



Language Documentation As A Revitalization Effort Regional Languages Are Starting To Extinct

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ABSTRACT

The main aim of this research study is to determine the level of condition or vitality status of a language. This can be directed at saving this language from extinction. The method used in this research is Action Research. The status of the language from the results of the study has implications for the actions that need to be taken for the language in question, whether conservation, revitalization, or both conservation and revitalization need to be carried out. For example, conservation actions in the form of documentation alone can be carried out if the language is categorized as extinct or needs to be carried out at the same time as conservation and revitalization if the language is categorized as almost extinct or threatened with extinction. The conclusion of this research is that documenting languages is actually the first step in efforts to revitalize endangered languages. The success of revitalization still depends on the speaking community itself.

INTRODUCTION

The unique and rich linguistic conditions in Indonesia provide a very diverse research locus and corpus. This condition certainly presents its own challenges for those involved in the world of languages. Moreover, if it is related to efforts to protect regional languages and literature, various calculations of the number of languages and the vitality status of regional languages/literatures indicate that all parties involved in protecting language and literature have a tough task, including universities, especially those in Indonesian language and literature study programs and area. Various concrete steps certainly need to be taken immediately. At least, there is a special interest or study that leads to it.

The Head of the Center for Development and Protection of the Ministry of Education and Culture's Language Development and Development Agency stated that to date there are still very few alumni of the Indonesian and Regional Language and Literature program who are involved in the field of protecting regional languages, especially those involved in their documentation. (Ismadi, 2022). From an academic perspective, in the early middle of the 20th century, efforts to protect languages to prevent language extinction became an important focus of study among linguistic experts, and even became a study by the UN World Organization through Unesco. Efforts to protect language are very important because language is an inseparable part of people's lives. This study also developed rapidly and spread widely with the core aim of documenting, developing, creating new domains and functions, and preserving language.

According to sources quoted from the kemdikbud.go.id page, Indonesia has 733 regional languages that must be protected, many of which have critical status due to the disappearance of the main speakers who no longer use them and pass them on to the next generation. Among the hundreds of languages found in Indonesia, from year to year their numbers continue to decrease until they are threatened with extinction, some are even on the way to extinction. If we look at the language map in Indonesia - based on mapping made by UNESCO (Moseley, 2010) - we can find that the most endangered languages are found in eastern Indonesia. This is because language diversity in eastern Indonesia is richer. Languages that are endangered need to be revitalized. One form of revitalization that can be done is by documenting the language (Budiyanto, 2022). So it can be said that language documentation needs to be done as an effort to prevent the extinction of regional languages throughout Indonesia, including Jambi Province. Language protection cannot be separated from the context of language change, language shift and language death. Language documentation activities are not easy to do. There are so many challenges found in this activity. These challenges include, among other things, policies, funding, human resources and security. To be able to meet native speakers of a particular language, researchers have to work extra hard and sometimes have to risk their lives.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Indonesia is a nation rich with cultural diversity. This cultural diversity exists because in Indonesia there are around 1,340 ethnic groups. It is natural that Indonesia also has many regional languages. In the past, regional languages were used as local content in school learning. However, in recent years, there have been several schools that do not provide regional language lessons. Regional languages are not mandatory subjects that must be in school, but are optional. Schools are free to choose whether to provide regional language lessons or not.





This turns out to have an impact on the existence of the regional language itself. There are around 718 regional languages in Indonesia that are threatened with extinction. The extinction of hundreds of Indonesian languages occurred because fewer and fewer people spoke this regional language. In fact, the extinction of this regional language also occurred because the ancestors no longer had anyone to pass on their regional language skills to future generations. Especially parents in this modern era. Many parents focus more on teaching foreign languages to their children, rather than regional languages. The reason is that foreign languages are seen as more relevant in the current era of globalization.

Of course, this cannot be allowed. The extinction of regional languages must not occur. However, regional languages are one of the nation's treasures that must be protected and preserved. The threat of extinction of regional languages has attracted the attention of the Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (Mendikbudristek), Nadiem Anwar Makarim. The Minister of Education and Culture does not want regional languages to become extinct as time goes by. Therefore, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (Kemendikbudristek) has issued a regional language revitalization program. The Ministry of Education and Culture believes that regional languages are national wealth that must be preserved and passed on from one generation to another. This article will then discuss the importance of revitalizing regional languages to support learning activities.

Before discussing the importance of regional language revitalization to support learning activities, it is better to first discuss what regional language revitalization is. Regional language revitalization is an effort made to protect language and literature from extinction. According to the Center for the Development and Protection of Language and Literature (Pusbaling), regional language revitalization can be done through 1) language mapping; 2) study of language vitality; 3) conservation; 4) revitalization; and 5) registration.

The aim of revitalizing regional languages is not only to protect regional languages from extinction, but there are several other important goals. Following are some of these goals. 1) The younger generation becomes active speakers of regional languages and learns regional languages in ways appropriate to their time. 2) Provide space for the continuity of regional languages and literature through various language activities. 3) Provide space for creativity for regional language speakers. This is done so that regional language speakers are free to use and be creative with their regional language. 4) Get a new function and home for regional languages. Of the 718 regional languages in Indonesia, there are 38 regional languages that are targets for revitalization. There are 38 regional languages that are targets for revitalization, 11 of which are already extinct and 25 others are threatened with extinction. Revitalization of regional languages is taking place in 12 provinces in Indonesia.

METHOD

The method used in this research is Action Research. This research tests a contrastive cooperative learning model, a questionnaire instrument created by combining open and closed questionnaires. However, there are more open questions than closed questions. Next, the data collected from the two instruments is processed and analyzed based on the following steps: 1) calculate the pretest and posttest scores and calculate the average of the two tests, 2) calculate the difference between the pretest and posttest scores, 3) calculate the number of students who passed the pre-test and post-test. 4) then count the number of students who answered each questionnaire number and observe the trend in the average score.

RESULT

As of October 28 2017, the Language Agency had mapped 652 regional languages (excluding dialects and subdialects) in Indonesia. Not all of the languages in the regions of East Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, North Maluku, Papua and West Papua have been identified. This figure will of course increase as the number of observation areas (DP) increases in subsequent mapping. The results of the Language Mapping can be seen on the page badanbah.kemdikbud.go.id/petabahan/ or directly at the address: <http://118.98.223.79/petabahan/>. Of the 652 regional languages that have been recorded and identified, only 71 languages have had their vitality or vitality mapped. In the book *Language and Language Maps (2017)* published by the Language Development and Development Agency (Language Agency), it is stated that the number of regional languages that have been inventoried and described is 652, not including dialects and subdialects. If we look at the accumulated distribution of regional languages per province, there are 733 languages in Indonesia. Based on an inventory from the Language Development and Development Agency, Ministry of Education and Culture from 1991 to 2017, Jambi Province has 7 (seven) documented regional languages, namely Bajau Tunggal Satu, Banjar, Bugis, Javanese, Kerinci, Jambi Malay, and Minangkabau language. This research is based on the percentage results (dialectometry) of dialect differences in each linguistic element being compared (Kemendikbud, 2017). Each regional language has a different vitality condition.

Before explaining the general picture of the vitality of regional languages, especially in Jambi province, it is necessary to first understand the meaning. The vitality or vitality of a language refers to the intensity of use and existence of a language as a means of communication in various social contexts for certain purposes. A language can be said to have high vitality if there are many speakers of the language and variations of the language are widely used. This characteristic is one of the characteristics of language that will continue to be used and passed down from generation to generation. Based on an assessment of the vitality of language, Unesco (2003) classifies six levels of language





condition, namely: 1) Safe if the language is spoken by all generations and intergenerational transmission is uninterrupted. 2) Vulnerable if the language is spoken by children, but only in certain areas. 3) It is threatened if children no longer use their language at home as their mother tongue. 4) It is very dangerous if the language is only used among the older generation, but not among children. 5) Almost extinct if only the older generation can speak it, but it is rarely used. 6) Extinct if there are no speakers.

The main aim of this classification study is to determine the level of condition or vitality status of a language. This can be directed at saving this language from extinction. The status of the language from the results of the study has implications for the actions that need to be taken for the language in question, whether conservation, revitalization, or both conservation and revitalization need to be carried out. For example, conservation actions in the form of documentation alone can be carried out if the language is categorized as extinct or needs to be carried out at the same time as conservation and revitalization if the language is categorized as almost extinct or threatened with extinction. Apart from that, specifically vitality studies are to: 1) Describe the characteristics of speakers of a language; 2) Describe the frequency distribution and percentage of speakers' responses to the statement of each indicator of language vitality and the relationship of all these indicators to speaker characteristics; 3) Describe the language attitudes of language speakers, including the language attitudes of the government; and 4) Determining the vitality conditions of a language based on the relationship of all indicator sub-indices with speaker characteristics.

Language vitality studies are useful for mapping the vitality of regional languages and can be used as a source of in-depth knowledge of linguistics, especially for the study of language planning and policy towards regional languages. Mapping the vitality of this language is very important for determining efforts to develop and protect the language. In addition, this mapping can be used as material for exploring various possible functions of language (domain of use), acquisition (transmission across generations), government policies regarding determining the status and corpus of language, as well as material for taking steps to protect language in a community group - whether through language conservation or revitalization.

Based on studies on language vitality in 2011-2017, it shows that 11 languages are categorized as extinct, 4 languages are critical, 19 languages are threatened with extinction, 2 languages are experiencing decline, 16 languages are in a vulnerable condition (stable, but threatened with extinction), and 19 languages have safe status. The list of languages whose vitality has been studied is as follows. There are 11 languages in the state of extinction, namely in Maluku and North Maluku: Kajeli/Kayeli language, Piru language, Moksela language, Palumata language, Ternateno language, Hukumina language, Hoti language, Serua language, Nila language. In Papua: Tandia language, Mawes language.

Critical/Very Threatened Conditions have 4 languages, namely; Reta (NTT): Saponi language (Papua), Ibo language (Maluku), Meher language (West Southeast Maluku) Endangered Condition (19 Languages): Hulung Language (Maluku), Samasuru Language (Maluku), Mander Language (Papua), Namla Language (Papua), Usku Language (Papua), Maklew/Makleu Language (Papua), Bku Language (Papua), Mansim Borai language (Papua), Ponosokan/Ponosakan language (Sulawesi), Konjo language (Sulawesi), Bajau Tungkal Satu language (Sumatra), Lematang language (Sumatra), Dubu language (Keerom, Papua), Irarutu language (Fakfak Papua), Podena language (Sarmi, Papua), Sangihe Talaud language (Minahasa, North Sulawesi) Minahasa language (Gorontalo), Nedebang language (NTT) Suwawa language (Bone Bolango, Gorontalo).

Conditions experiencing decline in 2 languages: Hitu language (Maluku), Tobati language (Papua) Vulnerable Condition: (Stable, but threatened with extinction; 16 languages) Buru language (Maluku), Lisabata language (Maluku), Luhu language (Maluku), Meoswar language (Papua), Kuri/Nabi language (Papua), Aframa/Usku language (Papua), Gresi language (Papua), Ormu language (Papua), Somu/Toro language (Papua), Mandar language (Sulawesi), Minahasa language (Sulawesi), Kerinci language (Sumatra), Senggi language (Senggi, Papua), Bahasa Pamona (Morowali, Central Sulawesi), Rongga Language (NTT), Wolio Language (Baubau, Central Sulawesi).

Safe Conditions (19 languages): Acehnese (Aceh), Javanese (Central Java & East Java), Sundanese (West Java), Madurese (East Java), Balinese (Bali), Malay (Sumatra etc.), Minangkabau language (Sumatra etc.), Sentani language (Papua), Awban language (Papua), Korowai language (Papua), Tokuni language (Papua), Biak language (Papua), Sumbawa language (NTB), Bugis language (Sulawesi), Makasar language (Sulawesi), Muna language (Sulawesi), Awban language (Yahukimo, Papua), Serui language (Arui, Papua), Kuri language (Papua).

Language vitality can be determined from two things that are connected, namely the relationship of all indicator sub-indices with the respondent's characteristics (gender, occupation, ethnic origin, etc.) as native language speakers. Indicator sub-indices include (1) speakers, (2) language contact, (3) bilingualism, (4) dominant position of the speaking community, (5) domain of language use, (6) language attitudes, (7) regulations, (8) learning, (9) documentation, and (10) new media challenges.

Efforts to revitalize regional languages are not only the responsibility of the Language Development and Development Agency (Language Agency) of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (Kemendikbudristek). The revitalization of regional languages involves all stakeholders, including local governments, universities, elements of society such as community leaders, speaking communities, and traditional institutions, as well as school institutions.

Revitalizing regional languages is an important step in efforts to protect language and literature. According to the





Head of Pusbanglin, efforts to protect language and literature include: 1) language mapping; 2) study of language vitality; 3) conservation; 4) revitalization; and 5) registration.

The aim of revitalizing regional languages is, 1) young speakers will become active speakers of regional languages and learn regional languages with joy through the media they like. 2) maintain the survival of regional languages and literature. Third, creating space for creativity and independence for regional language speakers to defend their language. 4) finding a new function and home for a regional language and literature,".

Based on study data on language vitality by the Language Agency in 2017 for regional languages in Jambi Province, there are two regional languages that will soon be revitalized. The two regional languages are 1) the Bajau language in Tungkal, one which is in the endangered category and 2) the Kerinci language which is in a vulnerable condition. Therefore, it is time to take the first step in revitalizing these two languages with language documentation. This language documentation can be done by compiling grammatical descriptions or making simple notes from collections of proverbs, vocabulary inventories, collections of songs and folk tales.

DISCUSSION

In general, documentation comes from English, namely documentation. Quoted from oxfordlearnersdictionaries, documentation has two meanings. The first meaning is to present information or official evidence that is useful as a record. Meanwhile, the second meaning is an effort to record and categorize information in the form of writing, photos, videos and others. From this, it can be concluded that the definition of documentation is a form of systematic activity or process in searching, using, investigating, collecting, providing documents to obtain knowledge, information and evidence, and disseminating them to interested parties. Quoted from KBBI, the definition of documentation is a process of collecting, processing, selecting and storing information in the field of knowledge that provides or collects evidence related to information, such as quotes, pictures, newspaper scraps and other reference materials.

In general, activities in the documentation process are; collect and search for materials, record and manage materials, compile and organize materials, publish and distribute documents required to the public, carry out archiving and maintenance.

Efforts to document endangered languages in Indonesia began to be intensively carried out in the 2000s. These efforts are generally carried out by foundations, institutions or universities, both from within and outside the country, which really have great attention to linguistic issues. The Indonesian government, through its institution, the Language Agency, has started documenting endangered languages when inventorying regional languages in Indonesia. Until now, inventory activities are still ongoing. Through this activity, it was discovered which languages require priority language documentation considering the decreasing number of speakers.

Language documentation activities are not easy to do. There are so many problems encountered such as lack of funding, human resources, security, and reliable technological devices. To be able to meet native speakers of a particular language, documenters have to work extra hard and sometimes have to risk their lives. Geographically, speakers of endangered languages are difficult to reach. Usually located inland, in the mountains, or on remote islands. It takes quite a long time to get there. Of course it costs a lot of money because transportation is very expensive. After arriving at the location, the documenter must be able to adapt to the environment and society.

According to the Head of the Language Agency, language documentation is the first and crucial step in language revitalization. Language documentation can be done by compiling grammatical descriptions or making simple notes from collections of proverbs, vocabulary inventories, collections of songs and folk tales (Azis, 2022). Language documentation begins with the development of a project to collaborate with the speaking community of a language. Its development can be seen from a series of stages which include data collection, data processing and data storage.

In detail, Austin (2006: 89—110) identifies the documentation process in five stages: recording, digitizing, analysis, archiving, and mobilization. Recording relates to the use of media (audio, video, or images) and text. Digitizing relates to converting recorded material in digital form. Analysis is concerned with transcription, translation, annotation, and metadata notation. Archiving concerns the creation of records as well as access and use rights. Mobilization is related to the publication and distribution of materials in various forms.

CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, several conclusions can be drawn: 1) Language documentation is actually the first step in efforts to revitalize endangered languages. The success of revitalization still depends on the speaking community itself. However, central and regional governments, as language policy makers, must also be responsible for maintaining and preserving the languages in their regions. 2) Grammar documentation, which has not been carried out much by the Language Agency, needs to be addressed by linguists in universities to start initial documentation work so that regional languages which are almost extinct can be saved.





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