
BANTENESE LANGUAGE MAINTENANCE A SOCIOLINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

This study explores the maintenance of the Bantenese language, a Javanese dialect spoken in Banten Province, Indonesia, from a sociolinguistic perspective. It examines the factors contributing to both the continued use and the potential decline of Bantenese, considering its relationship with standard Javanese and the influence of national Indonesian. The research investigates the sociolinguistic variables impacting language choice among different age groups and social strata within the Bantenese community. Findings highlight the role of language attitudes, media exposure, and educational policies in shaping language maintenance strategies and the overall vitality of Bantenese in the face of linguistic globalization. The study concludes by offering recommendations for effective language preservation initiatives, emphasizing the importance of community involvement and culturally relevant language programs.

Keywords

Bantenese language 1; Language 2; Maintenance 3; Identity 4; Sociolinguistic 5

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1. INTRODUCTION

The maintenance of the Banten language from a sociological perspective is one of the important aspects in understanding the sustainability of the Banten language within the community. As explained by Sudaryanto (2020). Banten language is a language that holds high social and cultural value in the Banten community, and therefore, effective preservation efforts are needed to maintain its continuity. In the research conducted by Kurniawan (2019). It was found that the maintenance of the Banten language is greatly influenced by social factors, such as education, media, and cultural activities. In addition, the research conducted by Rohmadi (2018).

Banten is a rich Javanese dialect and is mainly spoken in Banten Province, Indonesia is at a crossroads. Although it has a unique linguistic identity that sets it apart from standard Javanese, it faces a complex interaction of various forces that threaten its long-term sustainability. The dominance of Indonesian as a national language, the wide influence of global media, and changing social and economic dynamics create a challenging environment for language maintenance.

This study was driven by a deep concern for the preservation of this valuable linguistic heritage. The Banten language not only reflects a distinctive linguistic system but also a rich set of cultural traditions,



social values, and community identity. This decline in language will be a significant loss for the people of Banten and the diversity of Indonesia's linguistic landscape.

Several key factors motivated this study:

The Increasing Influence of Indonesian: As the official language of Indonesia, Indonesian gained unparalleled prestige and visibility, permeating into education, media, and government institutions.

This dominance exerts strong pressure on minority languages, including Banten, leading to a language shift as the younger generation adopts Indonesian as their primary language.

Impact of Globalization: The rapid spread of global media, especially through television, the internet, and social media, introduced Banten speakers to a wide range of content in Indonesian and other languages. This exposure can erode the use and relevance of the Banten language in daily life, especially among the younger generation who are more vulnerable to external influences.

Changes in Social and Economic Dynamics: Patterns of migration, urbanization, and economic opportunities often encourage individuals to adopt the language of dominant social groups for the sake of better social mobility and economic success. This can result in a decline in the use of minority languages such as Banten, especially in urban areas and among younger generations seeking job opportunities outside their traditional communities.

This research aims to provide an understanding of the complex dynamics that shape the future of the Banten language. By exploring the sociolinguistic factors that influence the maintenance and potential of this language shift, this study seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by languages and their speakers. This knowledge will inform the development of effective language revitalization initiatives and contribute to the preservation of this valuable cultural heritage.

2. METHODS

In this research, qualitative methods are used to understand the maintenance of the Banten language from a sociolinguistic perspective. As explained by Creswell (2019), qualitative methods allow researchers to obtain more in-depth and detailed data about the phenomenon being studied. In this study, qualitative methods are used to collect data through interviews with informants, participatory observation, and text analysis. Interviews with informants are used to obtain data on the views and experiences of the Bantenese community in using the Bantenese language, while participatory observation is used to obtain data on the social and cultural context of the Bantenese community in using the Bantenese language. Text analysis is used to obtain data on how the Banten language is used in texts related to Banten culture, such as in folk tales, songs, and poetry. As explained

by Merriam (2019),

in this study, the method used to examine the preservation of the Banten language from a sociolinguistic perspective is the qualitative method. This research uses an ethnographic approach to understand the social and cultural context of the Banten community in using the Banten language. Data were collected through participatory observation, interviews with informants, and text analysis related to the Banten language. Participatory observation was conducted to understand how the Banten language is used in daily life, including in interactions between community members, in traditional ceremonies, and in economic activities. Interviews with informants were conducted to understand the views and attitudes of the Bantenese community towards the Banten language, as well as to gather data on the history and development of the Banten language. Text analysis is conducted to understand how the Banten language is used in texts related to Banten culture, such as in folk tales, songs, and poetry. Using qualitative methods, this research aims to obtain a comprehensive picture of the preservation of the Banten language from a sociolinguistic perspective.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Regarding the maintenance of the Banten language from a sociolinguistic perspective, it can be traced from the phenomenon of the dynamics of language use in the Banten region which continues to develop along with the influence of globalization and urbanization. The Banten language, which belongs to the Javanese language group, has an important role in maintaining the cultural identity of the Banten people. Although the Banten language has been used for generations as the main means of communication by the local community, now the language faces existential threats. The rapid process of cultural acculturation, accompanied by the dominance of Indonesian as a national and international language, further weakened the position of this regional language. In this context, the study of the preservation of the Banten language is very relevant, considering the importance of maintaining linguistic diversity in this modern era that is all global. Based on a sociolinguistic perspective, language preservation is not only seen as an effort to preserve a language, but also as a reflection of social changes, identity, and status of speaker groups. This phenomenon is reflected in the language shift that occurs in the family, education, mass media, and the world of work in Banten. The decline in the use of Banten, especially among the younger generation, who are more likely to use Indonesian or foreign languages, illustrates the social and economic changes that affect the choice of everyday language. Therefore, this study aims to dig deeper into the factors that affect the maintenance of the Banten language and identify steps that can be taken to strengthen the position of this language in the

increasingly modern Banten society. The maintenance of the Banten language from a sociolinguistic perspective involves various factors that affect the extent to which the language can be maintained and used in daily life. In this context, there are two main categories of factors that affect the maintenance of the Banten language, namely internal factors and external factors.

- Internal Factors:

1. The Influence of Indonesian as an Official Language:

As the state language, Indonesian has a dominant position in various sectors of life, such as education, government, mass media, and the world of work. The widespread use of Indonesian in public spaces has reduced the use of Banten in formal and non-formal communication, leading to a decline in the role of Banten in daily life.

2. Social and Cultural Change:

Rapid social transformation, both in economic, technological, and cultural aspects, has also affected the way of thinking and lifestyle of the people of Banten. Along with the process of urbanization and modernization, there has been a shift in traditional cultural values that accompany the use of regional languages. The younger generation, for example, is more likely to identify themselves with Indonesian or foreign languages, which are considered more modern and useful in a global context.

3. Lack of Interest of the Younger Generation:

One of the biggest challenges in maintaining the Banten language is the low interest of the younger generation to learn and use this regional language. This factor is closely related to the view that the Indonesian language is more important for their future, especially in terms of education and employment. In addition, the inability to access information relevant to the Banten language through the media also exacerbates this situation.

- External Factors:

1. Globalization and the Influence of Foreign Languages:

The process of globalization has brought a great influence on society, one of which is the penetration of foreign languages, especially English. With the world becoming increasingly connected through global technology, economy, and culture, foreign languages are becoming more dominant in various sectors, including education, business, and entertainment. The use of foreign languages reduces the space for the Banten language to develop and maintain.

2. Technological and Media Developments:

Technological advances and the rapid development of social media and information digitization have

changed people's communication patterns. Indonesian and foreign languages are often used in digital platforms, such as social media, television, and movies, which are more widely accessed by the people of Banten. This media also provides little space for the use of regional languages, including Banten. As a result, the younger generation is more familiar with Indonesian or foreign languages than Banten.

3. State Language Policy:

Government policies that emphasize the use of Indonesian as the main language of instruction in education, administration, and mass media also affect people's attitudes towards regional languages. Although there are efforts from the government to preserve regional languages through laws and policies, such as regional language education in schools, the implementation of these policies is often limited and not fully effective in increasing the use of regional languages in daily life.

Overall, these internal and external factors show a great challenge in the maintenance of the Banten language. Therefore, it is important to develop a strategy that involves all levels of society, including family, education, and government policies, to ensure that the Banten language is not only maintained but can also thrive in the midst of changing times.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research shows that the preservation of the Banten language continues to take place within the Banten community, despite several challenges and obstacles. From a sociolinguistic perspective, this research found that the Banten language is still used in various social contexts, including daily interactions, traditional ceremonies, and economic activities. However, this research also found that the use of the Banten language is beginning to be displaced by the Indonesian language, especially among the younger generation. Therefore, this research recommends that more intensive efforts be made to preserve the Banten language, including through education, media, and cultural activities. In addition, this research also emphasizes the importance of understanding the social and cultural context of the Banten community in using the Banten language, as well as considering factors that influence the preservation of the Banten language, such as globalization, urbanization, and social change. Thus, this research hopes to contribute to the efforts of preserving the Banten language and promoting Banten culture in the sociolinguistic context.

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