

# Language Choice of Non-Balinese Ethnic Migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung

I Nyoman Muliana<sup>1</sup>, Made Subur<sup>2</sup>  
{inyomanmulianabali@gmail.com}

Faculty of Letters, Universitas Warmadewa, Denpasar-Indonesia<sup>12</sup>

**Abstract.** This research on language choice of non-Balinese ethnic migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung is based on the phenomena of language choice among multi-ethnics and multilingual society found in Bali and in particular at Desa Buduk, Badung. The problems investigated included language choice and the factors causing the language choice by non-Balinese ethnic migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung. The theory applied were theory of Domain by Fishman (1979) and theory of factors of language choice by Wardhaugh (1986). The data of the research were collected through participative observation method, and they were analyzed with descriptive method. The result of the analysis showed that the non-Balinese ethnic migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung chose two languages, they are Indonesian and Balinese language. The factors supporting the language choice were social distance, social relationship, and formality.

**Keywords:** Non-Balinese Ethnic Migrants, Desa Buduk, Language Choice

## 1 Introduction

Bali is one of the thousand islands in the Archipelago. Compared to the other islands, Bali has a very small size of 5,780 square kilometres. Seen from the natural potencies, the island does not have any mines of gold, oil or woods, but Bali is granted with beauties of nature both in the mainland and in the shore. The island has mountains rowing in the middle part from the east to the west. Two of them are till now still active, they are Mount Agung and Mount Batur, the Mount Agung is the highest of about 1.300 meters. The areas along the mountains along the middle of the island also have trees and small lakes. The descriptions of the mainland beautify the island. The shores of Bali also have typical shapes of long and white sands such at Kuta and Sanur.

The beauty has invited people to visit Bali. They come from the areas in Indonesia and abroad. Many reasons and purposes the people come to Bali, some come because of businesses, works, government meetings, but many come for their holidays and increase form year to year. The people and the government of Bali organize the visits to be tourism businesses. Putra (2020) states that tourism sector is the only sector that can be developed for the development of Bali. Standard hotels, restaurants, travel agents, and other tourist facilities are prepared for serving tourists making Bali as the main tourist destination both for domestic and foreign tourists. Tourism sector in Bali then needs and attracts people to involve in it as entrepreneurs or workers and more and more people are certainly needed because the increasing number of tourist visits

results more employments are available in tourism sector. The massive employment in tourism sector in Bali automatically attracts people from outside Bali to come, they are mostly from the nearby islands; Java and Lombok and come to Bali because local people are very limited in numbers in fulfilling the demands of workers in Bali. Besides working at tourism sector, the people from outside of Bali also work at other sectors as traders, building workers, and many others. They commonly live at tourist areas such as Kuta, Denpasar, or at areas near Denpasar. Most of them live and work seasonally, and many also live and work permanently. As migrants, they live at BTN or perumahan, the housing complexes built on a land of minimum 5 thousand square meters near or side by side with Balinese peoples' housing complexes.

The existence of people from outside of Bali has certainly made Bali a multi-ethnic island. Almost all ethnics of Indonesia can be found in Bali besides the Balinese ethnic people. On one hand, they have very positive effect as the reflection of diversity, tolerance, and fulfilment of worker demands. On the other hand, the multi-ethnic situation of Bali can be very sensitive for conflicts including the language they choose for their communications especially with Balinese people around them. Buduk is one of the villages located 30 minutes to the west from Denpasar and to the north from Kuta. For 15 years ago, the village has been in a very massive progress of development. It has changed a lot because of the extension of the town of Badung that used to be in Denpasar, and it was moved to a village, Sempidi which is 4 kilometres to the east from Buduk. Many tourist accommodations and facilities have been built at the areas in the northern of Kuta, such as Kerobokan, Canggu, and Pererenan. The town extension is also followed by the buildings of housing complexes at all the ten community units, the banjars.

Phenomena of language choice by migrants have been done such as conducted by Wibowo (2006) language choice by Chinese migrants as traders at Salatiga Market. At the research Wibowo focused on language choice in transaction domain and the factors supporting the language choice by using Sociolinguistic theory with observation and interview methods. At the research Wibowo found that the Chinese traders use Javanese language when they talked with Javanese buyers, and they would use Indonesian language with non-Javanese ethnic's buyers. Then Yusuf (2017) did research on language choice by Javanese migrants at Landasan Ulin, Banjarbaru focusing on language choice by the migrants and factors supporting the language choice. The research applied Sociolinguistic Theory and research methods of observation and survey. At the research Yusuf found that the Javanese migrants' language choice was related with their interlocutors, they used Javanese language when they communicated with Javanese people, and they used Indonesian language when they talked with people of different ethnics.

This research about language choice among non-Balinese ethnic migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung is important in its relationship with ethnic groups in multi-ethnic society. In order to get comprehensive result, the research was done by exploring language choice. Besides finding out the language choice, the research also aims to know the factors supporting the language choice among the non-Balinese ethnic.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This research is based on two theories applied in research of language choice. The first theory is the theory of domain and the second is the theory of factors of language choice. Fasold (1984) and Jendra (2007) state that language choice is a situation at which one is able to use more than one language and then he/she must choose one of the languages for a communication. Such situation of the ability to use more than one language is called bilingualism. Wardhaugh (2006) indicates that Singapore is a multilingual country with four languages such as Mandarin, English, Tamil, and Malay.

The theory used for analysis of language choice is the theory of Fishman (1972) who proposes a theory called domain. According to Fishman, domain is a socio-cultural construction abstracted in topic, participant, and setting as listed in the following table.

**Table 1.** Domains of Language Choice

<b>Domains</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Setting</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Family	Parents	Home	Preparing family party
Friendship	Friend	Beach	The way of playing
Religion	Priest	Church	tennis Sunday service
Education	Teacher	School	Mathematic test
Job	Superior	Workplace	Promotion of position

(Fishman, 1972)

The table shows that language choice is determined by domain consisting of components of participants, setting, and topic. Each of the components can influence the choice of language. For example, in domain of Balinese family when the children talk to their parents at home with a topic about preparing Balinese party they will choose Balinese language. On the other setting, when the children are at their office and talk with their superiors with topic of position promotion, they may choose a language used in the office, it can be Indonesia or English.

Holmes (1982) proposes four factors of language choice. The four factors are social distance, social relationship, formality, and function or goal. Social distance means the quality of one's relation with other people, they can be so close or new one to the others, and they can also be as family. These distances certainly influence the choice of language used among them, for instance, when doing communication with someone who is already close, one may use his/her local language that can be influence by their feeling that they feel comfortable or intimate to use the language.

But when meeting someone who is new, he/she may use national language that is safe or representative for with someone who may have language background. Social relationship is in the form of one's relation socially with the other (-s), for instance between staffs and manager of a company. The staffs certainly understand their position and in their communications they will choose one language such as local language they feel they are comfortable to use among them. But, when they meet and communicate with their manager, they certainly need to show respect by choosing their national language.

Formality is a situation that always follows communication, it can be in formal and in informal situation. It always exists in the society and the formality level is different from one to the other society group so that the category determining the formality really depends on tradition a society has, and the most common categories used to determine formality in communication are participants and setting of a communication. For example, a teacher member will use national language when he/she communicates with a regent. Location of communication can also influence formality of communication, for instance, at the office when attending a meeting the teachers will use national language for communication both with his friends and the schoolmaster. Function or goal in communication can mean the purpose that want to be reached in the communication itself. When making communication about a project plan to an office staff, an applicant will use national language even though they are both already intimate one to the others.

## 2 Research Methods

This research is Sociolinguistic research, and it applies qualitative approach. The method applied in the research is observation to observe choices of language among the non-Balinese migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung (Mahsun, 2005). The method was applied in participative observation so that real situation in communications of the migrants could be observed, such as language, relations among the participants, etc. The observation method was certainly done in such a natural technique in order that the presence of the researcher did not disturb the communication process among the migrants, and it was also followed with recording and note-taking techniques (Nazir, 1988). The collected data were the classified and analysed descriptively by using sentences. The result of the research was presented in informal method by using descriptions of sentences.

## 3 Results and Discussion

### Language Choice

Below is the analysis of the data found in domains of language possibly chose by the non-Balinese migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung. The analysis is followed by data of conversations made by the migrants. Family domain is a domain involving the members of the family with communications made at home. The topics discussed are usually about the needs or the activities of the children, holiday plan, etc. Below is one data of conversation made by a family of non-Balinese ethnic migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung.

The following data is a conversation in family domain involving two participants of a father and his son. They both are a non-Balinese ethnic migrant, the father is from Kupang and the mother from Banyuwangi, and they live permanently at a housing complex at Desa Buduk, Badung.

Data 1 :

Participant 1 : Tolong ambilin bapak HP.

    Please take my mobile.

Participant 2 : Di mana?

    Where?

Participant 1 : Di meja makan ya

    On the dining table ya.

Participant 2 : Ini.

    Here you are.

Participant 1 : Carikan nomer WA kakak ya.

    Please find your brother's whatsapp number ya.

Participant 2 : Ini.

    Here you are.

The conversation made by the family of non-Balinese migrants in data 1 shows the language choice of Indonesian language. They chose the language because the parents are a mixed married couple, the husband is from Kupang and has his local language and the wife is from Banyuwangi also has different local language. Therefore, they use a representative language for the communication between them and that is the language they transfer and use in their family domain.

Below is a similar data of a conversation showing the use of Indonesian language. The conversation was made by two participants of non-Balinese migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung who are neighbours. The first is from Kupang and the other is from Malang.

Data 2 :

Participant 1 : Sudah banyak yang datang?

Have many already come?

Participant 2 : Ada beberapa, Om.

There are some, Uncle.

Participant 1 : Ya, om entaran kesana ya.

Yes, I will be there in a minute ya.

Participant 2 : Ya, om. Pinjam karpetnya satu.

Yes, Uncle. I borrow one carpet.

Participant 1 : Ya. Ya.

OK. OK.

The conversation of data 2 happened at an evening at participant 1's house. At that time the participant 2 came to borrow a carpet from the participant 1 for gathering of Islamic prayer at participant 2's house. The language they used was Indonesian because they both are from different ethnic backgrounds with different language backgrounds so that they could not use their own local languages.

The following data is different from the other two ones, the data 1 and data 2. It is a conversation made by two participants of different ethnic backgrounds, participant 1 is a Balinese and participant 2 is a Javanese who has been non-Balinese ethnic migrant at Desa Bduuk, Badung for more than fifteen years and they both certainly have different language background.

Data 3 :

Participant 1 : Rizky biyin kuliah?

Does Rizky go to his postgraduate program?

Participant 2 : Rencana lanjut, tapi suba maan megae.

He planned to continue (to postgraduate program), but he already has a job.

Participant 1 : Wah, hebat. Dija ia megae?

Wow, great. Where does he work?

Participant 2 : Di BRI. Waktu ne iseng ia ngelamar, ia gen terimae.

At BRI. He just tried to apply, he was the only one received.

Participant 1 : Na. Selamat.

OK. Congratulation!.

Participant 2 : Tapi joh ia ditempatkan. Di Karangasem.

But he is placed so far. In Karangasem.

Participant 1 : Nah sing ken-ken. Nu paek.

OK. It is not a problem. It is still near.

The conversation of data 3 completely used Balinese language. It was made by two participants, the participant 1 is Balinese and participant 2 is Javanese and they were both as friends. They both certainly have different language backgrounds, participant 1 has Balinese language and participant 2 has Javanese language. In the conversation participant 1 invited participant 2 to talk in Balinese language and it was followed by participant 2. Participant 1 did it because he had known that participant 2 was able to speak Balinese language fluently.

Data 4 :

Participant 1 : Gede wenten, Bu?

Is Gede at home, Mom?

Participant 2 : Coba tingalin di kamarne.

Just try to see in his room.

Participant 1 : Oh, nggih Bu.

Oh, Yes, Mom.

Participant 2 : Rio suba megae?

Do you already work?

Participant 1 : Kari training.

Still on the job training.

Participant 2 : Nah luwung to.

Ya, that is good.

The conversation of data 4 was between two participants of different ethnic backgrounds and different language backgrounds. It shows that both participants used Balinese language even though they are from different language background. Participant 1 is a teenager who is a non-Balinese ethnic migrant at Desa Buduk, Badung and he was born and grew up at the village. As born and grew up at the village, he already had good relations with people of different social backgrounds at the village. At that conversation he came to his friend's house, Gede and there he met the mother. The Balinese language the participant used at the conversation was polite or a high variety of the language that can be seen from the words wenten 'exist', nggih 'yes', and kari 'still'. The use of the high variety of Balinese language also indicates that the participant 1 had good relationship with higher class people to whom communication must be in polite Balinese language.

#### **Factors of Language Choice**

There are three factors that supported the language choice made by the non-Balinese migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung. The three factors were social distance, social relationship, and formality. The factor of social distance is shown by the conversation where the participants chose language in accordance with the interlocutors, when the interlocutors were Balinese, they would use Balinese language. But, when the interlocutors were not Balinese, they would use Indonesian language. However, the use of Balinese language mainly depended on their ability in using the language because some of them were not able to use the language that could be caused by their length of stay at the village was not long enough to socialize with the local people.

The factor of social relationship as the factor of language choice by the non-Balinese ethnic migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung was indicated by their positions in the relations with Balinese ethnic people at their village to whom they had to show respect. Then, the factor of formality as the factor in causing the language choice by the non-Balinese migrants was shown by the use of high variety of Balinese language. The ability of using the high variety of Balinese language was caused by the social relations of the non-Balinese migrants to different social backgrounds of the local people.

## **4 Conclusion**

The conclusions that can be taken from the analysis of the language choice by non-Balinese ethnic migrants at Desa Buduk are as the following. The non-Balinese ethnic migrants at Desa Buduk chose two languages in their communications. The languages are Balinese and Indonesian languages. There are three factors that influenced the language choice made by the non-Balinese migrants at Desa Buduk, Badung. The three factors were social distance, social relationship, and formality.

## References

- [1] Fashold, R. (1987). *The Sociolinguistic of Society*. Oxford : Basil Blackwell.
- [2] Jendra, I.W. (2007). *Sosiolinguistik Teori dan Penerapannya*. Surabaya : Paramita.
- [3] Mahsun, M.S. (2005). *Metode Penelitian Bahasa Tahapan, Strategi. Metode, dan Tekniknya*. Jakarta : PT. RajaGrafindo Persada.
- [4] Nazir, M. (1988). *Metode Penelitian*. Jakarta : Ghalia Indonesia.
- [5] Putra, I.N.G.M. (2020). *Identitas, Memori, dan Pembangunan in Saru Gremeng Sepilihan Esai Kritik Kebudayaan*. Denpasar : Pustaka Larasan.
- [6] Wardhaugh, R. (2006). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. USA : Blackwell Publishing.
- [7] Wibowo, A. (2006). *Pilihan Bahasa Pedagang Etnis Cina dalam Interaksi Jual Beli di Pasar Kota Salatiga*. Semarang : Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Semarang.
- [8] Yusuf, M. (2017). *Pemilihan Bahasa Kelompok penutur pendatang Jawa di Landasan Ulin, Banjarbaru*. *Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pembelajarannya* Vol 7, No 1 (2017). <https://ppjp.ulm.ac.id/journal/index.php/jbsp/article/view/3764>.