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## The Use of Muna Language Among Students at English Department of Halu Oleo University

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### ABSTRACT

This research discusses the use of the Muna language among students at English Department of Halu Oleo University. Language contact that occurs between the students who are from several regencies and tribes became an interesting thing to see how they keep and use their local language. This study focus on How is the use of Muna language among the students who are from Raha city and what is the prospect of Muna language in the community of students in the globalization era. The main data was taken in English department environment, faculty of teacher training and education, Halu Oleo University. Observation and interviews were used by the Researcher in collecting the data in this area. The result of this research shows that the students are no longer use Muna language correctly and properly. It appears that there is a language shift from Muna to Indonesian which began when they live in Raha and continues when they move to Kendari to college. It shows the prospect of Muna language among students is very threatened.

### *Keywords:*

*language shift, prospect, Munanese, Muna language.*

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## 1. Introduction

Sociolinguistics is an empirical field of science to understand a language phenomenon that occurs in society. According to Wardhough (2006: 13) sociolinguistics is a study that aims to get a clearer and better understanding of language patterns and how a language is used in the community. Linguistic phenomena can be found widely in society. A community can use one or more languages to communicate in the group. To understand these events, the study of the relationship between language and society is important so there is no misunderstanding of these events.

In everyday life, of course we will always meet people with different language backgrounds or variations of languages. Furthermore, when people interact with each other and use two or more languages with the aim that the spoken language can be understood by the listener so what is called a language contact has

occurred. According to Matras (2009: 1) states that an interaction that occurs between speakers who have different languages and influence each other causes language contact. When speakers of different languages meet and interact with one another and then influence one another's language in interaction, a language contact occurs. Chaer and Agustina (2010: 84) argue that language contact can lead to several linguistic events. Some of them are code switching and code mixing.

Apple in (Chaer and Agustina, 2010: 107-108) said that code switching is a symptom of language transition that occurs due to changing situations. The language transition mentioned in the previous understanding must refer to two languages where the use switches from one language to the second. Furthermore according to Gal in Wardhaugh (2010: 84) states that in bilingualism and multilingualism we will see the event of code switching.

According to Nababan in Suandi (2014: 139) mixed codes are two or more languages mixed in a speech act. It does not only occur between two languages but also in the form of mixing between variety of languages in an interaction. The incident did not occur because of the demand to mix the two languages or languages. It means that the mixing code only because based on the habits and the relaxedness of the speaker in speaking. Furthermore, the impact of code mixing is language shift.

Language shift is actually an event where the mother tongue is no longer used as a communication tool for a group of people. According to Amar (2004), the process of language shifting is a historical event because gradually the mother tongue for this group of speakers will experience extinction altogether. This is in line with the opinion of Mbete (2003: 14) that language shifts start from the depreciation of basic functions that generally occur over a long period of time and slowly over several generations. The disappearance of a language is marked by the reduction or even loss of local languages used in speech in the family, for example between parents and children.

Language shifts that occur among Muna community, especially young people occur in their area or their home area before the youth move to another city. The habit of young people who no longer use muna language in daily communication causes the existence of virtual language to decline. Besides, the habits of young people who no longer use virtual language as the main language in communication also affect their muna language skills. Now the youth, especially those who came from Raha only have passive virtual language skills. Furthermore, the movement of young people from the original area of the muna to an area where the population is not only muna but other tribes that dominate will further reduce their chances to communicate in Muna language.

Kendari is one of the destinations city for young people to continue their education to college. One of the most popular colleges is Halu Oleo University. One of the majors is the English education department. This makes students more focused on English than Indonesian, especially local languages. In addition to the many different tribes in the department, the priority in using English is also increasingly a challenge for young students to keep their local languages.

Referring to the facts above and supports by the own experience of researcher, the researcher is interesting and feels it is important to understand the situation by

using sociolinguistic theory to see more about the use of Muna in a scientific paper and this research can contribute to society so that they can also understand this situation from a theoretical point of view so it can lead to appropriate efforts in facing this situation. The title of the research is "The Use of Muna Language Among Students at English Department of Halu Oleo University "

Based on the focus of the problems listed above, the researcher formulated the problem in this study are as follows:

1. How is the use of Muna language among student's at English department of Halu Oleo University?
2. What is the prospect of the Muna language in the community of students in the globalization era ?.

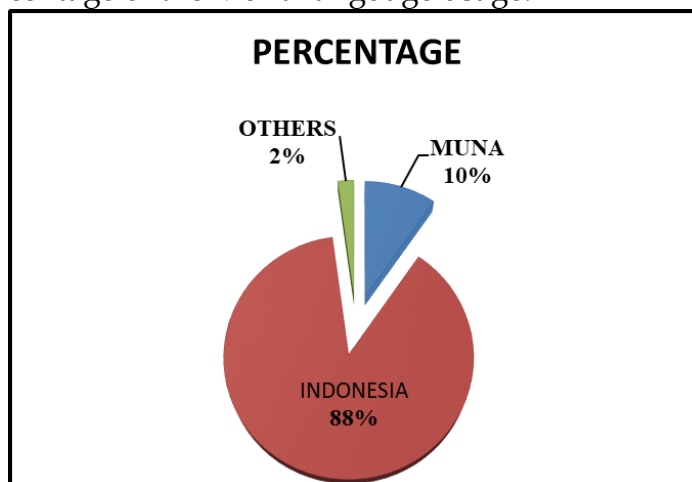
## **2. Methods**

The type of research used in this study was qualitative research. It consisted of observation and interview technique to collected data. This study used primary data. Primary was the data that was collected directly by researcher from the first source, namely the oral language used by students majoring in English education with a virtual basis in their daily lives on campus. Researchers also conducted interviews with respondents who had previously been observed. Interviews were conducted with deep structured interviews and a list of questions adapted from Lebold et al (2010).

This research was conducted in an English education department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Halu Oleo University. This research was conducted since October 23rd 2019 until February 28th 2020. Observations were made during office hours in the English education department both in the lecture building, canteen, English education department office and places that were still within the campus environment. In addition, interviews were conducted from the March 2nd to 14th 2020. Otherwise, The data collected was processed and analyzed with the following steps. First, was data reduction, the writer summarizes and selects some important data relating to purpose of the research. Second, data presentation was the presentation of data that has been filtered and organized as a whole in the form of tabulations and categorizations. Third, researcher prove the truth of data that can be measured through informants who understand the problem posed in depth with the aim of avoiding the existence of an element of subjectivity that can reduce the quality of research.

### 3. Result and Discussion

1. The percentage of the Muna language usage.



Based on the chart above shows that students from Raha use Indonesian rather than Muna language when speak among Munanese students. Based on the table above, we can see a significant difference where the use of muna is 10%, besides that Indonesian dominates their conversations, which is 88%. This fact is certainly very alarming because it occurs in the Muna community. The language used by the ancestors and became one of the identity of muna community, but muna language no longer exists among students who come from Raha city.

2. The prospect of the Muna language in the community of students in the globalization era.

Based on all the results from the interviews, it can be concluded that the Muna language is not safe. The current situation of students in specific and adolescents in general who are unable to speak Muna properly and correctly is the cause. This fact is in line with the public's fear that the majority of the young generation is no longer concerned with the Muna language in the future. All information that is conveyed by the resource persons, in this case, are students from Raha who realized that the current situation in the local language is very threatened. Of course, this is very sad and this fact makes Muna language currently displaced among the latest generation. One of the most basic factors that cause the low use of local language among English language education students is the factor of parents where parents no longer teach Muna as their mother tongue but prefer to teach Indonesian so that students are more accustomed to using Indonesian than muna language. that factor is the main reason why students are not able to speak Muna properly and correctly. So that in practice code-mixing always appears which is dominated by Indonesian. The competition between the Muna language and Indonesian, which have a very strong influence, causes the Muna language to experience a loss of interest. Even for many people in Raha city, Indonesian has become the primary language so that not a few use it as the first language and shift the local language (Gunarwan 2006: 96). ). It is in line with the statement of Gufran Ali Ibrahim (2011), If the choice not to use and the habits of parents not to pass on the mother tongue to their children are weak, the movement towards extinction will be even faster. In one generation change, perhaps 25 years the language will become

extinct. In fact, maybe even faster. If this reality continues, the Muna language may experience death or even extinct in the future.

The number of students who move to Kendari to continue their education also causes students to prefer to use Indonesian in communication even talk with friends who are also from Muna. Furthermore, the situation in families that are accustomed to Indonesian continues to the living environment which is also more comfortable to use Indonesian than Muna. so that are the main factor that causes students in Raha city cannot speak Muna well.

1. Self-factor

The main cause of the language shift among students who come from Raha is the limited use of the Muna language itself. This limitation is a result of the lack of students' motivation to find out more about their local language. The lack of willingness to learn and find out about the local language causes the young generation unable to understand and communicate using their local language.

2. Factors of Family Outreach

The family is the first socialization agent. The family is the first language teacher for a child because the first time interacts with family. The position of the family as the main fascist in determining the child's future. Then, education and communication within the family are the main things that affect the child's language. To be able to use language, it must be able to interact in social relationships with other people. Usually, the second most contributor to social change is the social relationship.

3. Factor of interaction with friends and the environment.

Social environment factors not only affect the development of children's attitudes but can also affect language use. The use of language that is often used in daily interactions makes teenagers accustomed to what is often used. the habit of adolescents who often use Indonesian in Raha city make Muna displaced. the loss of local language speakers among teenagers because they feel more comfortable using Indonesian when interacting than using Muna. Communication between teenagers cannot be a means of preserving the Muna language, thus proves that the Muna language is starting to experience a shift among young speakers.

#### **4. Conclusion and Suggestion**

The most appropriate conclusion is that this time students from Raha who are continuing their studies in the Halu Oleo University at the English department no longer use the Muna language properly and correctly when communicating with the theme. Although this interaction takes place among students from Muna Regency, the Muna language is only used as an insert in an imperfect form or commonly called code-mixing. The percentage of the use of Muna among English language education students is at 10%. Of course, this is triggered by the fact that students from Raha cannot speak Muna properly and correctly or no longer want to use Muna in everyday communication. In practice, code-mixing always appears which is dominated by Indonesian. The competition between the Muna language and Indonesian, which have a very strong influence, causes the Muna language to experience a loss of interest. The current situation of the younger generation especially students from the city of Raha, not have the ability and knowledge of

muna language. This situation can provide a picture in the future that they cannot continue the survival of the muna language and teach the muna language to the next descendants so that the current generation can become the last generation who knows little of the muna language. If this reality continues, the Muna language may experience death or even extinct in the future.

Based on the assessment of research result in the field, the author intend to provide suggestions that hopefully can be useful for the community, youth, government or for further researchers, as follows:

1. For students who are from Muna.

Students are expected to be one of the activists of the preservation of cyber languages. As educated people students must be able to show themselves as part of the potential and future of regencies and virtual tribes

2. For the people of Raha city.

For all people in Raha it is expected to play a role in preserving Muna language. Do not be ashamed with our language.the people, especially form Raha city has to show that we proud of our language. The most important way is to use and teach Muna language more often to young people.

3. For teenegers in Raha city.

Teenegers are expected to remain concerned about Muna language. One of the most important way is try to use Muna language in dialy life even it is wrong or not we can ask to our parents who knows Muna properly. because there is no perfect things in this world. When we nefer try it, we will never be able to see the result. When we never use Muna today or tomorrow, we will never hear Muna in the future.

4. For the parents from Muna.

Deep hopes for parents to teach Muna language to their children and make them to always speak Muna in their daily life. The parent must teach children to always proud of Muna language as our identity.

5. For the government of Muna district.

For the government, researcher hopes that the government always motivate the people to use Muna language every time. Government must take an action to preserving Muna language. Such as create a special curriculum at the school level by requiring each school to provide Muna language learing time.

6. For further researchers.

The next researcher who are interested in raising the title of the same scientific paper as this research are expected to dig deeper about Muna language both in terms of history and its journey to the present.

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