

The Maintenance of Sindang Beliti Dialect in Muara Beliti, South Sumatera

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Abstract:

Cultural heritage is an object or intangible attribute which is an identity of a society inherited from previous generations, which is preserved for generations to come. Cultural heritage contains not only an objects but also an intangible object such as languages, dialects, and rituals. One of Intangible culture is Sindang Beliti dialect which is from South Sumatera Province. Sindang Beliti dialect included in the Austronesian language used by Sindang tribes which is Lembak, Lembak delapan, and Muara Beliti. This study aimed to determine causal factors of sindang beliti dialect was shifted, and find out what were efforts to maintain the dialect. This study used quantitative-method which data collected by distributing questionnaires to 30 respondents included people, linguists, and Musi Rawas district government. Theory used in this study are from Holmes (2001) and Fishman (1972). The results of this study indicated that there were 3 casual factors of sindang beliti dialect was shifted. They were social, demographic, and legal factors. There were also found 5 efforts to maintain sindang beliti dialect included holding regional song competitions in every anniversary celebration of Musi Rawas district, producing radio broadcasts used sindang beliti dialect, building a playground with the name taken from sindang beliti dialect which is "taman beregam", creating Instagram account used sindang beliti dialect in every posts, and using sindang beliti dialect in government slogan such as "payo ke hikak".

Keyword:

Intangible culture heritage, Sindang Beliti dialect, language shift, language maintenance.



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INTRODUCTION

Language is a means of communication used by people to speak with others. It can viewed through a sign of words and gestures. Futhermore, language is a tool to interact and convey the mind, ideas, and feeling. Language represents centrally in our lives. It covers our identity as individuals and social being. It serves as a means of cognition and communication probably demand us to think of yourself and cooperate with other people in community.

In communication, there is relationship between language and society such as about object, ideas, events, and actual speakers and listeners. Talking about communication and culture, Indonesia has rich of culture, ethnic, regional language and also regional dialects. Language Development and Fostering Agency of ministry of education and culture of Indonesia (2018) stated that the number of regional languages in Indonesia reached 652 regional languages that is from 2.452 observation areas. Every region does not only have a regional language but also has a regional dialect. However, when communities from other regions come to new areas and mix with local groups, then there will be a language shift. It caused by the local residents

or migrants have to adjust with new situation. The migrants or the local population will try to use the other dialect and language in the area, and eventually they will begin to leave their native language or dialect. Thus, it is one case of sociolinguistics approach, especially the study of language shift.

Pauwels (2016:9) said that the study of language maintenance and language shift is concerned with the relationship between change or stability in habitual language use. It means that language shift is a process in which a population changes from using one language to another. At this time, Muara Beliti is a regional center in Musi Rawas district. There are many residents from other areas come and even settle in the region. Therefore, many dialects and languages also grow in the area, and it makes the native people of Muara Beliti are interested to use the new dialect and language, then they began to ignore and even leave their local dialect, especially sindang beliti dialect.

Sindang beliti dialect is one of dialect that is from South Sumatera province. This dialect used by people of Musirawas district, especially in Muara Beliti. Sindang beliti dialect usually known as "col language", it caused by the appearance frequency of the word "col" is very high in daily conversation. The people of Muara Beliti assumed that this dialect is a language, meanwhile this dialect does not have a dictionary, and there is not clear rules from the Musi rawas government regarding to the dialect, since this dialect can not talked as a language. Sindang beliti dialect also used by people of Lembak, Lembak Delapan, and Sindang tribes, but they known the dialect as Sindang Kelingi Iilir dialect. The difference of two dialects is the way they are intoned. The intonation of sindang kelingi ilir dialect is faster than sindang beliti dialect. It is influenced by the river flow. Therefore, the faster the river flow, the faster the dialect intoned.

Although the number of Sindang Beliti dialect users is quite large, but it does not affect the maintenance of the dialect. It caused by the acculturation included the environment, technology or media. Therefore, based on the phenomena and explanations above, this research focuses on analyzing the maintenance of regional dialect, especially sindang beliti dialect in Muara Beliti Sub-district, South Sumatera Province. This study aimed to determine the causal factors of sindang beliti dialect was shifted, and find out what are the efforts to maintain the sindang beliti dialect.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In order to fulfill the aims of this study, several theories specifically theories about language shift, the causal factors of language shift, language maintenance, and dialect are reviewed.

According to Romaine (2000), the term of sociolinguistics was coined in the 1950s to try and bring together the perspectives of linguists and sociologists to bear on issues concerning the place of language in society, and to address the social context of linguistic diversity. In classifying it form, Van Herk. G. (2017:6) stated that Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society, but that study can take very different forms depending on who is doing it and what they are interested in finding. In support with that statement, Wardhaugh (2011:12) stated that sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationship between language and society with the goal being a better understanding of the structure of language and how languages function in communication. Thus, based on the theories above, it can be concluded that sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to the society.

Regarding to language shift, Batibo (2005:18) stated that language shift results when speakers abandon their language, willingly or under pressure, in favour of another language, which then takes over as their means of communication and socialisation. In support with that statement, (Fase, Willem, et.all. 2014:253) said that language shift is a process by which a language is replaced by language to the extent that the former becomes disfunctional in one or more domains of its use. Based on the theories above, it can be concluded that language shift is a process in which a population changes their language from one to another.

In regards with language shift and language maintenance, Pauwels (2016:9) said that the study of language maintenance and language shift is concerned with the relationship between change or stability in habitual language use. Therefore, it means that the language maintenance and language shift are two symptoms of language that bound together. Language is to be shifting when the community begins to leave their traditional language (regional language or mother tongue).

In connection with language shift, Holmes (2001) stated that there are several factors that contribute to language shift. They are: (1) economic, social, and political factors which included the dominant language is associated with social status and prestige, getting a job is a clear economic reason for learning other languages, and the domain pressure of institutions such as schools and media, and (2) demographic factors which included language shifts are faster in urban areas than in rural areas, group size is several times becomes a critical factor for language shifts, and marriage between groups can accelerate the language shifts.

Regarding to Language maintenance, Wijana and Rohmadi (2013) stated that language maintenance is not enough by describing the language system and its usage area that has been done by linguists so far. However, the most important is the growth of pride of the dialect users to use the language or dialect. In classifying it form, Winford (2003:11) stated that language maintenance shall refer to the preservation of speech community's ancestral language from generation to generation. In support with that statement, Fishman (1993: 1) said that language maintenance is related to the changes and stabilities of language use on the one hand by psychological, social and cultural processes on the other in multilingual societies. Thus, based on the three theories above, it can be concluded that language maintenance is a decision to continue the using of language by a community that has used the language before.

According to Farmer, Ann.K, at.all. (2001:280), dialect is simply distinct form of a language, possibly associated with a recognizable regional, social, or ethnic group, differentiated from other forms of the language by specific linguistics features. In support with that statement, Baker, C and John, S.P. (1998:136) stated that a dialect is really a collection of ideolects, similar varieties of language with common features, spoken by a number of individuals. In classifying it form, Stockwell (2002:5) stated that just as everyone has an accent, so every form of english or (any language) is a dialect. Therefore, it can be concluded that dialect is a variety of language that covers a group of speakers.

METHODOLOGY

This study analyzed by using quantitative-method. Idrus (2009: 32) stated that quantitative methods are generalizable, the generalizations made are not only on the sample, but it is more broadly occur in the population. It means that the form of the data is numerical or number with various percentages of each questions that answered by respondents. The data of this study is taken from the answers of the questions that raised by respondents through questionnaires with people, linguist, and Musi Rawas district government, then the data is made in the percentage of the diagram table.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of research to the 30 respondents included people, teachers, and government of Muara Beliti sub-district, there are several causal factors of Sindang Beliti dialect was becoming abandoned.

1. Social Factor

The prestige factor or lack of self-awareness of the Muara Beliti people to maintain this dialect is one of the social factors where the people are required to use Indonesian in the school and workplace environment. Thus, it makes the people become accustomed in using the other languages and dialects, then they feel ashamed when they have to use the sindang beliti dialect again. Based on the results of interview by using questionnaire with Mr. Yasbudaya

(48) who is as a head master of SMAN 1 Muara Beliti and also a user of this Sindang Beliti dialect stated that:

"There is an educational impulse that becomes a necessity as an intermediary to convey information or communication that have to use Indonesian or foreign language, and it is not using Sindang Beliti dialect".

This phenomenon believed by the informants as a strong reason why the Sindang Beliti dialect is shifted, and it can be viewed in the percentage table 1 that gets 29% of all factors that caused the Sindang Beliti dialect to be abandoned. Other social factors is also be reviewed by the influence of increasingly sophisticated technology that make the people to be affected to abandon their regional dialect. It can be viewed in the percentage table 1 that gets 14%.

2. Demographic Factors

One of the demographic factors can be viewed in the percentage table 1 is the inclusion of other cultures to the Muara Beliti sub-district environment. The other culture is an outside of the Sindang Beliti dialect. It happened caused by the Muara Beliti sub-district is the region center in the musirawas district, thus it make the outsiders interested to come and even settle to this region, whereas the demographic factor is usually happened in urban areas. Based on the results of interview by using questionnaire with Boti Marlina (26) who is a resident of Muara Beliti explained that:

"At this time, Muara beliti was not only lived by indigenous people. there are also many residents from other regions who came and settled here. This case makes the existence of new dialects and languages at Muara Beliti".

Therefore, it can concluded that sindang beliti dialect is not the only one dialect in Muara Beliti. It is caused by the existence of cultural acculturation that occurred in Muara Beliti. Thus, it is believed by the informants as the strongest reason of Sindang Beliti dialect was shifted. It can viewed in the percentage table 1 which gets 41% of all factors that caused the dialect shifted. The other demographic factor that caused the sindang beliti dialect shifted is cross-cultural marriage. It can be reviewed in the percentage table 1 which gets 5% of all other factors, since it shows that this factor has a little effect on the shifting of the sindang beliti dialect.

Another factor that found in the results of interview by using questionnaire with respondents is the legal factor. It can viewed in the percentage table 1 that gets 29%. There is no written regulation from the Musi Rawas district government that explains about the using of the Sindang Beliti dialect, and there are no dictionaries or other books that contain the dialect. Thus, it makes the people of Muara Beliti or the people of other regions are more difficult to learn this dialect. Therefore, they are not interested in learning and even using this dialect.

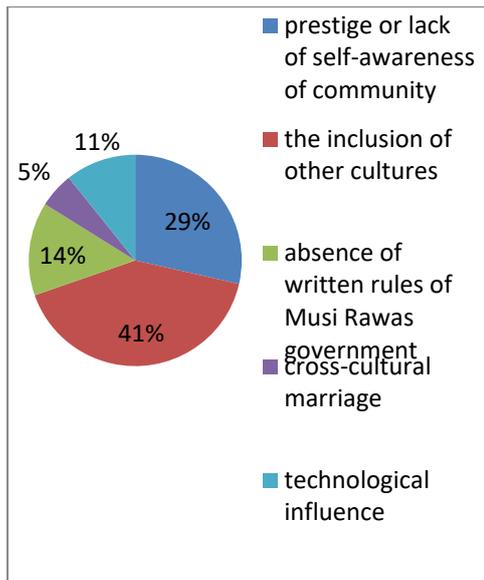


Table 1. Analysis of the causal factor of sindang beliti dialect was abandoned

Fishman (1972:97) stated that language maintenance depends on national ideologies in societies that maintain their social context to face the future changes. Regarded to the Fishman's theory, there had been several Implementation of efforts reported by the government and people of Musi Rawas district to maintain the sindang beliti dialect. However, the efforts is not maximal yet. It can viewed in the percentage table 2 from the results of interview by using questionnaire with respondents who stated that there had been delivered and also undelivered efforts to maintain this sindang beliti dialect.

The delivered efforts to maintain the sindang beliti dialect is only from the government, it gets 60% from the percentage table 2, and it can be reviewed from the result of interview by using questionnaire with Ms.Nuraini (42) who is an English teacher at SMAN 1 Muara Beliti that stated:

“Actually the government has made efforts to maintain this dialect, but it has not been maximized. One of the efforts made by the government is to hold a regional song competition in every anniversary celebration of Musirawas Regency by using the sindang beliti dialect”

From the next informant, Drs. Hamam Santoso (51) who is a head of Musi Rawas Regency Tourism Office said that:

“In fact, the government efforts already exist. It is like the existence of radio broadcasts which used the Sindang Beliti dialect at a certain time and the existence of a playground with the name that taken from the Sindang Beliti dialect, it is "taman beregam", and there is an existance of Instagram account that uses a Sindang Beliti dialect in every their posts”. Added by Mr. Hosdi (63), "there is also the slogans that used the sindang beliti dialect ”.

Based on the result of the interview above, it can concluded that there are 5 efforts that have been delivered by the government of Musi Rawas to maintain this Sindang Beliti dialect. They are holding regional song competitions in every anniversary celebration of Musi Rawas district, producing the radio broadcasts that used the Sindang Beliti dialect, building a playground with the name taken from the sindang beliti dialect which is "Taman Beregam", creating an Instagram account that uses the Sindang Beliti dialect in every posts, and using the Sindang Beliti dialect in government slogan such as "payo kehikak" which means “let’s come here”.

The efforts that undelivered to maintain the sindang beliti dialect is from the Muara Beliti people. It can be viewed from the percentage table 2 that gets 40%. Based on the result of

interview by using questionnaire with Apriliansyah (26) who is one of Muara Beliti people said :

“There is no efforts from Muara beliti people so far. They are not interested to use this sindang beliti dialect, and they consider that the dialect is ancient. There is no dictionaries and also written rules of Musi rawas government is also to be an obstacle for the Muara beliti people to learn and use this dialect”.

Therefore, from the interview result above, it may concluded that there are not written rules from the government in using the sindang beliti dialect, and there is not dictionary or any other book of this dialect. Thus, the people is more difficult to learn this dialect, and they are not also interested of this dialect. Therefore, the Muara Beliti people are lack of self-awareness to maintain this Sindang Beliti dialect.

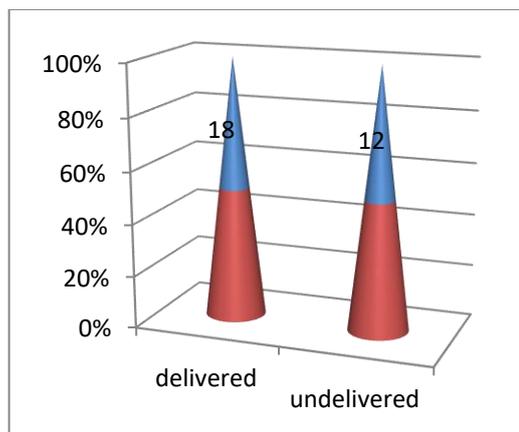


Table 2. Analysis comments of existence of delivered and undelivered efforts to maintain sindang beliti dialect

CONCLUSION

There are 3 causal factors of Sindang Beliti dialect was shifted. They are social, demographic, and legal factor. Social factor includes a sense of prestige and lack of self-awareness of Muara Beliti people, and the influence of increasingly sophisticated technology. Demographic factor includes the occurrence of cultural acculturation in the Muara Beliti that brings new dialect and languages, and the existence of cross-cultural marriages. Legal factor includes that there is not written rules from the Musi Rawas district government to use the Sindang Beliti dialect, and there are not dictionaries or other books which contain sindang beliti dialect.

There are 5 efforts to maintain sindang beliti dialect such as: (1) holding regional song competitions in every anniversary celebration of Musi Rawas district, (2) producing radio broadcasts that used sindang beliti dialect, (3) building a playground with the name that taken from sindang beliti dialect, which is "taman beregam", (4) creating an Instagram account that used sindang beliti dialect in every posts, and (5) using sindang beliti dialect in government slogan, which is "payo ke hikak".

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