

Chapter I: Introduction

This chapter attempts to present a brief outline of the sociolinguistic background of the study as well as theoretical issues regarding language shift and factors of language shift which dealt with this study. The research questions are followed by research goals, delimitation of the study focus on English and Gorontalo language, as well as significance of research which presents a highly significant in terms of theoretical and practical contribution.

Background

In a global context, language shift is a widely known phenomenon. Language shift is when the native speakers of one language are more interested to use another language, which makes their native language not used again (Holmes, 2001). One of the issues which is quite important in the study of language shift is the powerless minority group who tries to maintain its original language when communicating with the majority group whose language is dominant, and supra ethnics which is economically and politically dominant in all sectors (Sumarsono in Amrullah, 2005). Likewise, the powerless Gorontalo language speakers whose parents do not teach their children to speak Gorontalo language and impairment all factors for maintaining that language. Pateda (1999) stated that there are ten exhoratation of powerless Gorontalo language speakers, one of them is young generation do not want to use Gorontalo language in their communication. Meanwhile English language is the dominant language in the world. Politically,

almost every occupation is demanding to master English language and all strongly factors are making it exist.

Nowadays, language shift in Gorontalo is already seen, where it commonly happens to students who have already learned English. The participant of this research are second grade students in SMA 3 Gorontalo. SMA 3 Gorontalo is located in an urban area of Gorontalo. SMA 3 Gorontalo is a senior high school where the students learn some lessons where English is one of the lessons that is included in the curriculum. English also becomes one of the languages used in the announcement when the lesson will begin, break time, and the end of the class. It is like a bell with bilingual (Indonesia and English). Even in their wall magazine, they only use two languages; English and Indonesian language. In SMA 3 Gorontalo, it's very hard to find students speak Gorontalo language. As a concept of language in sociolinguistic, Gorontalo language is a local language where the native speaker of the language is Gorontalo people. Unfortunately, the students cannot speak Gorontalo fluently. Even some of them never use Gorontalo language in communication.

Language shift in students' communication is still in process. This is because students mostly use Indonesia language with Gorontalo dialect in communicating. The fact is Gorontalo language and Gorontalo dialect is very different. However, the process of language shift that occurred in the context of students' communication included the types of code mixing where the students insert word or even sentence in English. Language shift that occurred in SMA 3

Gorontalo especially second grade will be seen in pre research that the researcher found in their communication:

student A: “Perhatian, pak guru mo kumpul hari ini semua tugas.”

Student B: “*Oh my god*, kita punya bulum selesai.”

Student C: alaa, baru bagaimana ini?

Student A: “*Don't worry*, masih ada waktu.”

The data about students' communication show that they were inserting English Language. They mix English language and Gorontalo dialect that is called code mixing. Code mixing is using of two languages or more without changing the meaning and the situation of the sentence. code mixing is the process of language shift where the speakers is more inserting English than Gorontalo language. Inserting English language is usually happened in context of students' communication. Different from Gorontalo language, the researcher did not found it in their communication. It is quite hard to find them using Gorontalo language. the big question is “is Gorontalo language in the edge of extinction in students' communication?” so this question becomes a reference for researcher to do this study in particular to explore the students inserting of English and Gorontalo language in term of communication. From this data, it will be explained if students' communication is starting to shift or not. And if it is starting to shift, what factors that influence students to do language shift? But this question will be seen based on Baker's (1996) theory is language shift (in terms of numbers of speakers and uses) occurs because of the factors, they are economic, political, cultural, social and technological. So, the participants of this research will be the

sample of the speakers for seeing the factors of language shift. The effect of language shift is language endangerment or even death.

On that ground, this study must be conducted because this study intended to ascertain factors that are responsible for banishing Gorontalo language and a corresponding adoption of English language. More than that, this study focuses on examining patterns of language use in students' communication to establish whether English is thriving or Gorontalo language is threatened by a potential of shifting and also analyzing factors involved in language shift, in this case Gorontalo language to English.

Research Problem

This project set out to provide answers to the following research questions:

- 1) How is the students communication in inserting Gorontalo language and English language as a potential of shifting?
- 2) What factors support students to do language shift based on Baker's (1996) theory?

Research Goal

In answering these research questions, we aim to fulfill the following sub-goals:

- 1) To examine the students communication in inserting Gorontalo and English language whether English is thriving or Gorontalo language is threatened by a potential of shifting.

- 2) To analyse the factors that making students have potential to do language shift according to Baker's (1996) theory.

Delimitation of study

The overarching aim of the research project is to examine how are the students inserted English and Gorontalo language in their communication, also to analyze the factors that make the students interest to do language shift. First, this study only investigates the students from urban area especially in Gorontalo province which have the capability of using Gorontalo language and English language and how its shift. Second, the participants of this research are students in SMAN 3 Gorontalo in second grade.

Research significance

The significance of this study:

Theoretical benefits:

1. This research might be used as a guideline for the upcoming research related with language shift.
2. The readers are able to know the factors of language shift in students' communication.
3. This study can give contribution to linguistic study especially sociolinguistic as a new data.

Practical benefits:

1. For students, this study mentioned the factors of language shift as the benefits to adopt English language and it can help to raise awareness about the adoption of English language.
2. For the young people, it will give a motivation in avoiding the extinction of Gorontalo language by the researcher suggestion.