

# Language Attitude of Balinese Teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung to Balinese Language

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**Abstract**, This research tries to investigate the language attitude of the teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung. The village belongs to a transition village with many modernizations due to the development of Badung Regency. The result of the research shows that the teenagers have positive language attitudes to Balinese language. The male teenagers of low class tend to have positive language attitudes to Balinese language higher than the other class groups of the teenagers at the village. The factors of the language attitudes of the teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung are Language loyalty, language value, intimacy, demography.

**Keywords** : language attitude; teenagers; Balinese language

## 1 Introduction

Language attitude is an important aspect of language maintenance. Many researchers have found that language attitude becomes one factor of language maintenance. Soemarsono (1993) found that the mothers at Loloan Barat community in Jembrana, Bali had positive language attitudes to their mother tongue, the Melayu Loloan language. The mothers realised their positive language attitudes in the forms of transferring their mother tongue to their children. On the other hand, a different fact of language attitude situation was found by Indra (2002) in his research at a community of Kampung Jawa in Singaraja, Bali. The community was originally from the Island of Jawa. In that research Indra found that the Javanese language was not transferred to present generations by their elders and the present generations also did not transfer the language to their children.

A general concept on language attitude is proposed by Agbalu (2016) stating that language attitude is about the feeling and the thoughts of people have on their own language or the language of the others. Apple and Muysken (1987) define language attitude with a chart showing a chain from an attitude to social or ethnic groups, attitude to the language of the group, and attitude to the speakers of the language. Jendra (1994) states that language attitude is a matter of how a speech community conserves their language in their daily lives. Language attitude phenomenon to a vernacular can also be seen at the teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung, Bali. Buduk is a village which is 10 kilometres from Denpasar, the Capital of Bali and 11 kilometres from the tourist area of Kuta. The

phenomenon was investigated at the teenagers at the village focusing on their language attitude to Balinese language and the factors of the language attitude to Balinese language.

Huang et al (2015) made a research with the title *A Case Study of Language Attitude : How do Taiwanese Females View Mandarin-Speaking and Taiwanese-Speaking Males*. In the analysis of the survey data Huang, et al found that the participants' language attitudes towards Taiwanese-speaking males were higher than Mandarin-speaking males in average. 83% of the respondents tend to use Taiwanese language to talk to their parents. The main factor of the language attitude is the language they used for communications with their family was their mother tongue. The research of Huang et al is used as the reference of this research, but the differences are in the problems and the research method applied.

Sulastriana (2017) conducted a research on language attitude and language choice of the urban students at IKIP PGRI Pontianak. In that research Sulastriana only applied survey method by using questionnaires distributed to 151 respondents. There Sulastriana found that 94% respondents had positive attitudes to their mother tongues, 76% respondents had positive language attitudes to Malay language of Pontianak dialect, 64% respondents had positive language attitudes to other vernaculars, 90% respondents had positive language to Indonesian language, and 86% respondents chose vernaculars for communications with friends of the same hometowns in emotional situation, personal conversation, and domestic setting. The research Sulastriana did not use participative observation as applied in this research so that natural language attitude and language use of the teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung could be obtained.

Hasibuan, et al (2018) made a research titling *Language Attitude of Mandailingnese Teenagers in Desa Sidojadi, Kecamatan Bukit Malintang, Kabupaten Mandailing Natal*. The research conducted by Hasibuan, et al applied observation and interview methods with the utterances of the teenagers of the village as the data of the research. The finding of the research shows that the teenagers tend to have positive language attitudes in the domains of family, friendship, and religion because of their loyalty, pride, and awareness to Mandailing language. In the research Hasibuan, et al did give any classification to the informants which were made in this research.

Ginting (2018) conducted a research on language attitude of the sellers in traditional market toward Karonese language. In the research, Ginting found that 67% of the traders (10 males and 2 females) had positive language attitudes toward Karonese language. The respondents had positive language attitudes because they had responsibility to use it as their identity. Meanwhile, 33% of the traders (6 females) negative language attitudes toward Karonese language and they had negative language attitudes to Karonese language because their husbands were not Karonese people. The research of Ginting does not have any relation between the problem and location of the research. Then this research did the investigation relating a vernacular with the native speakers.

This research applied the theory of language attitude proposed by Kristiansen. Kristiansen (in Ladegaard, 2000) designs a framework of language attitude that in detail elaborates language attitude for practical purposes to comprehend language attitude. The framework is called tripartite model following the scheme in psychology, the triadic scheme. The tripartite model of language attitude designed by Kristiansen consists of three components of knowledge, feeling, and behaviour. The component of knowledge has characteristics of knowledge and experience on language varieties, language use in regional and social perspectives, and own language functions. Then, the component of feeling has the characteristics of evaluation and opinion on speakers and own language functions. And, the

component of behaviour has its characteristics of language varieties in language behaviour depends on interlocutor and auditor, context, and topic.

## 2 Research Methods

This research used both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The quantitative approach was applied in a survey method using questionnaires consisting of personal details and statements of language attitudes to Balinese language divided into three parts based on the components of language attitude, such as cognitive, affective, and conative. The questionnaires were distributed to 40 respondents selected randomly as the representation of all teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung, Bali. In order to get deep analysis, the respondents were also classified into groups based on sex and social backgrounds of high and low classes (Mahsun, 2005). The survey data were analysed quantitatively to get the percentage of each component of language attitude of the respondents and the result of the survey data analysis were presented in formal method of tables. Then, the survey method was then directly followed with qualitative approach applied in a method of participative observation for observing the use of language by the informants of the research so that natural situations of the language attitude among the teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung, Bali to Balinese language could be obtained. The data obtained from the observation method were analysed descriptively and presented in informal method.

## 3 Result

The results found in this research are based on the methods applied. The survey method allowed this research to get quantitative result as presented in the table below.

Language Attitudes Components	Low Class Males	High Class Males	Low Class Females	High Class Females
Cognitive	99.3%	95.3%	97.4%	83%
Affective	98%	93.2%	95%	76.5%
Conative	99.1%	94%	96.3%	85.3%

The results of participative observation method applied in this research could give natural use of languages among the informants. The use of languages is in accordance the data found the survey method of the research and they are put in the part of Discussion of this article.

## 4 Discussion

Most male respondents of low class (99.3%) showed responses of agreements to the statements that Balinese language is easy to learn and it must be conserved because it is their ancestral heritage. 98% of the male respondents of low class also showed agreements to the statements that they did not feel ashamed of using Balinese language in front of people of different ethnics. In the context of transferring Balinese language to the next generations, 99.1% of the male respondents of low class stated that they would transfer Balinese language

to their next generations. Male respondents of high class (95.3%) gave responses of agreements to the statements that Balinese language is easy to learn. 93.2% of them chose the responses that Balinese language must be conserved because it is their ancestral heritage. The male respondents of high class (93.2%) also showed agreements to the statements that they were not feel ashamed of using Balinese language in front of people of different ethnics. Then, 94% of the male respondents of high class chose the statements of agreements that they would transfer Balinese language to their next generations.

Female respondents of the research had less positive language attitude to Balinese language than the male respondents. The low class male respondents (97.4%) chose responses of agreements to the statements stating that Balinese language is an easy language to learn and the language must be conserved as part of their ancestral heritage. The female respondents of this class (95%) gave agreements to the statements that they were not ashamed of using Balinese language in front of people of different ethnics. 96.3% of these respondents of the research agreed to the statements to transfer Balinese language to their next generations. Female respondents of high class (83%) made responses of agreements to the statements that Balinese is an easy language to learn and the language must be conserved because it is their ancestral heritage. The female respondents of this class (76.5%) showed agreements to the statements that they were not ashamed of using Balinese language in front of people of different ethnics. Then, 85.3% of the female respondents of this class stated that they would transfer Balinese language to their next generations.

The analysis of qualitative data obtained from participative observation can support the analysis of the quantitative analysis of this research. The following conversation can become one the examples found at a gathering of three male informants of the research.

#### **Conversation 1 :**

Tisen : *Wake sing nuduh tapi curiga wake ia gen maling.*

I do not accuse, but I feel suspicious that he is the thief.

Wika : *Dadi sing barang ane maelan jemake? To kan liu barang mael?*

Why didn't he take the expensive one? There are many expensive goods.

Iwan : *Yen len ken to jemake kan keweh ia ngadep.*

If he had taken other goods, it would have been difficult form him to sell them.

The conversation above can be one example the positive attitude of the male informants of the research. They are all male of different social class. Two of them, they are Tisen and Iwan are from low class, and Wika is from high class. It can be seen that the participants of conversation completely used Balinese language. Below is one of the data obtained from female informants in one conversation. The conversation involved female informants of two different social classes.

#### **Conversation 2 :**

Ayu : *Di mana nanti acara ngantennya Mbok Ika?*

Where is your wedding party, Mbok Ika?

Ika : *Di kampungnya di Lemukih.*

At his village at Lemukih.

Mangde : *Jauh ya?*

Is it far ya?

Dinda : *Dekat Bedugul.*

Near Bedugul.

The conversation 2 is one example of common language use in female conversation among teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung, Bali. There are four informants involving in the conversation, three of them are from high class and one is from low class. The conversation shows that there is a tendency of the female teenagers of high class at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung, Bali to use Indonesian language for conversation among them. The participative observation indicated that there was a tendency of using Indonesian by female teenagers at the village.

There are four factors of language attitudes of the teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung, Bali to Balinese language. The first factor is language loyalty that the teenagers express in knowledge, feeling, and behaviour to Balinese language. The second factor is language value meaning that the teenagers realize Balinese language is an important part their tradition. The third factor is intimacy meaning that as part the conative component is because the teenagers find intimacy when using Balinese language when conversing with their Balinese friends. The last factor is demography that can give them much opportunity to use Balinese language.

## 5 Conclusion

A conclusion can be taken from data analysis of language attitude of the teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung, Bali to Balinese language. The teenagers have positive language attitudes to Balinese language, however, their language attitudes to Balinese language are various. The most positive language attitudes to Balinese are dominantly shown by the male teenagers of the lower class and the least language attitudes to Balinese are shown by the female teenagers of high class. There are three factors of language attitudes of the teenagers at Desa Buduk, Kecamatan Mengwi, Kabupaten Badung, Bali to Balinese language. The factors are language loyalty, intimacy, language value, and demography.

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