

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Language is a means of communication that contains meaning and has an important role in conveying ideas, information, feelings, and concepts between individuals or groups. Language skills are acquired through social and environmental interaction, a process known as language acquisition (Suwarna, 2002:4). Language, as the primary means of communication, reflects cultural identity and becomes the main window through which a community's traditions, values and folklore are conveyed (Kridalaksana in Aminuddin, 1985).

Local language is a language used as an intra-regional link language and at the same time as part of Indonesian culture. Regional language in the sense of language used to relate in a region. Another definition states that local language is the name of the language used by groups of people whose members relatively show a higher frequency of interaction between them compared to those who do not speak the local language (Masinambao 2002: 52). In the Linguistic Dictionary written (Harimurti 2008: 25) it is stated that a regional language is the language spoken by the indigenous population of a region, usually in a multilingual area. If the local language is used as a criterion for identifying a tribe or ethnic group, the local language is also called the language of the tribe. This is certainly in accordance with the opinion expressed by (Halim, 1997: 11 in Wayan, et al) which says that local languages in particular, have a position as a mother tongue (B1)

and have a function as a symbol of identity, a means of communication or communication in daily activities, both within the family and between groups of speakers of the language.

Like other regional languages, Buton also has many functions, including as a symbol of regional pride, a symbol of regional identity, as a means of communication between families and regional communities. On a daily basis, the Buton people communicate using the Buton language.

Buton language is not only found on the island of Ternate, in some areas of North Maluku there are also many Buton natives who have been part of the North Maluku population for decades, and they still use Buton language. One of them is in Gamalama village, Central Ternate sub-district, Ternate city.

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Gamalama Village is surrounded by several villages, including bordering villages such as Kalumpang, Santiong, Tanah Raja West Makassar and East Makassar which are inhabited by people from Ternate city and some from Halmahera. This results in a multilingual linguistic phenomenon or situation. The Baton community is surrounded by the majority language use of Ternate and Halmahera, so it is suspected that it will shift the minority language, namely Buton. However, Buton is still used in Gamalama Village, Ternate City as a means of communication and interaction.

Language maintenance is an ongoing effort to keep a language alive by using it consistently, especially in the face of competition with other languages in society (Fishman, 1991). The community must strive to keep the language alive so that it is not endangered. The existence of a language depends on the efforts of its users. Language maintenance is also an important aspect of language planning, in line with Kaplan and Baldauf's (1997) statement that "Language maintenance is one of the goals in language planning."

Sociolinguistics is a linguistic discipline that studies the interaction between language and society. The main focus of sociolinguistics is on how social factors, such as social status, ethnic groups and communicative situations, influence language use and shape linguistic variation. In the context of Wanci Buton language maintenance, sociolinguistics contributes to the understanding of how people in the Thrifting Markets neighborhood in Ternate City care for and maintain their language. This includes analyzing how the use of Buton Wanci is influenced by social factors, cultural identity, and the dynamics of communication in Thrifting markets. Through a sociolinguistic approach, this research can provide in-depth insights into the role of language in shaping and reflecting social identity, as well as the challenges faced in maintaining the sustainability of the Buton Wanci language amidst the changes and growth of the market environment.

Buton people are mostly migrants who have been living for a long time, but they still use Buton language to communicate with tribal people, in buying and selling interactions, social life between communities and others. However, if they communicate outside their neighborhood, they will use Ternate or Indonesian. The

Buton language is used as an identity by the Buton tribe community in Gamalama Village among other communities.

Based on the description above, which suggests the existence of a migrant minority community group (Buton community) in maintaining its native Buton language with the more dominant majority language (Ternate / Malay Ternate language and Indonesian language). This phenomenon is very interesting to be studied further. Therefore, the researcher raised the title "The Preservation of Buton Wanci Language in Ternate City, Case Study of Gamalama Market Study: Sociolinguistics.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the above background the researcher formulates the problem as follows :

- 1.2.1 How is the maintenance of Buton Wanci language in Gamalama market, Ternate city?
- 1.2.2 What are the factors that influence the maintenance of Buton Wanci language in Gamalama market, Ternate City?

## **1.3 Objective of the Research**

Something with the formulation of the problem that has been presented, the objectives to be achieved are as follows :

- 1.3.1 Describing the maintenance of the Buton Wanci language in the Gamalama market environment in Ternate city.
- 1.3.2 Describing the factors that influence the maintenance of the Buton Wanci language in Gamalama market of Ternate city.

#### **1.4 Scope of the study**

This study limits and focuses on the form of language maintenance contained in the use and factors that influence the maintenance of Buton Wanci language in Thrifthing markets of Ternate city. Through this research, it is hoped that a comprehensive understanding of how the Buton Wanci language is safeguarded and maintained in the unique context of the Thrifthing market can be obtained, as well as the implications for linguistic diversity and cultural heritage within the community..

#### **1.5 Significant Research**

The results of the study are expected to provide theoretical and practical benefits to the preservation of the Buton wanci language, in the gamalam village of Ternate City The following benefits can be obtained from the results of this study.:

##### **1.5.1 Theoretical Benefits**

The theoretical benefit of this research is that it is expected to contribute knowledge in the context of developing linguistics in the field of sociolinguistics, especially about language maintenance. This research is also expected to be able to become reference material or comparison material for subsequent researchers.

##### **1.5.2 Practical Benefits**

The practical benefits of this research are as input for Indonesian language and literature researchers in the field of sociolinguistics, especially about language maintenance. This research is also expected to provide information about the

preservation of Buton language in Gamalama Village, Terante City. In addition, this research is expected to be able to foster motivation in maintaining local languages, and to love and appreciate local languages as a language of self-identity.