

# The Influence of Effort on the Minangkabau Language Maintenance in Jakarta

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**Abstract:** This research aims to determine and analyse the efforts that influence of the Minangkabau language maintenance in Jakarta. The approach used in this research is quantitative and qualitative approach. The population in this research is the Minangkabau language speech community in Jakarta. Sample amounted 144. The Data of this research was collected from the Minangkabau community in Jakarta using questionnaire, observation, and interview related to aspects of efforts towards the level of Minangkabau language maintenance in Jakarta. The results showed that the effort to influence the Minangkabau language maintenance in Jakarta was quite strong with positive and significant coefficient results. It is meant that the Minangkabau language maintenance effort was still carried out by the Minangkabau community to maintain its preservation in the middle of multicultural community in Jakarta, therefore language maintenance efforts greatly contributed to Minangkabau language maintenance in Jakarta. This is evidenced by the use of the Minangkabau Language to interact with the same ethnic in all areas of linguistic activities in which the Minang Community use the Minangkabau language and there is pleasure of using the Minangkabau language, and family support in using the Minangkabau language. Minangkabau language is also passed to children; there is also support for the community in using Minangkabau language.

**Keywords:** *effort, language maintenance, Minangkabau*

## Introduction

Indonesia is a unitary state consisting of thousands of islands and ethnic groups. Each ethnic group has their own unique characteristics which serve as a means of communication for local language speakers. This diverse local language in Indonesia makes local languages as one of the indicators of an ethnic identity and used as a supporter of traditional culture values. Based on the sociolinguistic concept, the Indonesian people are a bilingual community. The term bilingualism (Chaer,2004) deals with the use of two languages by a speaker in his daily activities. Indonesians are usually required to be able to speak in local and Indonesian. Local languages are used to communicate in their region and Indonesian is to communicate at the national or inter-ethnic group. The impact of the mastery of two languages or more in Indonesian community is the choice of language in terms of communication that creates competition between two languages leading to shift or to extinction of the language in particular the local language which generally cannot compete with Indonesian or a foreign language.

To maintain local languages, it involves various parties to avoid the local languages extinction in Indonesia. Fishman (1964) in Djamereng (2014) said that language maintenance denotes the continuing use of a language in the face of competition from a regionally or socially more powerful language. Kridalaksana (2001) stated that the language maintenance is an attempt to get a language continues to be used and appreciated, especially as the identity of a group of the language community concerned. Language maintenance is defined as a state of affirmation that people collectively decide to continue using their language in an area. Based on the above definition, language maintenance in language societies continues to use languages

collectively in the domains of traditional usage. The study of mother tongue maintenance is still relevant in Indonesia that the Indonesian people are generally bilingual such as having a native language which is usually a local language and national language namely Indonesian. Research conducted by Wilian (2006), Merti (2010), Istimurti (2013), Suherman (2015) and Hastuti (2018) became evidence that the importance of maintaining mother tongue maintenance is still important.

Hoetomo (2005) in Merti (2010) stated that the effort in language maintenance is to do something that is still exist and survive. We must make efforts for language maintenance to avoid language shifts. In line with the opinion of Miller (1972), that whether the language survived or not, it was dependent on three efforts such as 1). Children who are still learning the language; 2). Adult speakers still use the mother tongue with a variety of contexts; 3). The presence of native speakers of the language. In addition, according to Nurhayati (2013) that the efforts of language maintenance i.e. 1). through philosophy by way of instilling philosophy values through expressions where this phrase is the correct fundamental philosophy wisdom and can be a source of proud to speak the local language; 2). Through competition and festival culture. This activity became an effective means to encourage people to speak the local language; 3). Through traditional arts; 4). Through speech-cultured day.

Local language is one of the traditions that are handed down from generation to generation that should be preserved in order not to become extinct. Indonesia has types of local languages such as Minangkabau language is one of the local languages that still survives until today. The Minang community in Jakarta still actively uses the Minangkabau Language for informal communication in family situations, in small groups (such as in social gathering and family gatherings), including communication within their respective family environment. Minang community is a social unit that has unity, has characteristics that distinguish it from other groups in the city of Jakarta. They have a sense of pride and love for their tribe and language, and they have a "system" that regulates their way of life and social life according to the agreements they have built. According to Khairul Sikumbang, IKM Jagakarsa board, the system was able to regulate their social life together, both in religious life, political life, and other social life (Results of interview March 11, 2017).

Minangkabau language Maintenance is still visible when the researcher conducted an observation in Jakarta. Minang people in DKI Jakarta are proud of their custom, so they try to preserve, develop and popularize the Minang cultural values to the outside community such as they introduce their traditional culture through a marriage ceremony. By holding a wedding ceremony in Jakarta, it means giving the Minangkabau people in Jakarta an opportunity to introduce Minangkabau customs. Related to the Hypothesis Formulation is the effort variable positively influences language maintenance which is the Minangkabau people tend to use the Minangkabau language within the multilingual and multicultural communities because of their desire to be in their own region and also to increase a sense of familiarity and create a familial relationship. So, this research focuses on the Minangkabau language maintenance which is directed to the knowledge of effort variables to determine the influence on Minangkabau Language Maintenance in Jakarta.

## **Method**

This research used quantitative and qualitative approach. Quantitative research uses a variable approach, namely independent variables and dependent variables. Sugiyono (2006) said quantitative research is not only used in laboratory research, but can also be used in research

with an individual approach as the object studied and pay attention to cause and effect. Meanwhile, a qualitative research studies that focus on the collection and analysis of data that are informative. The qualitative research can be observation data, documents, interviews, language interaction. This research used 144 Minangkabau communities as samples that exists in some areas of Jakarta. Methods of data collection conducted by giving questions to respondents with a questionnaire guide. Direct observations are used on the use of Minangkabau Language in the Minang community. Furthermore, Interviews are used in direct questions about situations where and why Minangkabau languages are generally used. Analysis was carried out to get a comprehensive result of the effort on the Minangkabau language maintenance questionnaire by analyzed into statistics. The output of this calculation becomes the basic material for the data analysis.

## **Results and Discussion**

The result of field studies in obtaining data by using questionnaires to measure the effort on the Minangkabau language maintenance. Test validity is the level of understanding to what extent the measuring instrument (questionnaire) can measure what it is supposed to measure. High validity of the questionnaire indicated that the measuring instrument was the right instrument to be used to measure the intended concept. Therefore, the questionnaire must be accountable for its precision and accuracy so that the measuring instrument could be said to be valid. The researcher tested the construct validity and content of the questionnaire by using Pearson's correlation formula, i.e., by calculating the correlation between the scores of each question item with the total score of each variable using SPSS program. Thus, it could be decided whether the questions were valid to be used to measure the intended variable or concept. Test validity and reliability on effort variable that have been done in the effort of Minangkabau language maintenance indicator in the questioner such as using of the Minangkabau language can last a long time, using Minangkabau language by adjusting to certain situation and condition, bring a message to use language Minangkabau overseas, using Minangkabau Language overseas is very important, have strong to use the Minangkabau Language, try to introduce and use the Minangkabau language on religious activities, family gathering, and social gathering, using Minangkabau language in conversation, family members support to use Minangkabau Language, try to teach the children to use the Minangkabau language in daily conversation. Help the children to learn Minangkabau language, the situation in schools supports to use Minangkabau language, the situation in the workplaces supports to use the Minangkabau language, the Situation in neighborhood supports to use of Minangkabau language, the situation in community group supports to use Minangkabau language.

The researcher tested the construct validity and content of the questionnaire by using Pearson's correlation formula, i.e., by calculating the correlation between the scores of each item (question) with the total score of each variable using SPSS program. Thus, it could be decided whether the questions were valid to be used to measure the intended variable or concept. Similarly, the researcher also used SPSS program to measure the reliability by using Cronbach alpha ( $\alpha$ ) formula. The following the table.1 as the result of questioner which were the indicators that measured the tendency of the efforts made.

**Table.1** Test Validity and Reliability on Effort Variable

Construct	Item	Validity (Pearson Correlation)	Status	Reliability Cronbach alpha ( $\alpha$ )
Effort	1	0.462	Invalid	0.894
	2	0.652	Valid	
	3	0.702	Valid	
	4	0.640	Valid	
	5	0.646	Valid	
	6	0.650	Valid	
	7	0.677	Valid	
	8	0.621	Valid	
	9	0.714	Valid	
	10	0.689	Valid	
	11	0.658	Valid	
	12	0.716	Valid	
	13	0.655	Valid	
	14	0.676	Valid	

Source: processed primary data

In general, the test results show that the variables are reliable instruments. From the test conducted, the *cronbach alpha* value obtained is 0.894 ( $\alpha > 0.60$ ) and valid. Therefore, the items (questions) in the questionnaire can be used to measure the effort variable. The test conducted in this model of study aimed to find out to what extent the independent variable (the effort made) influenced the dependent variable (Minangkabau Language Maintenance). This research model was tested using *multiple regression analysis* by incorporating the effort indicators and the result shows the data on the effort made toward the Minangkabau language maintenance is valid and reliable. That data in table.1 is also proven in daily life in which the Minangkabau people tend to use their language. Some respondents from Minang community in Jakarta stated that they use Minangkabau language because the majority of them have the spouse with similar background of language which leads them to have emotional closeness. The emotional reasons contained in their first language occurred because both parties involved in a conversation completely understand the language and thus able to express their feelings better, as well as making them feel like they are in their hometown. These are the reasons why male and female respondents use Minangkabau language to communicate with their spouse, parent, and children about everyday life situation such as economic problems, basic food prices, sports, actual events, family, office work, and even education. They also use this language when they are arguing (unaware use of language) with their spouse or parents because they don't want others to know that they are upset. Furthermore, respondents also tend to use the Minangkabau language when communicating with their relatives such as nephews, uncles/aunts, cousins, grandchildren, and grandparents at a family gathering such as weddings, social gathering, and holiday gathering. In addition, they also admitted that they tend to use the Minangkabau language when using their cellular (cellphone) to talk and send SMS to their spouse, parent and in-laws. However, some respondents admitted that they tend to use Indonesian when sending an SMS because the Minangkabau Language written variety is rarely used in respondents' lives due to the Indonesian-language-dominated environment in Jakarta.

The Influence of the Effort toward Minangkabau language maintenance. The test conducted in this research model aimed to find out to what extent the independent variable (the effort) influenced the dependent variable (Minangkabau Language Maintenance). This research model was tested using *multiple regression analysis* by incorporating the effort indicators. The following table.2 shows the result of data analysis on the effort made toward the Minangkabau Language Maintenance

**Table.2** The Results of Regression Analysis on Effort Variable toward Minangkabau Language Maintenance

Variable	Coefficient	Score	t-test	p-value
Constants	A	10.765	3.178	0.002
Effort	$\beta_1$	0.652	15.385	0.000

$R^2 = 0.624$ ,  $F = 236.703$  dan  $p\text{-value} = 0.000$

Source: processed primary data

This research model indicated that the effort variable had a high significant value, which was 0,000. It meant that the efforts made had strong influence on Minangkabau language maintenance. The test was conducted by calculating the influence of efforts variable on Minangkabau language maintenance. If the coefficient ( $\beta_1$ ) was positive and significant, it meant that the result was in accordance with the hypothesis, namely there was a match between the effort variable with Minangkabau Language maintenance variable expressed in  $MLM = \alpha + \beta U + e$  equation. The test was conducted in three stages, i.e., *stepwise* method. The first stage involved the effort variables as independent variables with Minangkabau Language maintenance variable as dependent variable. This initial test was conducted on the two variables in order to find out to what extent the effort variable influenced Minangkabau Language maintenance variable.

In table shows the results of the regression analysis with the details;  $R^2$  is 62.4% and  $F = 236,703$ , significant with  $p$  less than 0.05. The results show that there is positive ( $\beta_1 = 0.652$ ) and significant relationship between efforts variables and Minangkabau language maintenance variable with a significance value of 0.000 ( $p$  greater than 0.05). The resulting equation is  $TPB = 10.765 + 0.652 U$ . This result was in accordance with the researcher's hypothesis that stated the effort variables would influence the language maintenance. This Table also indicates that the effort variable shows positive and significant coefficients result and has quite significant effect on the level of Minangkabau language maintenance. This result show that the respondents were quite often using Minangkabau language, glad to use it in their daily life, there was family support in using the language, the language also taught to the children, and there was great support from the society to use the language.

This empirical result indicated that the implementation of the efforts made also depended on the conditions and authority in making these efforts. The overall results of the test on the effort gave an emphasis on the process, the sustainability of the use of the language, the approach taken, and awareness that gave sufficient influence in the maintenance of Minangkabau language. Similarly, the approaches taken in the maintenance of Minangkabau language showed that these approaches also had significant effect on Minangkabau language maintenance. The external environment had a significant effect on the different perceptions found in each area in DKI Jakarta. The empirical results also showed that the implementation of the efforts made by the respondents did not depend on the condition and the diversity of the environment.

## Conclusions

Conclusions can be drawn as a result of research that the Effort variables influence Minangkabau Language Maintenance in Jakarta quite strongly. This is consistent with the expectations of researchers that there is an influence of effort variables that strengthen the relationship of these two variables. Respondents often use the Minangkabau language and there is pleasure of using the Minangkabau language, and family support in using the Minangkabau language. Minangkabau language is also passed to children; there is also support for the community in using Minangkabau language. These empirical results indicate that the application of the variable of effort carried out also has a dependence on the conditions and situations in conducting it. Effort variables have a considerable influence on Minangkabau Language maintenance with positive and significant coefficient results. The effort that often carried out by the Minang community is to use the Minangkabau language in communication in various activities. Basically, language maintenance is to support the pride and greatness of the Minang Culture in migration.

## Acknowledgments

The researcher would like to thank Prof. Dr. E.S Margianti, SE., MM as the Rector Universitas Gunadarma who have provided moral and material support for the completion of this research.

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