

## IS SUNDANESE SHIFTED BY BAHASA INDONESIA?

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### ABSTRACT

Sundanese is spoken by mostly Sundanese society in the area of Sukabumi municipality in their social interaction. It is not only Sundanese but also Bahasa Indonesia is spoken by Sundanese society in their daily life. It can say that Sundanese society who lives in the area of Sukabumi municipality is societal bilingualism. Yet, if it is concerning with the use of Sundanese from time to time particularly in Sukabumi municipality, there is a tendency recently that Sundanese society do not want to speak Sundanese in most of their social interaction. It is shown from the frequency of Sundanese use in daily communication activity. The Sundanese shift is concerned with the practical use of Bahasa Indonesia, the prestige of Sundanese nowadays, modernization, and education at school which compels student to speak Bahasa Indonesia. The paper aims at describing Sundanese language shift. It is interesting to study the shift of Sundanese use by Bahasa Indonesia and how Sundanese society concern to their language in this case. The research method uses descriptive method, which is conducted by seeing the fact of Sundanese language shift in the area of Sukabumi municipality. The data were collected by in depth interview and giving questioner.

Keywords: Language shift, Sundanese, Sukabumi

### INTRODUCTION

Sundanese is a language group with the total of the most third speaker after Bahasa Indonesia and Javanese. It is based on the reference if the total of speaker is more than 10.000.000 people, so that the most speech community in Indonesia are Indonesian speech community, Javanese, Sundanese, and Malay (Rokhman, 2013). With the total of speaker that almost reaches 25.000.000 speaker (Suryani NS, 2011), Sundanese is used in daily live interaction by most of Sundanese society, West Java. As language, which is spoken by many Sundanese societies, it is absolutely Sundanese has a prestige between Sundanese speech community.

There is something interesting, relating to Sundanese used recently especially in the area of Sukabumi municipality, West Java. It is not only Sundanese, Bahasa Indonesia is also spoken by Sundanese society in the area of Sukabumi municipality. Bahasa Indonesia becomes the main choice in communicating and it seems that Sundanese has been shifted by Bahasa Indonesia. The most concern now is children first language, which is taught by their parents at home, is not Sundanese but Bahasa Indonesia.

It is totally different with 1990s decade, Sundanese was the first language that was taught by parents at home. In education such as, elementary school, most of the teacher still used Sundanese in teaching and studying activity and only some teachers used Bahasa Indonesia, if it was needed. Except for teachers who taught not from Sundanese ethnic group, they would speak Bahasa Indonesia. In daily interaction, children used Sundanese and it was very often heard that children spoke Bahasa Indonesia. Except children who were not from Sundanese speaker and it would be weird to be heard if in daily interaction was heard that children who were Sundanese speaker spoke Bahasa Indonesia. It was very often spoken an insulting of "Language of RI (Republic of Indonesia) if it was heard that children spoke Bahasa Indonesia.

It is contrary to the fact now, it will be weird if children speak to use Sundanese in their social interaction. It is also adults seldom speak to use Sundanese lately, they prefer to choose using bahasa Indonesia in speaking eventhough they are Sundanese speaker. It is worsen by Sundanese speaker that is difficult in comprehending Sundanese particularly in speech level of Sundanese (*undak usuk basa*) which is weirder for Sundanese society.

Concerning with this phenomenon, it seems that there is Sundanese shift in the area of Sukabumi municipality where Sundanese speech community prefers to choose using Bahasa Indonesia rather than Sundanese in their social interaction activity. To discuss this case, it needs sociolinguistics approach to study language in regarding with language use in society, in social context, and larger communication, which is different in pattern of different language use (Gruyter, 2004; Meyerhoff, 2006; Baker, 2010).

## **METHOD**

The applied research method is qualitative method to understand phenomenon of Sundanese shift in the area of Sukabumi municipality. The research is descriptive that has been conducted by seeing the fact of Sundanese shift and how Sundanese society concern to the language shift based on data which is obtained from respondents (Djajasudarma, 2010).

To collect the data is done by in depth interview and giving questioner (Sutopo, 2002). In depth interview was conducted by open-ended questioner. It aimed to get depth information about Sundanese shift and how Sundanese concern to the language and it was done by unstructured way. The aim was to obtain informant point of view to Sundanese shift and Sundanese speaker's concern to language shift. Furthermore, to have a complete data, questioner list was given to respondents. Each question was given alternative answer but below each question was provided an enough space to give an opportunity for informant to write a reason why he/she replied such answer, or things that were possibly importance and related to language shift and Sundanese speaker's concern to language shift.

## **ANALYSIS**

Language shift is sociolinguistics phenomenon that is caused by language contact (Abtahian, 2009). Language shift in the area of Sukabumi municipality is caused by language contact with Bahasa Indonesia, which is also used in social interaction activity of Sundanese society. Bahasa Indonesia has the practical use compares to Sundanese itself. There is language etiquette in Sundanese that must be obeyed by Sundanese speaker and there is speech level of rude, medium, and polite. Sundanese speaker should concern with whom and to whom he/she is talking to because it relates to language, which will be used. Must it speak with language option of polite Sundanese, medium Sundanese, or rude Sundanese? It also relates to choice of diction that has to be uttered, which will be very different. It depends on with whom and to whom that speaker is talking to. The choice of diction will also be different, will it be choice of diction of rude, medium, or polite. It causes Sundanese speakers do not want to speak using Sundanese. They prefer to speak Bahasa Indonesia, which do not know speech level and a different of choice of diction when having their social interaction.

With the practical use of Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Indonesia is becoming the main option in daily Sundanese society communication activity in the area of Sukabumi municipality. It causes the prestige of Bahasa Indonesia is better than Sundanese. Moreover in the beginning, the prestige of Sundanese is higher than Bahasa Indonesia. As the time goes by and the force of strength bahasa Indonesia's influence, Sundanese is thought to be a language that does not have any prestige, the language which is spoken by old man/woman, and even to be thought as an old-fashioned language. Teenagers prefer to speak Bahasa Indonesia than Sundanese. They feel to be cooler and think that they are modern by speaking Bahasa Indonesia. In the end, Sundanese that in the beginning has a high prestige, now Sundanese in the area of Sukabumi municipality does not have a prestige any more between Sundanese speakers itself and it seems that cannot defend to the influence of Bahasa Indonesia.

Besides practical use of Bahasa Indonesia and the prestige of Sundanese nowadays, modernization regarding with global information also becomes the cause of Sundanese shift by Bahasa Indonesia. The development of modern technology and the easier of information access in social media, internet, or other information media causes Sundanese speaker unrealized to be pushed to use Bahasa Indonesia. All information media in Sukabumi municipality use Bahasa Indonesia so that Sundanese society is accustomed to use Bahasa Indonesia. There is no Sundanese use in information media in Sukabumi municipality insisting that Sundanese has been shifted by Bahasa Indonesia. Such

modernization brings an influence to Sundanese use by Sundanese speaker. In the end, there is a stigma, which is stated that Sundanese is an old-fashioned language by Sundanese speaker itself.

Other thing, which is thought to cause Sundanese shift by Bahasa Indonesia, is education at school that compels student to speak Bahasa Indonesia. Children who study starting from Early Child Education (PAUD) or Kintergarten use Bahasa Indonesia as their language at School. Bahasa Indonesia is used in teaching and studying activity moreover Sundanese is introduced since the beginning to children. It is also when children enter primary school, Bahasa Indonesia is used in teaching and studying activity. It is not only in class but also outside the class, children are going to speak Indonesia in their social interaction. It continues to Junior High School and High School/Vocational School. They will be and must be speak Indonesia at school. It can say that education at school bacomes the cause of Sundanese shift, owing to school always introduce Bahasa Indonesia to student since student at Early Child Education (PAUD) or Kintergarten. This thing is finally causes children to leave Sundanese and at the same time is shifting Sundanese by Bahasa Indonesia.

Sundanese speakers's concern to language shift in general they realize and regret that have Sundanese shift. They expect there will be an effort to bring back the prestige of Sundanese for Sundanese society in Sukabumi municipality. Therefore, the effort that must be done to maintain Sundanese are as follow; (1) Reactivating the use of Sundanese at home or family since the early time for children, (2) Reusing Sundanese as a language at school besides bahasa Indonesia which is started from Early Child Education (PAUD) or Kintergarten, Primary School, Junior High School, High School/Vocational School, (3) Sundanese is a must to be taught to children starting from Primary School, Junior High School, and High School/Vocational School, (4) Releasing local regulation about Sundanese use in the area of Sukabumi municipality, (5) Redeveloping culture and local art that use Sundanese as a culture feature and identity of Sukabumi Sundanese society.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study of language is basically as culture event, language and mind cannot be separated. Human is impossible thinking without language. The way of human thinking is affected by the use of language structure. Human use mind to categorize world and write it in a language, if it is formed, human is tighten by his/her creation (Djajasudarma, 2012; Dardjowidjojo, 2008). It is also Sundanese which is entity feature of Sundanese culture in the area of Sukabumi municipality. Sundanese has to be maintained and preserved by Sundanese society by reusing it in society social life. If it is not, Sundanese is not only shifted but also sooner or later Sundanese will have endangered language because there is no attention and awareness to maintain it.

The shifting of Sundanese use by Bahasa Indonesia in the area of Sukabumi municipality is caused by some things among other; (1) the practical use of Bahasa Indonesia in use which has no speech level like in Sundanese, (2) Sundanese cannot defend any more to the influence use of Bahasa Indonesia in social interaction activity of Sundanese society in the area of Sukabumi municipality that causes Sundanese has no prestige any more between Sundanese speaker itself, (3) modernization relates to development of technology recently also brings the big influence to the use of Sundanese by Sundanese speaker, in the end it forces Sundanese speaker to use Bahasa Indonesia, and (4) school in the area of Sukabumi municipality that compels and introduces Bahasa Indonesia to student since the early age, primary school, junior high school, high school has forced children to leave Sundanese and change with Bahasa Indonesia.

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