

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Indonesia is a country that has numerous cultures. There are more than hundreds of ethnic groups in this country (Rukhsan, 2007). For all types of ethnic that exist in it, each culture has its own characteristics. One example of the ethnic groups in Indonesia is a ethnicity which resides at the foothill of Bromo Mountain, named as Tengger community. It is a community which still retains and grants traditions tightly. They hold the value of honesty and sincerity in socializing with the same race and the outsiders. The atmosphere of peace, safety, and full of tolerance is also reflected and preserved in each of the individual of Tengger people (Sutarto, 2006).

Further, Tengger community is also a community who is open to outsiders. They receive the modernization, technology and also the people that come from the outside of their region. Santoso et.al (2012) argued that there is no border that limits the interaction between Tengger community and the outsiders. There is no formal circumstance for the outsiders when they want to visit Tengger region. Everyone can come to Tengger freely as long as they respect the beliefs and values there.

However, even though Tengger people are so open to the outsiders and modernization, they still maintain their beliefs and values tightly (Santoso et.al, 2012). One of the evidences is reflected in the way they speak to the outsiders and to each other member of the community. It appears that almost all of Tengger

community members can speak Indonesian and even several of them can speak English. Nevertheless, Tengger people will use only Tengger dialect when they speak to the members of their own community in any condition and location. They use Indonesian and English only when speaking to visitors. So, the phenomenon represents that the local dialect is one of the most important aspects of culture in Tengger community. The socialization of the importance of local dialect can only be done through language socialization by families to their children in their very early age. This fact encourages the writer to conduct a study of language socialization in Tengger community. In this occasion, the writer would like to observe Tengger community to find out what the value is held by families about their local dialect and how that value is implemented in the way they socialize the language to their children.

Language socialization describes the condition of a new member in a community through his or her competence in linguistics related to cultural context in their community and “it is focused on how children are socialized through the use of language as well as how children are socialized to use language” (Ochs and Schieffelin, 1986). Practically, language socialization is not only bounded in the child's development in a community, but also investigates socialization of language throughout children's social contexts and social experiences. Jones and Morris (2005) also stated that, the focus of language socialization is centered in the family area where the family inside the family plays a role as the facilitators of language socialization to their children from their earliest age.

Family's value is a value held by the family about the local language that they use (Jones and Morris, 2005). It is obviously affected by the value and belief held by the community (Hamida, 2011). One family will socialize local language to their children if they value that the local language that they use is an important thing and should be preserved. Therefore, the family's value makes family determine whether to socialize local language or not to their children. It is the language policy decided by the families that will then influenced the maintenance of the local language.

Language maintenance describes about how a local community preserves their language from the treatment which comes out from the inside or outside of the community which can endanger the local language. As cited in Zhang (1999), Mesthrie stated that language maintenance is "the continuing use of a language in the face of competition from a regionally and socially powerful or numerically stronger language". The role of the family's value in the maintenance of local language is very significant. It will determine whether the local language will be maintained or loss (Spolsky 2004, p 4). It is because the role of a family is the first and the center of children's interaction in a community (Jones and Morris, 2005, p 2).

There have been several researches conducted about language socialization alone or in relation to family's value on language and language maintenance. Among many are Smith-Hefner's (1988), Jones and Morris's (2005), Hamida's (2011). Firstly, Smith-Hefner (1988) observed two communities; urban area (Ciliwung) and rural area (Tengger). In her study entitled

The Linguistic Socialization of Javanese Children in Two Communities, she reported that in socializing language there are little differences in the form of talk addressed to children that has not been able to speak yet at Tengger and Ciliwung sites, with the exception perhaps that Tengger caregivers seem to talk even less with their infants than do Ciliwung caregivers. This fact may in part be a reflection of the more rural nature of the Tengger community. Next, Jones and Morris (2005) stated that the language socialization in Welsh is established from the children's earliest year of their age. In their report entitled Welsh Language Socialization within the Family, they stated that families that were observed in their study indicated that Welsh-speaking mothers do the language socialization more significant than fathers do. It is because the mothers are child's primary caregivers, and spending more time than the fathers do. The use of Welsh to children is considered to be one of the ways to preserve the Welsh language. The last related study is a study that was conducted by Hamida (2011). In her report entitled Family Values in the Maintenance of Local/Home Language, Hamida conveyed that the policy of families language socialization practices are endorsed by the value they hold as considering Javanese language as part of Javanese culture. It appears that maintaining Javanese is an action of preserving Javanese cultural identity and therefore Javanese should be transmitted from generation to generation. Values held by families are determined by many factors including linguistic and professional experiences. Families' attitude toward the preservation of local language must be supported by government policy as it is from the families and family children learn their first words.

Nevertheless, among the researches about language socialization which have been conducted formerly, there has been less information about how the language socialization of local dialect in Tengger community can lead to the maintenance of the local language. Smith-Hefner (1988) showed only the language socialization through children and the observation was also conducted in the long range of time in 1988. There might have been several changes in Tengger community that have not been observed yet now. It provides an empty space for the writer to conduct a study in Tengger community in the field of language socialization. Next, the place of observation that had been conducted by Jones and Morris (2005), and Hamida (2011) is not the same place that will be observed by the writer. So that, although both researches were conducted in the current years, but the result certainly will not be the same. For those reasons, in this occasion the writer would like to observe the linguistics aspect of Tengger community, particularly in the term of language socialization that leads to the maintenance of Tengger dialect.

The aim of this study is to find out what are the values held by the families in Tengger community which encourage them to socialize the local dialect to their children. By interviewing families and observing their routines the writer convinced that he can find the answer to the question why the dialect in Tengger is still well maintained.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The statements of the problems are;

1. How do the families socialize Tengger dialect to their children?
2. What are the values held by families in Tengger community about Tengger dialect?
3. How can the language socialization maintain the Tengger dialect?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

In this research the writer would like to find the phenomenon why the local dialect in Tengger dialect is still well maintained. Hence, from the statements of the problems mentioned earlier, the objective of the study can be summarized as follows.

1. To explain how the family socialize Tengger dialect to their children.
2. To describe the values which are held by family in the Tengger community about Tengger dialect.
3. To elaborate how the language socialization of local dialect in Tengger community can lead to the maintenance of Tengger dialect.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This research is a linguistics anthropology research. Therefore, the writer expects this research will give a contribution to the study of linguistic anthropology especially on research about language socialization.

Practically, the result of this research is expected to be able to help us and cultural observer to preserve and maintain the local dialects in Indonesia. By “learning” to Tengger community we can achieve more information about how to apply their method in socializing and maintaining the language.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

1. Language maintenance : Language maintenance describes about the attempts of a community in maintaining their local language from endangerement (Mesthrie, 1999).
2. Language socialization : Language socialization describes how children are socialized through the use of language as well as how children are socialized to use language (Ochs and Schieffelin, 1986).
3. Family values : Family’s value is a value held by the family in a society about their local language (Jones and Morris, 2005).
4. Local Dialect : non-standard language which has the differences in grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary (Holmes, 2008).