moats, 2020). People use language as a means of expressing thoughts and feelings in a society. This is because language is a product of culture, which means that different cultures may have different languages or different dialects. It also functions to show their existence, identity and culture in the society (Ramadhani et al., 2020).

Language is a part of communication and culture. Language plays a vital role in establishing and maintaining what we call culture, including conventions, habits and interpretive practices of individuals and communities. Through language we create and share with others identities, categories, attitudes, values

and belief structures (Rowe & Levine, 2018). Communication and culture are intricately intertwined, with culture playing a crucial role in shaping the way we communicate. Culture encompasses the shared values, beliefs, customs, traditions and norms of a particular group or society. These cultural elements strongly influence communication patterns, language choices and even non-verbal cues. The link between communication and culture could be seen from our daily practice of communication or interaction between individuals and groups. The language we use must have been influenced by where we live as well as the ethnic neighbourhoods around us (Moats, 2020).

In Indonesia itself, there are around 733 regional languages used by the community. Language development can be influenced by several factors, one of which is human immigration. When groups of people move from one region to another, they bring their language with them. In some cases, this has influenced the development of the new language in some regions. In addition to providing diversity in a region, the development of a new language also causes "language competition" in that region. This also causes differences in the society itself, there are minority groups and majority groups.

There are several minorities who live side by side with the majority who continue to use their regional language. A minority group is a segment of the population that has distinct characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, religion, language, that distinguish it from the majority or dominant group within a given society. One of the examples is Tajungan people who lived among Madurese people in Kamal, Bangkalan regency. Kamal is one of sub-district in Bangkalan regency, Madura. Tajungan people are communities of people who live in a village in Kamal named Tajungan village.

Even though they live among the Madurese society, they do not use Madurese language as their daily language. They have their own regional language to communicate, which called Javanese language. Regional language means, a language that spoken in small region or area. The tenacity of the Tajungan community in maintaining their regional language should be appreciated. Besides showing their identity, this can also keep their regional language from extinction.

Moreover, this phenomenon increases cultural and linguistic richness to the Kamal community itself.

Language maintenance is part of sociolinguistics that studies how the language can be maintained from extinction. Sociolinguists study the relationship between language and society. They are interested in explaining why we speak differently in different social contexts, and they are concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning Holmes (2013). Language maintenance is an effort conducted by minority groups to keep using the vernacular language or maintain their language in a multicultural society that has different cultural diversity and ethnic identity (Ramadhani et al., 2020). Language maintenance is the preservation of a language variety in such a context where there is considerable pressure for speakers to shift towards the more dominant language (Fishman, 1964). The term language maintenance is used to describe a situation in which a speaker, a group of speakers, or a speech community continue to use their language in some or all spheres of life despite competition with the dominant or majority language to become the main/sole language in these spheres (Davies & Elder, 2008). In maintained languages, the speech community rejects the use of another language. This condition is often called language loyalty, and the situation is called language maintenance. The group with more speakers has a better possibility to maintain their language. On the other hand, the fewer speakers have more challenges.

In the globalization era, language maintenance has become one of the most important ways to avoid language death or language loss. There are several factors that can be used to keep the language from extinction. If families from a minority group live near each other and see each other frequently, this also helps them maintain their language (Holmes, 2013). He also stated that, another factor which may contribute to language maintenance for those who emigrate is the degree and frequency of contact with the homeland.

Therefore, the writer considers that this is important to analyse the language maintenance of Tajungan people. Tajungan village is chosen by the writer as the locus of the study because Tajungan village and its people are one of communities

in Kamal that use another language beside Madurese language. Based on the writer experiences, in Kamal itself, most of the people are using Madurese language as their daily language. From that condition, the writer considers that Tajungan village is suitable to be the locus of this study. The writer analyses the effort and the reason of Tajungan people to maintain their language.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates some questions as follow:

1. What are the efforts of Tajungan people to maintain the Javanese language?
2. What are the reasons of Tajungan people in maintaining the Javanese language?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the effort of Tajungan people in maintaining the Javanese language
2. To explain the reasons of Tajungan people in maintaining the Javanese language

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes this study can give contribution to some parties. It has two major significance, theoretical and practical significance.

1. Theoretically, this study is expected to give understanding to the readers about the language maintenance in Tajungan society among Madurese people. Besides that, this study is also expected to enrich research about language maintenance, so that the theory that is underlying this study can remain alive.
2. Practically, this study is intended to help other aspiring researchers who are interested in conducting similar studies, so that they can use this study as a reference. Moreover, this study expected to give awareness to the local government to preserve the Tajungan language, so the language would not be extinct.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

This study focuses on analyses the effort and the reasons of language maintenance as part of sociolinguistic study. To analyse the effort, the writer used the theory of language maintenance that is proposed by Fishman (1991). In analysing the reason, the writer used the theory by Crystal (2003). This study puts all of the focus only to analyse sociolinguistics, especially language maintenance on Tajungan people in Kamal. In particular on their efforts and reasons of language maintenance.