

## THE CHOICE OF LANGUAGE BY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN LANGSA

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### **Abstract**

*The purpose of this research are: To find out how the process of elementary students in SDN 14 langsa choosing language in the telling story through picture and their parents to find out what factors that influencing their language choice. This research uses descriptive qualitative methods, namely observation, semi-structured interviews and documentation. The subjects of this research are twenty students and twenty parents in Langsa. The research instruments were picture, questions, recording equipment and documentation. The procedure for collecting data is library research, conducting interviews, voice recorders and concluding. The result of this research are elementary students in SDN 14 Langsa mostly choose indonesia language in telling the story in front of the class in otherway same as their parents opportunities in the environment, And factors that influence the use of the term language choice in elementary students are their parents language use in social status practice.*

**Keywords:** *Language choice, Story telling, Sociolinguistics*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Language as a media for humanity to make it connection and interaction to the people, language is a key from a life, it is because by there are interactions with a people and individual even to community. Language is important for a live, if there is no a language we do not know how we give meaning and function supported by Holmes (2013). Language also a thoughtfull of feeling, as well as a means of expressing behavior in a society. It is because language is a product of culture in society, that refers to different cultures possible to have different languages or different dialects. It is also claimed their existence, identity and culture in the society. Language itself is though some of its central aspects have a rather long history in the field of study known as language, culture, and society, in the most recent research history that refers to linguistic maintenance has covers on almost all crucial part of the study in dynamic language phenomena.

Furthermore , someone who chooses a language in his or her communication is actually applying his or her communicative competence, or is demonstrating his communicative performance. As a behavior, selection of language is essentially an action or behavior in using a chosen language based on the available situation Fasold (1984) namely is not a simple as our the imagine, because choice a one language or

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all languages within a communication greatly difficult our be used be understood (p.180 ).

In other hand languages has many part of it and one of them is language choice that constitutes a central focus of contemporary linguistic and sociolinguistics. Therefore this study will discuss about language choice in elementary school. Ferrer and Sankoff (2004) stated that the language are choosing of a speakers that influenced by near society languages, because it is mostly bilingual and multilingual that can choose the dominant language as a communication tool as it gives them perfect benefits, expansion of social networks and perfect opportunities. The choice of the most solid language can be triggered by wider acceptance and function of the language it self. Most of language moved the language it self by the choosing of the speaker. More prestigious languages are usually preferred as communication media in kind of domain because of their perspective social need and functions. Pillai (2006) stated that the same thought perspective, most of languages can be used in the society platform either formal and informal communication and help gained values, better economic access in society, controller and reign. Managan (2004) also believes that the choice of kind of language that dominant can provides many people with values and the opportunity to socialize more with others which leads to the possibility of expanding social networks and getting more economic success. In order to someone becomes a part of a particular language group, this group becomes a social platform to networking in some area and develops a sense of identity that can be expressed the language through choosing of language ways of speaking.

In addition sociolinguistics is something called language planning and language policy. The termination of 'language planning' was beginning by the American linguist Einar Haugen in 1950s and connected to all language planing term in conscious efforts that aim to changing the linguistic habitual of a speech community. It can include anything 'from proposing a new word to anew language' (Haugen 1987: 627). Furthermore an Acehnese language the method that relatable with cultture, society and sociolinguistic in this case also link to language choice. In daily basis, people required to choose which language to use when their communicating. Basically, the first language in some people or communities is really considered and important to them. By specific population, especially as distinguished from a literary, national or standard variety of the language used in the region or state inhabited by that population.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 SOCIOLINGUISTIC**

Hudson (1996) stated that Sociolinguistics is the term in between of society and language, sociolinguistics, the study of language and society to find out the branch of knowledge of people which studies the social aspects of language is. Using the alternative terms given above , Coulmas (1997) says that micro-sociolinguistics investigates how social structure influenced by classes ,gender and age. Meanwhile macro-linguistic explain about particular societies do with their languages, that is attitudes and attachment that method for the functional distribution of speech forms in society. Moreover Languages with their complexity connected for ideal identity and refers to some communication in social values in education field also importance

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for sociolinguists material. Most of the country are multilingual; their speaking more than two languages in specific area. It depends on some related ethnic groups in contact and relatable society. It is well known that there are some reasons possible linguistic has outcomes of continued of ethnic groups itself, many of them are able to use more than one language and also connected to study language maintenance or even multilingualism. According to Remysen, Wim, Reinke & Kristin (2012) The result of one language on the lexicon study such as phonology and syntax it has been long discussed in understanding and use qualification. It is not very familiar between equals and more or less symmetrical. The characterized differences among communities such as power, values, and vitality are support factors which often make speakers noticed their language choice characterized during their society life or from one generation to the next generation, along with the speakers attitudes towards their languages. Also there are a particular term of studies highlighting factors influencing Language choice itself. Grosjean in Kurata (2007) has conducted a study resulting that there are some of categories in language choice that refers to participants, situation, content of discourse.

Furthermore, functions of interaction in participants includes language proficiency and also language preference, socioeconomic status, age, sex, occupation, education, ethnic background, intimacy, power relation, attitude toward languages, and outside pressure. Meanwhile, situation includes related area, presence of degree of formality, and degree of intimacy. Content of discourse includes topic and type of vocabulary and the last, all of that is an interaction raise status, to make social distance, to exclude someone, and to request or command. Little bit different with Grosjean's theory, language choice depends on a complex interaction of four aspects first that is situational language norms, speech accommodation, in-group favoritism, and sociostructural factors. (Bourhis and Genesee, 2007)

Moreover, The factors here mean combinations between linguistics and sociology and also connected to relation language and the speaker. In linguistics, the speaker act has decided to choose a certain variety of the linguistics forms. This result actually passes through a process that is constrained by confirmed factors such as social distance, situation and topic of speaking. according Dell Hymes (1989), "sociolinguistics is an attempt to categories and assumption as to the bases of linguistics work, and as to the place of language in human life because when we learn about sociolinguistics, we certainly learn about the society" (p.3). In otherhand, Sociolinguistics also confirm how language use interacts with, or is affected by, and support with some factors such as social factors gender, ethnicity, age or even social class, for instantly. Sociolinguists are interested method how we speak differently in variety social aspects, and how we communicated in specific functions of language to convey social meaning of our identity in some area.

### **2.1.1 THE LANGUAGE CHOICE**

As stated by David (2006) argues that language choice is triggered by such a particular factors that also refers to social status, gender, education, ethnicity, place, media and situation. This finding is supported by Fasold (1990), Spolsky (2004) and Mugambi (2003). Coulmas (1997) explains that there are various purpose to people make linguistic choices and between of that there are individuals and groups choose

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words, or styles in languages to deliver their various needs about to give an expression communication of ideas, associations with and separation from others. People are blessed with the ability to adapt their linguistic repertoire to new situations and build their language for a specific purpose. Bentahila (1983) states that language choice may be influenced by factors related matter to some individual or speakers in needs or even their associations, or aspects of the social situation. It seems that certain choices can be influenced by a number of variables, perhaps from different weights. Language choice is the choice of words, phrases, clauses or other language sentences in the speaker's linguistic repertoire. For bilingual and multilingual, the emergence of language choices seems natural, automatic and unplanned. The speaker chooses the appropriate list, genre, style, media, or tone of voice in relation to the interlocutor (who), topic (what), context (where) and media (how) in each conversation. As a behavior, selection of language is essentially an action or behavior in using a chosen language based on the available situation Fasold (1984) namely is not a simple as our the imagine, because choice a one language or all languages within a communication greatly difficult our be used be understood (p.180 ). For other example children who use language choice when they respon to people in their daily life, they will make language choice to make the language be understanding easier. Grosjean (1982) said that in the daily interaction with other, people are constantly changing the variety of language they use (p.127). most of people expression also refers to thei language choice to communicate their needs as easy as understanding. So, many people confirm their language in communication to make the addresses understand as what they said.

Moreover, Fasold (1990) suggests that the term of multilingualism provide an interactional way for the multilingual speaker in many aspects. This term to spesific particular language may normally be used in daily with close friends, in other language may be used for commerce and trade, and even a third one for dealing with government in purpose. In otherhand, someone who chooses the language in his communication is actually applying his communicative competence or is showing his communicative performance. As a behaviour, the choice of language is essentially an action or behaviour in using selected language based on the available situation.

## **2.2 LANGUAGE CHOICE CATAGORY**

According to the language of Fasold (1984: 180) it is not as simple as we imagine, which is to choose "a language as a whole" (all languages) in communication. We can find people who have two or more languages. For example, someone who carries the language of Aceh and Indonesian must choose one of the two languages when speaking to other people in communication events. In fact, in terms of choosing, there are three types of choices.

1. Choosing one variation of the same language (intra language variation), if an Aceh speaker speaks to the village head using Aceh language, for example, then he has chosen the first language.
2. Code switching, meaning using one language at a time, and using another language for other purpose
3. Code mixing, meaning using one particular language by interfering with pieces from other languages. More will choose the language to be used

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Before that, Giles identified three patterns of language usage:

1. He uses of ethnic minority languages
2. Bilingual in dominant ethnic and language languages
3. Monolingual in dominant language

Referring to Giles, it can be argued that a member of society is likely to apply the following language choices:

1. Using local language / first (divergent)
2. Using regional / first language and Indonesian (converging);
3. Using Indonesian (convergent). This pattern of language selection is predicted to be found in research.

### **2.3 DEFINITION OF LANGUAGE**

Language, is complex identity also social integration that related in education are of great importance for sociolinguist, in other hand Human communication tool which languages have changed in time of this era, in order all diversity around the world could change in many reason in the result os stady it self. Many tribe around the world all over country also speaking more than two languages. That is some ethnic community in contact and frequently aspects in that method. It is well known by basically three possible reason linguistic outcomes of prolonged contact of ethnic community refers to language maintenance, bilingualism or multilingualism, or language shift. Languages influence each other; they expand, contract or die. Remysen, Wim, Reinke & Kristin (2012) stated that there is a norm or ethic code for people from a multilingual and multicultural country such as Indonesia to speak at least two or more languages. That also refers to Indonesian multilingual society situation. to having a conversation needs and make decisions about which languages are to be choosen for different purposes in different needs. In order to understanding the method of that language choice phenomenon , in other hand Fishman domain (1964) stated that language choice and use it depend and connected to the speaker it self and their experiences in society that topics also situations possiblitiy cause some reason such as barriers and difficulties that related in education domain purpose.

### **2.4 ISSUES IN LANGUAGE CHOICE**

There are still lot of cases around the world that connected to language choice in many aspects and reason, using local or international language is still a matter and debatable in some countries, Moreover, Hindi is promoted as the national language, but English is still widely used in their politics, goverments, industry, commerce and education policy, Fourteen official regional in india are recognised that and are used english as widely spesificly in politics and education field. Many language in the world carry historical and cultural aspect and connotations from past empires and that is provide not only access to other cultures, but also has a part to unifiers in society and linguistically divided societies.

However, in other aspect there is national language or local language that more often spoken by many millions of people as bahasa in indonesia or malaysia for examples.

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In fact, that is should be generally agreed that no matter what the role of world languages is or even language policy planning that it should begin with the role of local languagesit self in the daily basis of the people who speak them.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

Research is all forms of finding the choice of language based the picture instruments on facts and related with their language influenced by the related aspects. This research was carried out in Langsa, especially conducted in SDN 14 Langsa and used qualitative design. According to Djam'an Satori (2011: 23) revealed that qualitative research done because researchers want to explore phenomena that are cannot be quantified as descriptive as a process work steps, formula for a recipe, notions of a Diverse concepts, characteristics of some goods and services, pictures pictures, styles, cultural procedures, physical models of artifacts and lay forth. The data sources of this research are the students of sixth grade at in SDN 14 Langsa. There are 10 male students and 10 female students one spesific class in sixth grade. Data was collected using observation and interview. Techniques used for getting finding had

- First, the researchers adapted the result of observation about the types of nonverbal communication used in the learning process based on the research instrument.
- Then, transcribed the data from interviews.
- Finally, made conclusions.

### **4. RESULTS**

#### **4.1 DATA ANALYSIS**

Supporting the data analysis there are some points as stated by David (2006) argues that language choice is triggered by such factors as social status, gender, education, ethnicity, place, media and situation. From the results of research that conducted by researchers in the SDN 14 Langsa, the researcher got almost all the elemantary student use Indonesia language when they are telling story that showed by researcher.

It turns out that after conducting research, researcher found many of the students more flexible and choice telling the picture using Indonesia language more than the Acehnese language through many aspect that relatable with the theory then for support the explanation of the picture researcher also ask the parents to get valid information about several aspect that relatable with the picture instrument and students it self.

#### **4.2 FACTORS THAT INFLUENCING LANGUAGE CHOICE USED BY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**

In otherhand, for the further step to answering the problem of study number two that is about factors that influencing the students language choice, the reseacher interview their parents to get the valid answer because the elementary students is still young and can not answer the question that is too spesific. After the researcher did the interview with 20 parents of students elementary students in SDN 14 Langsa, the

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researcher analyzed the factor influencing the students language choice is caused by: Social status, ethnicity, age, place and media that in every factors explain how much factors in every parents got influenced and here the analyze of the five factors through interview with the parents.

#### **4.2.1 SOCIAL STATUS**

The first factor that researcher found in the participants most of the parents work as non-civil servants that is mean they usually choosing the language as easy as their needs like Indonesian language and their work environment and place such as pedicap driver that many of them meet people in the street and choosing Indonesian language as language to comunacate well, and also driver who need to talk indonesian language really well in they daily activity, but also several of the parents still choice acehnese language because relatable with their job activity such as fish seller in traditional market and fisherman who more prefer choosing acehnese language to communicate that also influenced to their children and the way how they children or student speak or choosing language in school.

#### **4.2.2 ETHNICITY**

The second factor that researcher found in particular area in langsa are most of the parents ethincity has big impact for student in SDN 14 Langsa because ethincity as a culture role in their home and becoming a base of the communication in their home basically, that also influenced the children or students to comunicate well in daily activity.

#### **4.2.3 AGE**

The third factor that researcher found about students ages becoming the reason how dependent of their own language because the student still choosing the language who has the more influenced in their home, and the students ages is around 11-12 years old .

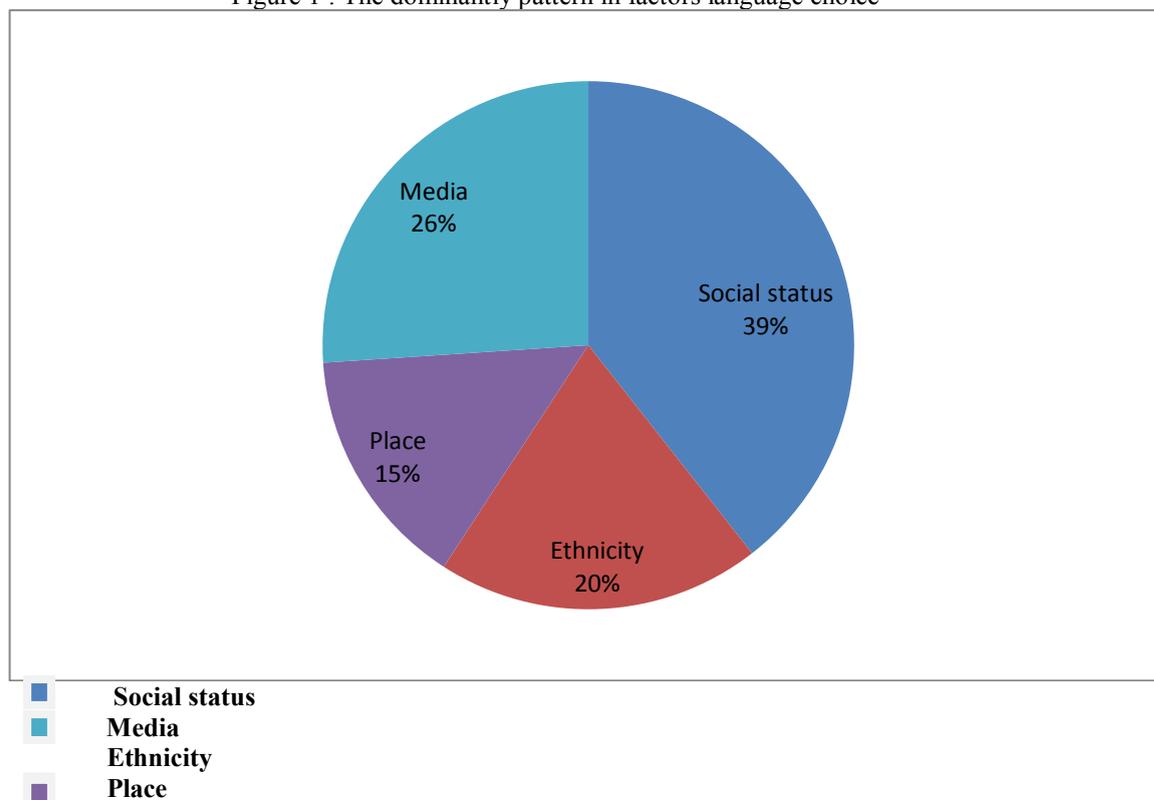
#### **4.2.4 PLACE**

The fourth factor that researcher found most of the student lived in kampung jawa belakang street in langsa that means most of the people in their environment is javanese and acehnese becoming the big factor of the language choice in their daily life i their environment also, many students in kampung jawa belakang are javanese and more fluent speak in indonesia more that indonesia language.

#### **4.2.5 MEDIA**

The fifth factor that the researcher found most of the students rarely watching tv and one of the media who influenced them is mobile phone or also social media such as facebook and tik-tok, and half of them also watching cartoon in tv like upin and ipin that means not familiar choosing acehnese language to communicate well.

Figure 1 : The dominantly pattern in factors language choice



From the diagram above we can find out that as much as 39% the factor use of social status, and 26% the use of media, 20% the use of ethnicity, 15% the use of place in parents of students SDN 14 Langsa.

## 5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the results that the researchers identified and analyzed the data in the previous chapters, The researchers found several conclusions. From data analysis, the researchers found that there are several points of language choice, Most of the students in SDN 14 Langsa choosing and prioritize Indonesia language to communicate to their friends and teachers. Even though there are also some other students who choice acehense language through telling the story from the picture because they still familiar and comfortable using their own vernacular which is acehense language, most of them is around 11-12 years old which is in 6 grade of elementary school, they believe choice acehnese language because their parents surely choosing that language in their home, and easy to practise in front of the class during telling the story about the picture itself. Factors that influence the students to choosing indonesia or acehnese language are the first is parental and also parents ethnicity and language use in their environment the fourth is children and language practice at school. Dominantly student language refers to their parents ethnicity rather than situation in the school environment factors.

In this study, researchers only wanted to find out how the language choice in student around 11-12 which is 6 grade in SDN Langsa also the factors that influenced them to choosing language in their school especially while explaining or

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telling the story in front of the class, language choice was applied in student in SDN 14 Langsa. there are factors that influence the students language choice including steps on how to implement it. And this has been answered through interviews conducted by researchers with 20 students and also 20 parents several district in langsa or most of them in kampung jawa belakang street.

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