Muna Language Shifting in Tombula Village

Nurhalima¹, La Ode Nggawu², La Miliha³
nurhalima04011997@gmail.com
¹,²,³Halu Oleo University, Indonesia

ABSTRACT
This research aims to find out the language shift phenomenon in Muna Language in Tombula Village and to identify the factors that influence the language shift to occur in Tombula Village especially 3rd Rt. The research design was qualitative research that focused on factual phenomena in the field which related to the problem of participants’ experience. This research focused on condition of language shift phenomenon in several domains based on theory state that there are several domains, such as: domain of family, education, and neighborhoods. The subject of the research was the people who lived in Tombula Village and they were pure Munanese with age around 7 until 50 years old. The data was collected by using observation that was done from December until March 2021, interview was done after confirming with the informants’ permission, and recordings of the interviews as well as conversation was done at the same time. Then, it was analyzed in four steps, they are: data collection; data reduction; data display; and drawing conclusion. It showed that language shift occurs at the group age of children (7-11 years old). Similarly, at the group age of teenagers or adolescents (12-25 years old), some of them used Muna Language and Indonesia Language but the most of them occurred language shifting. Lastly, the group age of adults (26-50 years old) do not experience a language shift. The factors that influence language shift to happen are family domain, social environment, education environment, and globalization. Thus, language shift occurs at the group age of children and some in the group age of teenagers or adolescents which mostly influenced by family domain and education environment.

Keywords:
language shift, monolingual, bilingual, Muna language.

1. Introduction

Regional languages are used by many people in Indonesia in their daily lives as a tool to communicate with others in a community. According to Holmes (2013:77), the term of local language is the language used in society daily interactions, the use of which is not only informal mastery. Muna Language is one of the languages that is used by the Muna Tribe, located in Muna Island, the capital of Raha, Southeast Sulawesi. The Tombula Village is one of the villages in the Tongkuno Induk sub district; the majority of the inhabitants are the original Muna tribe. Muna Language is not the main language used by the younger generation in daily communication. Some of them try to maintain their local language, but some of them cannot maintain it, so language shifting occurs in particular communities. Therefore, regional languages unwittingly began to experience a shift.

Furthermore, language shift shows that the society or individual leaves their language and uses another language. According to Sumarsono and Partana in
Mardikantoro (2012), language shift is a group of the society that leaves a language entirely to use others language. Language shift occurs in Muna Language, especially among young people in Tombula Village. In certain monolingual societies it can develop into bilingual or multilingual time by time. The impact of mastery of two or more languages in the community can cause competition between the languages because the community is faced with the language choice which to use in communication. The habit of younger generations no longer to use regional languages in daily communication can result in language shift or loss of language. Thus, in Tombula Village Tongkuno Sub District experienced a language shift in Muna Language.

Based on the data obtained by the researcher through interviews with the head of the village at Tongkuno district, 3rd RT taken in August 2020, it is stated that the majority of the population in Tombula Village are the original Muna Tribe. The total population heads of families in 3rd RT that is 78 with 543 peoples in Tombula Village. Other information obtained by the researcher from the results of interviews with one of the informants that is the head of the village said that among younger generations are not actively using Muna Language. The use of Muna Language is only actively used among old people.

A research result by Sailan (2014) showed that at the age of 0-19 years in general they do not care about the use of Muna Language, aged 20-49 years who are less active, and aged 50 above are still active as Muna. Based on the explanation above, the condition of using the Muna Language itself is greatly reduced because societies did not care about the Muna Language and were more dominant in using Indonesia Language when communicating with others. It can occur because of the influence of the social environment and lack of applying the use of Muna Language in everyday life, so can affect the existence of Muna Languages not maintenance.

This research is based on a phenomenon in society. There are several of the people in Tombula village especially among children, and teenagers, are not fluent in speaking use their own local language. Younger generations are dominant and choose to use Indonesia Language in communicating with other people in their daily life. Muna Language has rarely used by children, they dominant used Indonesia Language with the parents. Similarly, their parents always used Indonesia Language with their children. Some school environment used Indonesia Language. Children environment played dominantly used Indonesia Language.

Several of the people respond by using Indonesia Language when someone talks or interacts using the Muna Language. It happens because of the lack role of family or parents towards their children in communicating regional languages. So that, the younger generation prefers to use Indonesia Language when talking to anyone. Holmes in Abdelhadi (2017), that the limited use of the minority language in domains the home is indicator of shift the majority language. Regional languages most likely would experience a shift even to become extinct languages, If young generation does not maintain and preserve their local language as self-identity.

The reason of the researcher takes the title of research about language shift is because the researcher would investigate the factors of Muna Language shift occurs in the area of the Tombola community in daily life especially among children, teenagers, adult. As well as to look how the use of Muna Language happened at
Tombola village. Subject of this research is the people of Muna who live in Tombula Village especially 3rd neighborhood unit, Tongkuno Induk Sub district.

2. Methods

Qualitative design was used in the research as to focus on the factual phenomena in the field related to the problem of the subjects’ experience. The subjects were taken from Tombula Village at 3rd neighborhood unit in Tongkuno Induk sub district. They were divided into 3 groups based on age aspect, they are; children (7-11 years old); teenagers (12-25 years old); and adults (26-50 years old). The requirement to be informants was Munanese who lived in Tombula Village. Thus, the subject of the research was almost half of the villagers who lived in Tombula Village.

A primary data source was used in the research such as, the native speakers of Muna language who used it in daily communication and formal or informal situations. Then, the data was collected through observations, interviews, and recordings. First, the observation was done by watching the villagers’ interactions daily and visited their homes to observe their interaction between family members. Then, interviews were done after the observations, where the researcher gave questions provided to the subjects. The interviews were recorded by the researcher and were transcribed into written form. The subjects’ interaction in each field that had been decided, which family domain, school domain, and was also recorded by the researcher.

After that, the data was analyzed by using some steps, which consisted of data collection, data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusion (Miles and Huberman, 1994). The data was collected through interviews’ recordings of the subjects, documents, and photographs of research in the field. The data reduction was done to select the appropriate data for the research. It is so the data can be more focused, did not deviate, as well as easy to analyze, and made conclusions. Then, data display was done to show the result of the analysis which about the language shift phenomenon in Tombula Village 3rd neighborhood unit. Lastly, the researcher drew conclusion from the result of data reduction and data display.

3. Result

In this section, the language shift in Muna Language in Tombula Village can be seen in age groups and domain aspects. Based on age groups, the result of interview after analyzed can be seen below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language shift</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7 - 11 Years Old</strong></td>
<td>The use of the Muna Language by the community in the Tombula Village, especially among the age group of 7-11 years in today’s generation did not indicate the existence of a language identity. The use of Muna Language at this age is very low. They were not fluent in the Muna Language, so they preferred to use Indonesia Language to interact with each other. Wherever they were, they always used Indonesia Language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12 - 25 Years Old</strong></td>
<td>The Muna Language used in this age group in the Tombula Village rarely used their local language when interacting with other people. In the family realm, the use of Indonesia Language is a fluent interaction used when talking to children,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
aunts, parents and others. However, when dealing with older age levels, they still used Indonesia Language dominantly. The lack of parent roles caused Muna Language did not be the main language in this age group because they have been accustomed from childhood to adulthood to interact using Indonesia Language. So, the Muna Language would experience the loss of language speakers in their lives now and in the future.

26 - 50 Years Old
The Muna Language use still persists among the ages of 30 to 50 years and over. In this age, the use of the Muna Language was still very well preserved. Wherever they still were using Muna Language when interacting with the peer. They interacted more often using the Muna Language at the same age level as their peers. However, based on the facts in the field, when dealing with children, they were interacting more often using Indonesia Language.

It can be said that a language shift mostly happened in the age group of 7-11 years old whereas the subjects often communicate using Indonesia Language than Muna Language within their peers or not. While in the age group of 12-25 years old, the subjects use Muna Language and Indonesia Language when communicate with others. In this case, they accordingly used Muna Language when communicate with certain people and same with Indonesia Language. However, in the age group of 26-50 years old, the subjects often used Muna Language when communicate with their peers and sometime use Indonesia Language with some people. Thus, a language shift occurred in the age group of 7-11 years old or younger generations.

On the other hand, language shift also can be seen based on the domain aspects, such as; family; neighborhood; and school domain. The result of analysis can be seen below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language shift</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Based on the results of the use of language in the family domain, it showed that the Muna Language was seldom used in interacting between family members. They prefer to use Indonesia Language when communicating with their families. In addition, the Muna Language is still used among the older people. This proved that Muna's language skills were very weak and rarely used among the younger generation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>Based on the results of communication in the neighboring domain, it shows that the use of the Muna Language in the neighboring domain experienced a language shift. They dominantly used Indonesia Language in the neighboring realm. Moreover, some subjects showed that the Muna Language was still used in their age group. This proved that Muna's language skills were very weak among the younger generation. However, the existence of the Muna Language still survives among parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>The condition of the Muna Language used in this domain showed that the Muna community in their interaction was bilingual and monolingual as long as they interacted with other people. However, they prefer to use Indonesia Language when they communicate at school. This event causes a language shift or even the loss of Muna Language speakers in the future.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above table, it can be said that in family domain, the family rarely used Muna Language when communicate with their own family members. It is because the children in the family do not understand some parts of the conversation when the parents used Muna Language. It is also the same case in
neighborhood domain. The neighbors used Muna language and Indonesia Language at the same time when communicate with others. While in school domain, teachers and students mostly use Indonesia Language than Muna Language because they were more comfortable with the language. Thus, language shift occurred in every domain with mayor influence from school domain.

4. Discussion

Based on the results of field observations described from several recording conversations from 3 domains, this showed that the Muna Language was not fully used in their daily communication process. There are several factors that influence the use of the Muna Language that did not survive among the community, especially in the younger generation. It showed that Muna Language in Tombula Village is rarely used among younger generation and only used among older people. In this case, the language shift that occurred in Tombula Village can be seen in their domain aspects, age group, and the factors that affect the language shift in Tombula Village.

In short, language shift occurred in Tombula Village at the age group of children (7-11 years old) and adolescent (12-25 years old). It was caused by the lack of use of Muna Language when they have interactions between their peers, neighbors, and mostly between their family members. They used Indonesia Language when interacting even though they do understand a little bit of Muna Language when someone is speaking to them. Not only that, there are also some factors that affect the children’s language shift of Muna Language in Tombula Village, they are family domain, social environment, education environment, and globalization. Whereas, the factors that affect them the most are family domain and education environment. Thus, language shift occurred on the children of Tombula Village because of their family domain and education environment.

5. Conclusion

The researcher focused on the use of the Muna Language which aims to describe the language shift phenomenon in Tombula especially 3rd RT, Tongkuno Induk sub-district and the factors that influence the Muna Language shift phenomenon. Based on the analysis in the previous chapter, it can be said that the existence of the Muna Language in Tombula Village, 3rd RT has experienced a language shift, which mostly occurred in children. This is proven by Muna Language rarely used in all domain, especially communication that occurred between parents and children. Most of the children and adolescent prefer in using Indonesia Language in their daily life, but the older people or parents were still using the Muna Language.

Muna Language shift also occurred in every domain that has been determined by the researcher, namely the family domain, the school domain, the neighborhood domain. The people in 3rd RT the Tombula Village were monolingual and bilingual personally. In the age group of 7-11 years and 12-25 years, it shows that the existence of the Muna Language shifted to the younger generation because they prefer Indonesia Language as a means of communication. However, the age group of 26-50 years and above shows that the Muna Language still used by them in everyday life.
There are several factors that influence Muna shifted phenomenon to Indonesia Language namely, family domain factors, educational environment, social environment, and globalization factor. Muna Language shifted to Indonesia Language because of intervention from the majority people who used Indonesia Language as tool communication in society. Moreover, in this phenomenon, it showed that the use of the Muna Language is very low as well as the most of children and adolescent rarely used Muna Language with other people.

References


Nisrawati, W. O. (2018). Muna Language Maintenance Among Teenager Speaker In Watopute Muna Regency Southeast Sulawesi. Faculty Of Humanities Diponegoro University Semarang. Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University, 121.


