INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EDUCATION AND HUMANITIES
e-ISSN: 2829-8675 | p-ISSN: 2830-4578
Volume.3, Issue.1 May (2024) : 15-25
DOI: https://doi.org/10.56314/ijoleh.v3i1

Language Vitality Indicator Towards The Use Of Ternate Language On Ternate Language Enclave In Sahu District, West Halmahera Regency

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Received *: 03 May 2024*
Accepted *: 17 May 2024*
Published *: 18 May 2024*

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Abstract

Language vitality is a tool used to assess how well speakers of a language in expressing their language. One of the languages of North Maluku is Ternate, which is spoken not only on Ternate Island but also in the West Halmahera area. The Sahu district's coastal areas are home to the majority of Ternate language speakers. The purpose of this study is to measure factors that affect the use of Ternate language and language vitality of Ternate language enclave in Sahu district, West Halmahera Regency. The method used is descriptive qualitative with data collection techniques in the form of observation and structured interviews with instruments in the form of questionnaires. A summary of the state of Ternate language in the Sahu district is then obtained by applying the language vitality theory to the data analysis. The results indicate that adults (≥30 years) in Sahu district's villages of Lako, Jarakore, Ropu, and Susupu are still actively using ternate. These 4 villages are located in the coastal area. As a conclusion, given that BT is spoken by less than 100,000 people, it can be said that it is primarily concentrated in coastal areas that are under threat in Sahu district. But since people under 40 continue to speak it, in which on the other hand, reasonably stable.

Keywords: *Enclave, Sahu District, Ternate Language, Vitality*

INTRODUCTION

In the eastern part of Indonesia, the province of North Maluku is home to around thirty-two regional languages spoken by various ethnic groups. Speakers of regional languages are dispersed throughout North Maluku, both naturally

and as a result of migration and political upheaval. This also applies to speakers of the Ternate regional language. In addition to being used on the island of Ternate, Ternate (BT) is also used in a number of locations in North Maluku. West Halmahera has the highest concentration of BT users, excluding Ternate itself. From a political standpoint, it is evident that the Ternate sultanate's power permeates many parts of West Halmahera, to the extent where certain communities use BT as their first language, or mother tongue (Duwila et al., 2022).

According to Hasyim et al. (2022), Ternate became a major hub for spices and the head of the alliance between the four Moloku Kie Raha kingdoms (Ternate, Tidore, Bacan, and Jailolo) in the fifteenth century. In certain of the villages in Sahu sub-district, West Halmahera, that still use BT, the role of the Ternate sultanate is still evident. Researchers then turn their focus to the presence of speakers who organize community groups outside of the regional language's birthplace to investigate the degree of indications of language life with the use of BT in that area. Based on numerous studies on the vitality of regional languages in ethnic speaking areas and language enclaves, it is widely believed that as multi-ethnic communities become more numerous within a given region (Chowdhury & Hossain, 2022) and as Indonesian (BI) becomes more widely used in both formal and informal contexts, regional languages are beginning to lose some of their intensity of use in various speech domains. Furthermore, Ternate Malay (BMT) is currently the lingua franca in North Maluku.

The strength of Ternate language, which was the lingua franca several centuries ago, is gradually decreasing. It is indisputable that the passing of time has subtly undermined some of the national cultural structure and values of Indonesia, which contributes to this state of affairs (Sari et al., 2022). However, the Ternate people's extremely high degree of linguistic flexibility opens doors to a new culture, which in turn shapes perceptions of language preference.

The usage of BT by the speakers in four BT Enclaves in Sahu District and the attitudes of speakers toward BT in four BT Enclaves, Sahu District, West Halmahera, are the two components of language vitality that are the topic of inquiry in this study. The purpose of this study is to provide a detailed description of the markers of language vitality related to the attitudes and usage of BT by BT speakers in the four enclaves of Sahu district.

Significant number of studies on the viability of BT on Ternate Island, suggest that the health of regional languages is beginning to deteriorate. In order to provide the government with recommendations for the preservation of language, one of the cultural elements that distinguish the people of West Halmahera, research on the vitality of BT in Sahu District enclave is necessary as an early detection of BT vitality.

Numerous research on regional languages especially Ternate have been conducted and published. One such study is "Vitalitas BT di Pulau Ternate," by Maricar et al. (2017). This article examines BT's continued relevance in a

multilingual and plural society. The findings indicate that because Ternate Malay has increasingly replaced BT, the mother tongue, the vitality of BT on the island of Ternate is concerning. Ternate Malay is being used more often in parent-child talks since it is the mother tongue's original foundation in the family setting. Second, a book edited by Lauder Multamia and written by LIPI titled "Vitalitas Beberapa Bahasa Di Indonesia Bagian Timur" (2019). Writings regarding the vitality of several languages in the Eastern Region, including those implemented in traditional ceremonies, are collected in this book. The majority of the languages under study have alarming symptoms, according to research findings.

Third, 36 languages have safe status based on the findings of language vitality validation, based on the book "Gambaran Kondisi Vitalitas Bahasa di Daerah on 2018-2019 Data," which is the product of research done in 2018–2019 by researchers from the Ministry of Education and Culture (2020) distributed throughout 18 provinces; stable status but in danger of extinction are 19 languages distributed throughout 9 provinces; status undergoing decline are 3 languages distributed throughout 2 provinces; status endangered are 24 languages distributed throughout 10 provinces; status critical for 5 languages distributed throughout 3 provinces; and 11 languages extinct across 4 provinces.

Generally speaking, the eastern region of Indonesia dominates the distribution of languages that are in danger of becoming extinct. The most recent study by Sibua et al. (2023) examines the stability of the Ternate language's vitality on Hiri Island by utilizing a number of variables, such as bilingualism, language contact, attitudes, and domains of usage and regulation. Since Hiri Island serves as a base for Ternate speakers, this cannot be disputed. As far as the research findings have not been carried out by researchers, no writings or articles about BT Vitality among BT Speakers in the four enclaves of Sahu district have been found among these studies. This encourages scientists to conduct BT research in these fields.

According to Giles in Nurmaida (2018), a speech group's ability to function as a cohesive unit will be influenced by the vitality of its ethnolinguistic group's language. A speech community's likelihood of surviving increases with its level of vitality; on the other hand, if it is less or nonexistent, the language is expected to perish. Stated differently, language vitality serves as a standard for preserving a language by gauging how often people use it for everyday communication across a range of social circumstances and objectives.

Nine factors were developed by Unesco in 2003 (Wibowo, 2016) in the document of Language Vitality and Endarrangement. Some of these factors are closely related to conditions in the field, such as intergenerational language transmission, large speaker populations, speaker-to-population ratios, language use trends, and attitudes of the speaking community toward their language. This concept is reinforced by Grimes' notion of language threat scale (see Maricar,

2017), which explains the degree of linguistic vitality as shown in the table below.

No	Stage	Indicator
1	Critically endangered	There are very few speakers who are ≥ 70 years old
2	Severely endangered	All speakers are ≥ 40 years old
3	Endangered	All speakers are ≥ 20 years old
4	Eroding	Some of the speakers consisted of children and the elderly. Some other children do not use this language.
5	Stabled but threatened	All children and parents use this language but the number of speakers is small
6	Safe	The language is still spoken by members of the ethnic group, both parents and children, and is not in danger of extinction.

Understanding language use and attitudes—which will subsequently serve as indicators in language vitality research—is equally important as comprehending the notion of language vitality. The language that ethnic groups choose to be used in conversation and communication with other social beings is referred to as their "use." Ethnic communities use or choose to utilize their regional language in a number of sectors. As an illustration, consider the domains of the home, the public, the classroom, etc. In addition to language use, this study also examines speakers' attitudes toward language.

According to Malabar (2014), language attitudes are typically seen as language-related behavior. In sociolinguistic studies, language attitudes relate to actions or behavior that are based on opinions in response to a phenomenon involving language speakers' usage of a certain language. The way that language is used in accordance with various social qualities might cause it to differ from one group to the next. Malabar goes on to cite Fasold's claim that attitudes toward speakers of a specific language are frequently included in the definition of language attitudes in sociolinguistic studies.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. An anthropological perspective is used to examine the application of BT in cultural contexts, including religious ceremonies and customs, as well as in common social settings. This strategy is selected since, typically speaking, indigenous and local languages are heard in the cultural sphere because, in such setting, locals will be able to perceive the presence of a tribal mood. The communities along the coast in the Sahu district are the main focus of the research location. This pertains to the research's goal, which is to characterize the vitality of BT in four enclaves in West Halmahera's Sahu district by elucidating the linguistic domains used by BT speakers and their perspectives on BT. Observation technique is used

to gather data on language use, with researchers traveling through the Sahu district to get a general sense of language use in the Sahu population.

After that, methods for conducting interviews are used to get data on BT usage areas. To gather information on language use in diverse sectors, interviews are also held with inhabitants in the villages of *Lako, Ropu, Jarakore*, and *Susupu* in addition to a number of other places. In order to get a full picture of BT use and the prospective health or vitality of BT at this moment, researchers conducted qualitative data analysis in this study. Specifically, field data linked to the language use domain and the rationale behind language choice are compared.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. General Description and Use of Language in Sahu District

With 19 villages and a population of ± 12,241 (BBPS Halbar 2019), Sahu District is part of the West Halmahera Regency region. The district capital of Sahu District is Susupu, home of the regional government center(BPPS, 2019). Out of the 19 settlements, approximately 10 are inhabited by the native Sahu tribe, who communicate in Sahu on a regular basis. The two varieties of the Sahu language, *pa'disua* and *tala'i*, are among the Papuan language group. Meanwhile, among three communities where language mixing has taken place, some speak Sahu and some speak BT.

Meanwhile, the communities of Susupu, Lako, Ropu, Jacarore, and Peot continue to actively use BT. These coastal village regions are where they are located. It follows that BT use is most likely concentrated in a few of these villages. These communities are found near the coast. This assumption can be reinforced by examining the actions of people who use the two dialects of the Sahu language and living in remote Dere villages, Todahe village, and Worat-worat, which are all far from the coast.

BPPS data for 2019 concerns the population and area of villages in Sahu District which are indicated to use BT is as follows:

Village	Total Population	Use of Language
Susupu	1.187 People	Ternate
Lako	346 People	Ternate
Ropu	1.061 People	Ternate
Jarakore	564 People	Ternate
Peot	854 People	Ternate and Sahu
Tacim	666 People	Ternate and Sahu
Total	4.000 People	

As noticed in the above table, BT is primarily found in coastal areas, with some inhabitants using BT in the other two areas, which are Peot and Tacim villages. While Sahu is the language spoken by some others. Residents that live together will speak Ternate Malay as their common language of instruction and

daily conversation along with BT. As of right now, BMT is the lingua franca spoken in practically the whole West Halmahera region, including the Sahu sub-district.

2. Indicators of Language Vitality and the Use of Ternate Language in Sahu District, West Halmahera Regency

According to Unesco and Grimes (in Maricar, 2017), a number of measures of language vitality observed in BT settings can be explained as follows:

1) Intergenerational Transmission

It is evident that communication between parents and their 20-year-old children utilizing BT in the BT enclave region of Sahu district is similar to those of other parent-child interactions. Nonetheless, they frequently combine it with BMT when speaking with children between the ages of 15 and 20. The way parents communicate with their children who are older than 15 years old has changed slightly; they now typically utilize BMT. As a result, it can be claimed that BMT is now a child's first language that they learn from their parents.

Children between the ages of 6 and 12 also have a tendency to use BMT when interacting with their parents, siblings, and playmates. Meanwhile, teenagers between the ages of 13 and 24 incline to use code mixing in BT when speaking with their parents and with one another. Adults over 24 years old, on the other hand, code mixing is used in BMT while mostly BT is used in communication. But when speaking with their parents, code mixing is quite uncommon and the BT tendency is very strong.

2) Significant Number of Speakers

If the comparison is made between the number of people and the number of language speakers, then the number of these criteria might be considered relative as it is not explicitly stated. On the other hand, according to Krauss's idea, a language with ≥100,000 speakers is considered to have high vitality or to be in a safe position. In Sahu district, there are four villages overall, with 4,000 inhabitants, thus this criterion is not significant in the field. When the total number of individuals is split by their age, the number of children is inevitably less than the total number of adults, including parents.

3) Trends in the Field of Language Use

Fishman (in Maricar, 20017) explains that a field or domain is an institutional context or socioecological co-occurrence. According to Krauss, a high level of linguistic vitality is shown by language use across generations. Thus, the Ternate language enclave in Sahu district's children, teenagers, and adults' language use is shown in the table below:

Age	Family domain	Environment	School	Office	Cultural/ religious ritual
5-12 years	Sometimes understand	Sometimes understand	Speaks BMT		

old	and sometimes cannot understand	and sometimes cannot understand		-	-
13-20 years old	Understand and be able to talk actively with parents	Still actively uses BT when someone starts a conversation with BT	Using BMT and sometimes inserting BT	Using BMT and BT in communication	Dominantly speaks BT
≤ 21 years old	Still actively uses BT when communicate	It is still actively used among people of the same age and among older people	-	Using BT is more dominant than BMT	BT is used as the main language in a cultural context.

4) Comparison of Population Number with Number of Speakers

It is obvious that the population number is not equivalent to the number of BT speakers when comparing the previously given table of population numbers with the table of language use domains.

5) The Attitude of the Speaking Community towards Their Language

Language and non-language attitudes are the two categories into which Andersen, 1974 (in Chaer and Agustina) splits attitudes. Positive and negative attitudes on language can be distinguished. A person with a positive attitude is one who is excited about using the language of the group or community he talks in the location where he is, whether it be his own language. However, if these traits have vanished or become less strong in an individual or a group of individuals within the speaking community, it indicates that the individual or group has been affected negatively by a language.

Language attitude acceptance is closely related to language behavior. Language attitude, according to Kridalaksana (2001:197), is a person's mental attitude toward their own language or the languages of others. The speaker's conduct, motions, facial expressions, and even suprasgemental elements—stress, tone, and communication pauses—will reveal both positivr and negative attitudes.

Negative attitudes can be seen from code mixing in speech. Code mixing is closely related to language accommodation as stated by Gilles (in Ni Wayan Sartini, 4) that in two-way communication, the speaker tries to adapt to the speech partner both verbally and non-verbally by modifying the speech so that it is similar to the speech partner's speech.

It may be stated that BT speakers in the BT enclave region in Sahu district have a very high language attitude, or what is known as language accommodation, in accordance with the numerous reasons above and facts in the field. The normal society that readily embraces assimilation in all forms can

lead to a decline in the vitality or health of BT itself. This claim is supported by data from field observations, which show that local BT speakers in this area, who are mostly teens (ages 13 to 20), comfortably interact with migrant residents and frequently utilize BMT when speaking with both newcomers and locals. When they converse in BT with other locals, the same thing occurs. The following table's mixture of greeting words serves as an evidence of this.

Table of dominant greeting words in communication

Subject	BMT	BI	BMT
First Person Singular	kita	saya	fajaru/fangare
First Person Plural	torang	-	-
Second Person Singular	ngana	-	ngon
Second Person Plural	ngoni	-	ngon moi-moi
Third Person Singular	dia	dia	mina/una
Third Person Plural	dorang	-	ana,

Teenagers typically utilize BMT pronouns when extending greetings, as indicated in the table above. At the very least, code mixing in pronominal greetings can be a sign of the harm that teens pose to other languages, in this case BT, as well as their views toward language.

3. Factors influencing Language Choice

As a cultural product and a means of social interaction, language always changes in tandem with social cultural shifts in society. In addition to language attitudes and the surrounding environment, the following key factors directly impact language change:

1) Information Technology

The use of regional languages is not significantly impacted by information technology accessibility, which is the primary driver of language assimilation and the growth of international tourism.

It is well known that technology is being used everywhere in Indonesia, especially North Maluku. Sufficient internet connectivity leaves little room for online communication as though it were its users' primary activity. The element that is changing the most is the linguistic features. Gadget terms have emerged as a new communication trend among youngsters. In addition to speaking BMT, teenagers also use slang, which is modern language. This slightly affects BT's own threat level.

2) Education

Formal education serves primarily as a tool for learning, with business intelligence serving as the primary language. In the classroom, students often use BI to interact with their teachers. Students typically utilize BMT to communicate with one another during breaks. Teachers generally use code mixing in BMT and BT with other teachers in the school atmosphere during breaks, unlike students.

3) Tourism Development

The North Maluku region is renowned for having abundant and unique marine resources. Lapasi Beach is one location that is now seeing a lot of tourism activity. The West Halmahera region, which stretches and includes the settlements in the Sahu sub-district, is where Lapasi Beach is situated. A few of the aforementioned communities are found along Lapasi's seashore. Access to this beach has been made easier recently, and Lapasi Beach has grown in popularity as a tourist destination, drawing more visitors each year. The majority of the tourists that come are from within the country. People's language attitudes are also influenced by this; they essentially have high language tolerance. Not only do adults utilize BMT and BI when speaking with tourists, but teenagers and even young children do as well. When identifying infrastructure or tourist support amenities, including rest places, restrooms, and the like, the beach area itself does not utilize regional terminology; instead, BI is used on the information board.

The circumstances listed above clearly demonstrate the current state of BT's vitality and its status as an endangered species. The fact that four of these villages, which were primarily in coastal areas and solely spoke BT in the past, are now bilingual or even multilingual if conservation efforts are not made, makes this situation extremely ironic. These communities have a long history of utilizing BT, which is not limited to just language use. The use of BT is a result of internal conflict and the extensive migration of community members. As BT user regions, it is therefore extremely likely that conservation initiatives will be undertaken in these areas.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The presentation of field research findings leads to the conclusion that the BT vitality in the Sahu district's BT enclave region falls into the medium or threatened category rather than the high vitality category. Based on research, it is clear that only adults over 20 speak BT. The places where people use BT are those that are located along the coast, specifically Lako, Ropu, Jarakore, and Susupu. Ternate's threatened status can be attributed to its < 100,000 speakers, according to the theory and indicators of language vitality. Given that teenagers and people under 40 utilize it, it can be argued that the speaker's age is irrelevant. Unfortunately, BT will quickly disintegrate and eventually go extinct in this region due to a number of factors that have a significant impact on teenagers' language attitudes. So, it is strongly recommended for either the government or the user community itself to take any preventative action regarding this threat. For the purpose of advancing knowledge, especially in the field of linguistics, this study might also be included to the reading lists of libraries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The writer gratefully acknowledges Allah SWT's generosity and guidance in helping to complete the work "Language Vitality Indicator Towards the Use of

Ternate Language on Ternate Language Enclave in Sahu District, West Halmahera Regency." The writer also expresses gratitude to LPPM Khairun University and the Faculty of Cultural Sciences for approving and funding the study. The writer recognizes that this is only the initial of several comprehensive examinations on this topic. The author will therefore be gladly to hear any feedback and suggestions from readers after reviewing the study's conclusions.

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