The Elicitation of Madurese Language in the Disruption Era

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Abstract— **Minority languages are significant to note for its existence in the era of disruption. The development of the era led to cultural transition and transformation that were not limited to space and time. Minority languages in the context of this paper are regional languages. Indonesia has regional languagessince it consists of various ethnic groups. Indonesia is included in an endoglossic country which only has one official language, namely Indonesian. Foreign language interference is very possible in the era of disruption. Language retention measures need to be carried out, one of which is to maintain language through the elaboration of language. This paper presented an example of Madurese language to be potentially proposed as the official regional language. Several strong reasons are foundfor the Madurese language to be used as the official regional language, seen from the large quantity of the population. In terms of ecolinguistics, the Madurese language has a percentage of 47% related to Malay. Besides, the language of the Madurese population is widely spread throughout the East Java province so that the regional language of Madura can be the official language in the provincial area.**

Keywords—minority language; Madura language; language retention

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of very dynamic language in line with time leads to changes in several aspects of life. Language became very significant in its function as a communication tool in the era of the industrial revolution. Free trade, as well as the flow of exports and imports, are an example of the form of globalization that comes into Indonesia. The globalization flow also entering Indonesia is language and culture. Foreign languages entering Indonesia are not a novelty. Since colonial and post-colonial times, Indonesia has known languages other than its own language. For instance, the Dutch East Indies language when colonized by the Dutch, Japanese language during the colonial era, and the Malay language indeed became the language used by most Indonesian peoples at that time. The proof that the Indonesian peoples used Malay is that many Malay-language engravings were found, and the Malay language was also spoken when conducting trade transactions

at that time. Indonesian was officially used as the national language in October 1928.

The nature of Indonesian is egalitarian and open to influences from other foreign languages. The vocabulary that exists in the Indonesian languages much coming from borrowing words from other languages such as Dutch, English, and Arabic, which of course the writing is adapted to Indonesian spelling and saying. The process of entering foreign languages into the Indonesian language which is significantly transforming into another language that is actively used cannot be said as a category that Indonesia is an exoglossic country that applies another language as the official national language. Indonesia still recognizes that the Indonesian language is the official language of the state or national language according to the legislation. The fact that exists today in Indonesia is that foreign languages are very popular and considered more prestigious. It can be said that the Indonesian language is ranked second in terms of economy. For example, for registration requirements, the proof of English language proficiency is always a procedural requirement, while evidence of Indonesian language skills is not preferred. Exoglossic and endoglossic policy has its respective effects and have positive and negative sides. On the one hand, exoglossicis needed in an effort to develop a country in the face of the global era, while endoglossic policy seeks to protect indigenous languages or local languages from extinction in order to eliminate the country's identity.

If studied further, language changes and movements are caused by several factors. Besides being caused by occupation, the other influencing factors comprise the migration of people from one country to another, the trade (causing residents to interact with the other traders or immigrants), the transfer of science and technology, the combination of two or more cultures so that they influence each other either through diffusion or assimilation in the isogloss area. Since language alters, develops, and even exchanges because of these factors, language planning and development are required to conduct. Changes and developments in a language which are planned, controlled,

and carried out in a structured and systematic way are likely to achieve the expected target. It seems that the government and local language experts who really determine the success of language planning and establishment [1].

Norway is one example of well-done language planning, pioneered by Haugen [2]. Regarding the language planning, International Research Project on Language Planning has held a congress dealing with the Language Problems of Developing Nation sponsored by the Social Science Research Council Committee on Sociolinguistics in Virginia, United States [3] Five countries have sent their delegations to congress. In 1968 and 1968 the same congress was held in Honolulu, Hawaii with the sponsorship of the Ford Foundation. Fishman further said that language planning will succeed if it is supported by all parties especially the government or the related ministers, educators, linguists, judges, the private parties, and the local people.

Less than 4 percent of the world's languages have official status in the country where they are spoken, most of which are unwritten, not officially recognized, limited to local communities and home functions and spoken by a very small group of people. Due to the external pressure on speakers and the possible choices, they will make, under this pressure, a number of these languages tend to absolutely die. Another researcher points out that the missing numbers may be in around 4,000, or two-thirds of languages spoken up to now. Hale and Woodbury believe that merely 600 out of 6,000-7,000 languages considered fully safe [4].

The disruption era also affected language, both Indonesian and regional languages. The Indonesian language is affected by the disruption in two directions; from regional and foreign languages. The era of disruption brings positive as well as negative influences on the language. If it is addressed with an open mind, the disruption of language will be regarded as progress in language development because it realizes that the world cannot avoid the flow of globalization. A lot of gadgets and machines use foreign languages requiring understanding. In a machine, for instance, the language used for the standard operation is English, so the users have to understand the steps. The same thing happens to gadgets used by teenagers and children, both as games and as a learning media.

The measures to develop, train, and preserve language are carried out on the language objects and literature based on their condition vitality. In 2002 and 2003, UNESCO [5] with the help of an international linguist group set a framework for determining language vitality to help the government make language-handling policies in its country. The group set nine criteria to measure language vitality. The nine factors made for the criteria for the language vitality are the number of speakers, the proportion of speakers in the total population, availability of teaching materials, language responses to new media, type and quality of documentation, language attitudes and government policies and institutions, transition of language use, community members' attitudes towards the language, and intergenerational language transmission. Based on those criteria, the language vitality is classified into six groups [6] as follows:

1. Extinct languages - languages with no more speakers;
2. Nearly extinct languages - languages with ten speakers at most in the older generation;

3. Seriously endangered languages - languages with a large number of speakers, but their children do not speak the language;
4. Endangered languages - languages with speakers of children, but tend to decline;
5. Potentially endangered languages – languages with many speakers of children, but they do not have official or prestigious status;
6. Not endangered languages - languages that have an excellent transmission to the new generation.
7. In the context of the Madurese language, bilingual is likely to have a disadvantage due to an unfair circumstance in which Indonesian is used as the national language and the intensity of the call for use is constantly echoed through the political and educational spheres. Madurese language, however, is only the status of a regional language that has no political purpose, and only set with inherited speakers potentially declining. Another condition is the logical impact of the first condition, namely the emergence of *inferiority complex*, where Madurese people prefer to speak Indonesian only because they want to be considered nationalist, even more, and modern instead of using their own language. This condition raises the mention of the *substrate language* and *super stratum language*. Similar conditions will certainly occur to other regional languages. If conditions like this persist, it would, unfortunately, be a very heartbreaking language tragedy, in which regional languages will die due to massive national language propaganda.

II. METHODS

The present research is descriptive research. Descriptive research is research that seeks to provide a conceptual explanation and description of the phenomena that arise. Data collection techniques in this study were carried out by observation and literature study of the use and existence of regional languages in the middle of the era of disruption. Data analysis in this study uses descriptive analysis techniques that explain the results of observations, as for the data obtained through data collection associated with realistic conditions. The data sources in this study are the surrounding environment and social media observed in terms of language use. The data in this study is the language used by subjects in the surrounding environment and the language used on social media.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As explained in the introduction, the selection of a national language by a multi-lingual government of a country wills indisputably over turn the existence of unelected regional languages. In this context, the shifting process is caused by political influence instead of the internal influence of the language structure. The national language, either recognized or not, has made the population to become bi-speakers leading to one of them must 'surrender' to experience a shift. In the context of Indonesian versus Madurese, the tendency of the Madurese language to shift is increasingly clear from several examples: 1) young parents teach their children Indonesian, for the first language instead of Madurese language, so that a good initial understanding of the Madurese language has not been mastered; 2) In terms of gadget use, the typing messages

apply Indonesian and hardly use the Madurese language, with the excuse of time-consuming typing and difficult spellings; 3) the cultural desire to imitate the flow of globalization triggering a feeling of shame when using Madurese language in public areas.

The disruption of the stability of language retention as described above will certainly make regional languages - especially Madurese language - strengthen their political bargaining power so that it has not vanished, one of which is the process of language' elicitation' through official legal-formal language channel.

The modality covers the number of Madurese speakers and its kinship with the other languages. The number of Madurese speakers from time to time has experienced very significant growth. Crystal [7] notes that in 1997 the number of Madurese speakers was approximately ten million speakers, but in 2000 the number of speakers increased by around three million so that this year the number of speakers of Madurese languages has reached thirteen million speakers. This modality will at least be very valuable in planning the Madurese language as an official language in which one of the conditions is the acceptance.

In the perspective of kinship with the other languages, the Madurese language relationship is closer to Malay instead of the neighboring language, Javanese. For the percentage, see table 1 below:

TABLE I.

NO	Language Group	Kinship Percentage
1	Sundanese-Javanese	33%
2	Sundanese-Malay	37%
3	Sundanese-Madurese	36%
4	Javanese-Malay	33%
5	Javanese-Madurese	37%
6	Malay-Madurese	47%

The table shows that the kinship of Madurese language with Malay reached 47%. It means that the kinship between the two languages is 10% higher than the Madurese language kinship with other languages. This fact further strengthens the ambition and becomes more persistent to establish Madurese language as the official regional language since there is no longer a psychological hinder between Madurese and Indonesian language.

Another research finding supporting this elicitation process is the fact regarding the basic word kinship of the Sumatran-Javanese-Madurese language family. Linguistic evidence with the same technique, namely lexicostatistics is carried out by Bernd Nothofer [8] in the table below [9]:

TABLE II.

	Sundanese	Javanese	Malay	Madurese
Sundanese	-	33	37	36
Javanese		-	33	37
Malay	40	37	-	
Madurese	40	40	53	-

It can be summarized from the table above that 53 out of 200 basic words in the Madurese language are closer to the Malay language compared to their proximity to other regional languages. This can be an important reason that the Madurese Language can be taken for granted for a regional language in East Java through the process of language elicitation.

The Malay language structurally has a more egalitarian grammar compared to other regional languages, especially with Javanese, which is hegemonic in terms of the number of speakers [9]. Javanese was not selected as a national language because this language is considered to have a complex language stratification system such as Kromo, Madyo, and Ngoko.

Several reasons are found underlying the Madurese language being capable of becoming the official regional language. First, the Madurese language has a modality in terms of speakers whose quantity is the most compared to other regions, and the population is widely spread on Java Island. To exemplify, in Surabaya, Jember, Banyuwangi, Probolinggo there are many people who speak Madurese language, even one country side is inhabited by residents coming from Madura. Second, the language retention modality of all regional languages existing in Indonesia is currently in a defense position or to avoid the language death. A language retention process must begin with a language shift. Regional languages, such as Javanese, Sundanese, Bataknese, and Madurese have to obviously struggle to survive. Cultural and language threats are from the inside (Indonesian language itself) as well as outside (Foreign language), and instead of developing, the threats have forced these languages to survive with countless measures.

As explained in the introduction, the selection of a national language by a multi-lingual government of a country will undoubtedly suppress the existence of unelected regional languages. In this context, the process of shifting is caused by political influence rather than the internal influence of the language structure. National language surely has forced the population to become bi-speakers leading to one of them to 'surrender' to experience a shift. In the context of Indonesian versus, Madurese language, it is the tendency of Madurese language to shift more clearly from several indicators as follows: 1) families; many young families teach how to communicate their children using Indonesian language rather than Madurese, even though the family originated and was born in Madura, 2) the use of technology; the use of short message service among ethnic Madure users uses Indonesian more than their own language, and 3) cultural indicators; The desire to imitate or to be part of a particular ethnic or cultural group causing bilingualism. The threat of foreign culture in language shifts is inherently valid since our society is naturally open to other cultures; wither those that come to us or those that we come to [10].

The third point is the modality of the Madurese language writing system. One of the characteristics of distinguished language according to Soepomo [11] is that language must have a writing system. The writing system is required to record the history of the region and other important events. The writing system does not have to be unique from the

language, but can be borrowed from other languages. In terms of the writing system, engravings were found in Madura in the early times with Pallawa alphabets, as well as using Sanskrit and Old Javanese. The use of Arabic with the expression of Madurese ideas can be found in Islamic boarding schools, and nowadays, Latin letters have been used in the Madurese language.

The fourth modality refers to the support of culture and mass media. Language is a product of culture. The same thing happens to the Madurese language which was born from the 'hard' Madurese cultural seeds. The word 'hard' is quite stigmatized sometimes. This word often disturbs the comfort of Madurese cultural interactions with other cultures. However, it is not impossible if the word 'hard' experiences an expansion of meaning to firm, dynamic and straightforward which will have a high impact on the development of the Madurese language towards official regional languages [12]. The word [*blater*] is only found in the Madurese language which means respected, courageous, not cheating, and influential. The word [*blater*] is often used in almost all parts of Indonesia. The vocabulary can be the basis of language elitism. Another example is the word [*parobhe*] in the Madurese language used to ask the sex of a newborn baby. Generally, people asks the sex of a newborn baby with the question "you've given birth, baby boy or baby girl?", but not for the Madurese people who asked about gender with only one word, namely [*parobhe*]. It was then understood that what was asked was the sex of the baby. With this unique thing, the vocabulary can apparently be considered to be included in KBBI and is used nationally. The entry of vocabulary from regional languages is always better to replace those borrowed from foreign languages. If there are equivalent words in regional languages, policy makers should consider the process of elicitation of regional languages to avoid extinction of language and as a measure to preserve a language.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the explanation of the study, it can be summarized that the Madurese language has got the potential to become the official regional language in East Java. In terms of the quantity, the population is large and widespread regionally in East Java and possesses a kinship with the Malay language for 47% becoming the reason for the language elitism. The language elicitation process can allow minority languages to survive in an era of disruption and still have an ecosystem of use in the context of sustainable ecolinguistics.

One suggestion to recommend for policy makers in order regional languages to survive is to include them as compulsory subjects at schools instead of the local content subject. To maintain the Indonesian language as the primary language is through requiring the Indonesian language as an entry requirement for higher education, not just English. Balai Bahasa has a UKBI (Indonesian Language Proficiency Test) which can be used as a benchmark for the quality of Indonesian Language competencies.

V. Acknowledgment

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