

Measuring Language Maintenance of the Banyumas Javanese Young Generation

Siti Junawaroh¹, Farida Nuryantiningsih², Ashari Hidayat³
{siti.junawaroh@unsoed.ac.id¹, farida.nuryantiningsih@unsoed.ac.id², ashari.hidayat@unsoed.ac.id³}

Jenderal Soedirman University^{1,2,3}

Abstract. Research on language maintenance can be seen from several dimensions. Previous studies have explored more from the qualitative side. This study emphasizes a quantitative approach. This research is expected to be able to complement research on the preservation of the Javanese language of Banyumas. Data collection through questionnaires. The analysis used descriptive statistical analysis. The results show that the younger generation aged under 20 years and aged 21 -40 have a high language retention tendency towards Banyumas Javanese.

Keywords: Banyumas Javanese language; language maintenance; quantitative

1 Introduction

The main measuring tool for language maintenance is the choice of language (Sevi (se)nc, 2016; Ghazali, Jaafar, & Radzi, 2019; Cowell, 2016). When an individual or a community still uses a certain language, then the maintenance of that language still exists. Parents and family have an important role in language maintenance (Lin, 2016; Mejia, 2016; Kang, 2015). Likewise with the community, especially the younger generation (Verdon & McLeod, 2015), the government plays a role in language maintenance efforts (Romaine, 2017). Many studies on the preservation of the Banyumas Javanese language have been carried out. Among them, Wijana (2005) stated that many are of the view that teaching the Banyumas dialect will interfere with children's efforts to master the Indonesian language. As a result, the younger generation is no longer proficient in using their mother tongue, or because the prestige has shifted to the Solo Yogyakarta language. In addition, there is an interesting phenomenon of shifting the Javanese language of Banyumas in the West towards Sundanese (Wahyuni, 2010; Retnosari 2013). In general, many people value foreign languages as having higher prestige than national and regional languages. Regional languages are at the third level in use after national and foreign languages. People prefer to use the national language and foreign languages in communicating. On some sides, speakers of regional languages are considered to have a social strata under speakers of national and foreign languages. This situation is getting worse when people who speak Indonesian and regional languages tend to place a high value on speakers of foreign languages. The existence of regional languages, Indonesian and foreign languages is a necessity for the people of Indonesia. As long as these languages exist, there is harmony in certain areas without destroying the existence of other languages. In a region it is possible to live several

languages side by side so that speakers tend to use code switching and code mixing (Gumperz 1982:101).

This happens because the community speaks multilingually. Communication activities in a multilingual society are no longer only oriented to local culture. As a result, the role of regional languages such as Javanese, Sundanese, and others does not become a priority in daily communication. Javanese language is only present in limited social communication, such as family and ethnic communities. Along with the times and the currents of modernization and globalization, the existence of local language speakers from time to time is decreasing. This situation is in line with the era of globalization and modernization. Communication globally is finally dominated by international languages or foreign languages. Based on data from the Language Agency, there are 718 regional languages in Indonesia that have been mapped, but only about 45 languages and literature have been conserved and revitalized. This means that there are hundreds of other languages that are much bigger and far more at an alarming level if they are not acted upon immediately. (Language agency, 2021). The maintenance and shift of regional languages is one of the phenomena as well as steps that arise in the midst of the polemic of shifting regional languages. Language maintenance and shifting are two sides of a coin that urgently needs a solution. Both are present at the same time. That is, the occurrence of this linguistic phenomenon is the result of the collective result of language choice by the speech community.

The preservation of regional languages can occur when the community speaking regional languages collectively has an attitude and language selection that is fixed in their regional language. Language maintenance is the opposite or the other side of language shift, namely the decision of the speech community of a language to replace the language they have used or choose another language instead of the language they have used. "Language shift simply means that a community gives up a language completely in favour of another one. The members of the community, when the shift has taken place, have collectively chosen a new language where and old one used to be used. In language maintenance, the community collectively decides to continue using the language in domains formerly shift in progress. If the members of speech community are monolingual and are not collectively acquiring another language, then they are obviously maintaining their language use pattern Fasold 1984:213)".

2 Theoretical Basis

Language retention and language shift are phenomena. Language shift occurs when the language-speaking community chooses a new language to replace the previous language. In other words, language shift occurs because certain language communities switch to speaking another language, usually a dominant and prestige language. Then the language is used in the realm of the use of the old language. Meanwhile, language defense is the speech community continues to use languages collectively or together in various domains of domestic use. In general, language maintenance is a collective decision by a community or speech community to continue using the language that has been used (Fasold 1984).

3 Method

This paper uses a quantitative approach. Quantitative research is a type of research involving calculations, numbers, quantities. This study is based on percentages, averages, and other

statistical calculations. Respondents in this study amounted to 66 people. Respondent requirements are:

1. male or female;
2. settled in the area of Javanese speakers Banyumas;
3. born in Banyumas Regency;
4. parents are speakers of Javanese Banyumas

Data collection uses a questionnaire/questionnaire consisting of questions that measure language retention. Indicators of language maintenance variables are parameters that include language selection and use. This indicator includes questions about self-report on the choice and use of language in the life of the Javanese Banyumas people, namely the private sphere and the public sphere. This semi-closed question is used to explore respondent data which includes language selection when communicating in private and public domains. The language choices that respondents can choose include 1) BJB, 2) Standard Javanese, 3) Indonesian, 4) BJB and Standard Javanese, 5) BJB and Indonesian, 6) Standard Javanese and Indonesian, 7) other languages . If the choice of another language is the respondent's choice, it may be filled in according to the respondent's facts. The selection of BJB is given a weight of 5. The selection of BJB and Indonesian language; BJB and Standard Java languages; BJB, Standard Javanese and Indonesian are given a weight 4. The choice of Standard Javanese is given a weight 3. The choice of Standard Javanese-Indonesian is given a weight 2. Finally, the choice of Indonesian or other languages is given a weight of 1. The option that has a weight of 5 means that the respondent's language is maintained towards BJB the more positive, while the option containing a weight of 1 means that the respondent's retention of BJB is very negative. Thus, it can be stated that the respondent who gets a score with a high weight indicates that the person's retention is positive for BJB. Conversely, if the respondent gets a low score, then the person's defense is negative towards BJB. Standard Javanese is given a higher weight than Indonesian, because Standard Javanese as a regional language is closer to BJB speakers than Indonesian. The next indicator of language maintenance variables is in the form of open questions to explore their views on the existence and survival of BJB. This question aims to provide a greater opportunity for respondents to freely prioritize their opinions on the questions asked by the facilitator. The data analysis technique used in the quantitative approach is descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics are used by examining all research data obtained from filling out language defense questionnaires/questionnaires.

4 Discussion

Based on the results of the analysis using SPSS, of the 66 respondents describing the condition of maintaining the Banyumas Javanese language

Table 1. Usia Responden

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	<20 tahun	36	54.5	54.5	54.5
	20-40 tahun	20	30.3	30.3	84.8
	>40 tahun	10	15.2	15.2	100.0
	Total	66	100.0	100.0	

Respondents in this study were divided into three groups, namely age <20 years, 20-40 years, and >40 years. Youth criteria include the age group <20 years and the age group 20-40 years.

Table 2. Kategorisasi Pemertahanan Bahasa * Usia Responden Crosstabulation

		Usia Responden			Total	
		<20 tahun	20-40 tahun	>40 tahun		
Kategorisasi Pemertahanan Bahasa	Rendah (Buruk)	Count	12	6	0	18
		% within Kategorisasi Pemertahanan Bahasa	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within Usia Responden	33.3%	30.0%	0.0%	27.3%
		% of Total	18.2%	9.1%	0.0%	27.3%
	Sedang (Cukup Baik)	Count	8	5	2	15
		% within Kategorisasi Pemertahanan Bahasa	53.3%	33.3%	13.3%	100.0%
		% within Usia Responden	22.2%	25.0%	20.0%	22.7%
		% of Total	12.1%	7.6%	3.0%	22.7%
	Tinggi (Baik)	Count	16	9	8	33
		% within Kategorisasi Pemertahanan Bahasa	48.5%	27.3%	24.2%	100.0%
		% within Usia Responden	44.4%	45.0%	80.0%	50.0%
		% of Total	24.2%	13.6%	12.1%	50.0%
Total	Count	36	20	10	66	
	% within Kategorisasi Pemertahanan Bahasa	54.5%	30.3%	15.2%	100.0%	
	% within Usia Responden	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	% of Total	54.5%	30.3%	15.2%	100.0%	

The preservation of the language of the young generation of Banyumas against the Javanese language of Banyumas in this paper is viewed quantitatively. Based on the table above, from all respondents, it can be shown that the Javanese Banyumas have a high language retention tendency towards the Banyumas Javanese language. Respondents aged <20 years have a high language retention tendency towards Banyumas Javanese. This can be seen from the largest percentage for the categorization of language maintenance based on age at <20 years of age, which is 24.2% in the high language maintenance category. Furthermore, for those aged 20-40 years the majority have high language retention against Banyumas Javanese.(13.6%) with age >40 years the majority have high language retention against Banyumas Javanese (12.1%).

Table 3. Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.471 ^a	4	.242
Likelihood Ratio	7.897	4	.095
N of Valid Cases	66		

a. 3 cells (33.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.27.

When viewed from the significance of the Chi-Square tests calculation, it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between age and language retention. This can be seen from the asymptotic significance value which is greater than 0.05, namely 0.243.

5 Conclusion

This quantitative calculation concludes that the language preservation of the Banyumas people is still high against the Banyumas Javanese language. This dismisses the previous assumption that the Banyumas Javanese language has begun to erode in the Banyumas community.

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