

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Problem

An article in Jawa Pos, March 1, 1992 entitled 'Blambangan Bertekad Mengusungkan Wong Using' (read : Using) has inspired me to write this thesis. The article contains the opinion of Hasan Ali about the existency of Using among its speakers at this time.

Using is one of the Javanese dialects used by Using people living in Banyuwangi, one of the regions in East Java. It is also called the Banyuwangi dialect. It is a spoken language but not a written language (Soetoko dkk, 1981:8).

Hasan Ali is not a linguist, but he is the head of Banyuwangi art council who always notices the condition of the Banyuwangi culture and society. According to him, in the last five years, the number of the Using native speakers becomes fewer because they speak much more Javanese in their language community, particularly the younger or educated Using native speakers. It seems they have an opinion that Javanese is more prestigious than Using. It is a pity that the young Using people who are hoped to be able to live up their culture, in practice, prefer speaking Javanese to Using.

This happens because there is a culture contact between Osing and Javanese. And Javanese as a part of the Javanese culture, it seems, has given great influence to Osing society. He worries about this condition because if the Osing people don't like to speak Osing anymore, bit by bit, it will disappear and finally die.

After reading that article, I begin to be aware that actually I have seen the phenomenon as Hasan Ali says in the article. Again I observe the Osing people living near my home. I find that the older Osing people still speak much more Osing, but, the younger Osing people use a greater variety of languages. They usually speak Osing only when they are talking with their parents. But they will use much more Javanese when they are talking to their friends and neighbours. Some of them, particularly those who are educated, often behave as if they couldn't speak Osing. Nevertheless, the way they speak Javanese or Indonesian can't hide the fact that they are actually Osing native speakers.

Another phenomenon which is also interesting is that the Osing people who have married Javanese speak much more Javanese to their spouses and children. The result is the children coming from this kind of family speak much more Javanese.

If the older Osing people still use much more Osing and the younger Osing people begin to speak much more Javanese, we can conclude that a language shift is in progress. In this thesis, I want to describe that phenomenon in detail.

Many studies on language shift have been done, some of them are conducted by :

1. Fishman (1965),

He studied language maintenance and shift in certain urban immigrant environment: the case of Yiddish in the United States.

2. Gal (1979),

She carried out a research language shift from Hungarian to German in Obewart, Austria.

3. Dorian (1981)

He studied language shift from Gaelic to English in East Sutherland, a region in the northern highlands of Scotland.

4. Lieberson and Mc Cabe (1978)

They research into language shift in Nairobi.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

As I have explained in the background of the problem, the writing of this thesis starts from the phenomenon of language shift from Osing to Javanese taking place in the Osing society now. For that reason, the problem that will be solved in this thesis is :

- How do the Osing people shift from Osing to Javanese ?

It will describe how the Osing people have chosen Javanese in the domains where Osing used to be spoken.

1.3. Significance of the Research

Significance of the research are :

- to add the sociolinguistic data, especially the language shift
- to explain the phenomenon of the language shift scientifically
- to give the description about the condition of Osing as a language which is used by the Osing people living in Desa Bubuk, Rogojampi, Banyuwangi today.

1.4. Theoretical Approach

To analyze this research, the sociolinguistic approach will be used referring to three relevant theories.

The first is the theory of Appel and Maysken about bilingualism. Appel and Maysken say that societal bilingualism occurs when in a given society two or more languages are spoken and individual bilingualism occurs when a person speaks in two or more languages (Appel and Maysken, 1987: 30). This theory is used to discuss the Osing society who are bilingual because in general they can speak more than one language, that is, Osing, Javanese and Indonesian. Attention needs to be paid to the ability to speak more than one language because it is the main factor causing the language shift happens.

As we have known the ability to speak more than one language gives the chance to people to make a language choice. For that reason, the second theory used is the theory of Fishman about language choice.

Fishman says that there were certain institutional context, called domains, in which one language variety is more likely to be appropriate than another. Domains are taken to be constellation of factors such as location, topic, and participants (Fishman 1964 in Fasold 1984 :183). This theory is used to analyze how the Osing people choose the spoken languages. It will be seen per domain.

And finally, if they are known to use Javanese in the domains where Osing used to be used, it can be concluded that the language shift from Osing to Javanese is in progress. Fishman's theory is used to analyze this language shift. According to him, language shift means that huge populations adopted a new language into their repertoires, whether or not at the same time they also gave up a language or variety that they had previously used (Fishman, 1972 : 107).

1.5. Limitation of the Problem

In this thesis, the problem that will be discussed will be limited at the language function. It means that I will research into the language shift from Osing to Javanese functionally.

1.6. Methodology

1.6.1. Working definition

Language is a human and non instinctive method of communicating ideas, feelings and desires by means of a system of sounds and sound symbols (Hornby, 1974 : 473).

Language shift discussed in this thesis means that the Osing society adopted Javanese into their repertoires, whether or not at the same time they also gave up a language or variety that they had previously used, that is, Osing.

Osing is one of the dialects of Javanese used by Osing people living in Banyuwangi, one of the regions in East Java. It is also called the Banyuwangi dialect. It is spoken language not a written language (Soetoko dkk, 1981: 6).

In this thesis, Javanese refers to standard Javanese, that is, Javanese which is usually used by Javanese living in the central Java, especially in the cities of Solo, Yogyakarta and the other cities surrounding them, such as Madiun (it is a city in east Java) and so on.

1.6.2. Type of the Research

As it is explained in the statement of the problem, I want to describe how the Osing people have collectively chosen Javanese in the domains where Osing used to be used. In other words, the aim of the research is to give the description more clearly about the language shift from Osing to Javanese taking place in the Osing society now.

Considering this, the type of the research used is description. According to Seltiz, the descriptive study has the purpose of describing the characteristics of communities (Seltiz, 1976 : 101).

1.6.3. Location and Population of the Reserach

The location of this research is desa Bubuk, kecamatan Rogojampi, Banyuwangi. I choose that location because in that place, I find the phenomenon of language shift as I have explained in the background of the problem.

The population of this research is all the Osing people living in desa Bubuk, kecamatan Rogojampi, Banyuwangi.

The number of the people living in that desa is 4.143.

1.6.4. Sampling

The number of the people living in desa Bubuk is 4.143. Although the majority of them is Osing people, but it is difficult to know the exact number because there is no data about the ethnic groups. For that reason, I choose the informants incidentally and then, they are hoped to be able to show the other osing people who can become informants. Such is the method of getting the sample which is called Snowballing sampling.

The people to be chosen as the informants must be Osing people. It means that the people can become informants if their parents are Osing people. Later on, because the way used to show the language shift is the age distribution, the informants will be divided into two groups. The first is the group of the older speakers between 35 - 50 years. The second is the group of the younger speakers between 17 - 25 years old. Children are not included as the member of the younger speakers group because usually they can speak only the language used in their homes, that is Osing. So, if they become informants, the conclusion that is obtained will say that most of them speak Osing much more. Of course. It is the wrong conclusion. For that reason, children may not become informants.

As it is explained previously that there are so many Osing people living in desa Bubuk, it is impossible to investigate all of them. Because of limited time, cost and energy and considering that most of the Osing people, living in desa Bubuk, are born and live in that desa since many years ago. It means that they have the homogeneous characteristics, so it is hoped that 200 people have represented all the Osing people living in that village. The 200 people consist of 100 younger speakers and 100 older speakers.

Desa Bubuk consist of three places which are usually called 'dusuns'. They are dusun Babahan, dusun Warung, and dusun Bubuk Krajan.

In order to get 200 samples which can really represent all the Using people living in that desa, 66 people (33 people for the group of younger speakers and 33 people for the group is older speakers) will be taken from dusun Banje, 66 people (33 people for the group of younger speakers and 33 people for the group of older speakers) will taken from dusun Warengan and other 68 people (34 people for the group of younger speakers and 34 people for the group of older speakers) will be taken from dusun Bubuk Krajan.

1.6.5. Tehnique of data Collection

The instruments used to collect the data are questionnaires and interviews. The questionnaire consists of three groups of questions. The first group consist of questions asking about the identity of the informants. The second group consists of questions asking about the ability of the informants in speaking Using, Javanese and Indonesian. And the third group consists of Questions asking about the language which are often used by the informants in the domains of family, neighbourhood, employment, and government .

For certain reasons, some older speakers often refuse to fill the questionnaires. They would rather be interviewed than filling the questionnaires. For that reason, I interview them using the questions in the questionnaire. To make sure about the answers given by the informants, I often do observations.

1.6.6. Technique of Data Analysis

Firstly, I check all the answers in the questionnaires. Questionnaires with incomplete answers are not used. They are substituted by other questionnaires.

Then, the questionnaires of older speakers are separated from the questionnaires of younger speakers. To make the checking of the data easier, I number the questionnaires of the older speakers 1 - 100 and the questionnaires of the younger speakers 101 - 200.

Next, one by one the questionnaires of the older speakers are checked. Their answers about the languages that they often use in every domain are noted in the tables. And finally, the number of the informants who use Osing, Javanese, Indonesian and other languages will be known. The same way is done to check the questionnaires of younger speakers.

Finally, the way used to show the language shift is the age distribution. If older speakers report more use of one language and younger speakers more use of another one, this can be an indication of shift. For that reason, to show the language shift happening, the tables of the older speakers and the younger speakers made per domain are compared. It is analyzed by using the qualitative method. For the example, if in the family domain table, most of the older speakers use Osing and most of the younger speakers use Javanese, it means that the language shift is happening in that domain.

As it is explained in limitation of the problem, the problem that will be discussed in this thesis will be limited at the language function. And it will be related to the domain, so for the above mentioned case, it can be concluded that the function of Osing as family language has been replaced by Javanese.

