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THE STUDY OF LINGUISTIC VARIETIES THROUGH LANGUAGE EVOLVEMENT

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Abstract

There are so many languages around the globe. Even when we searched it on google bar, we will find different results on the number of languages that exists in the world. The huge amounts of languages brought us the question of ‘how is it possible that language can be different from one area to another and how can we connect people through the language differences?’. Well, to answer this question, literacy about history and language evolvement needs to be done. As expected, the answer lies in human evolvement because the time people evolved, people traveled to other area as well. Humans journey to other continents brought to a realization that there are many languages that is different than theirs and their vernacular will not be much help to come in contact with local people of that continent. They started to use pidgins to ease the communication and when they finally understand some languages used by the locals, they finally use it as the bridge of communication and it works as the lingua franca.

Keywords: Human evolvement, Lingua Franca, Pidgins, Travel, Vernacular.

Introduction

Language, a medium to connect people. People need something in communication, a speaker need connection with their interlocutor to ensure that the message is being well- delivered (Yim & Clément, 2021). Then appeared a question, what kind of connection that is possible to tie two speakers to make their communication running smoothly? Well, the answer is a language, with the existence of language people’s communication can be bridged.

The function of language as a communication tool makes language an important influence in human life (Werdiningsih, 2014). Communication will not be efficient if the language expressed is not accepted or understood by others. In this case, the expression relates to segmental and suprasegmental elements, whether spoken or kinesics, so that a sentence will be able to function as a communication tool with different messages if delivered with different expressions.

Language as functional communication acts as an instrument of communicative symbolization in human interaction. Through the effective use of language, the continuity of information delivery, disposition, and communication flow can be understood by all parties concerned. According to Mulyana (2019), effective communication produces maximum understanding from the parties concerned. Hence, the information could be received by the recipient. This is certainly the main key to achieving company goals efficiently so as to generate profits in business both materially and non-materially.

However, it is very possible for the language function bridge to be separated especially when two people within different continents are talking together. The use of language in each region varies depending on the user and the needs of the user (Linask, 2018). Language development is influenced by the suitability of culture and habits of the people around the area (Herman, 2021). This results in languages from one area and another having different outputs. Every area in the world has its own regional language or mother tongue that distinguishes it from other areas in the world (Huisman, Majid, & Van Hout, 2019). Meaning to say when an Indonesian and an Arabic are talking together, they might not understand each other because they failed to identify the meaning from language that is being uttered. From the case of people with different language and culture, another question appeared, how can language different from one area to another and how to connect people with different language in communication?

There are at least three things that we are going to discuss here. Those are vernacular, pidgins, and lingua franca. Before we dig deeper into the discussion and illustration, it will be easier if we give the context of what we are going to talk about in form of definition. This definition is intended to ease us in understanding more about the topic.

Method

This research is formulated with a qualitative approach. A qualitative approach is a method that collects information about the status of an existing symptom, consists the state of the phenomena according to what they were at the time the research was conducted (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). This holistic approach examines how the influence of language development in the vernacular, pidgins, and lingua franca domains as a determinant of the development of language differences in the world. The research was formulated using a descriptive approach that is explanative. All developments and factors influencing the spread of language will be conveyed in depth in the study.

The data collection technique was formulated using a literature study. The literature study approach is used to study reading sources that can provide information that has to do with the problem being researched (Cohen et al 2018). Researchers look for research data or information through reading scientific journals, reference books and publication materials available in the library. The literature study is formulated with an approach focus to explore the basic theories and concepts that have been found by previous researchers. keep abreast of research developments in the field to be researched, as well as obtain a broader orientation on the chosen topic.

The research results will be reduced and presented in the findings and discussion. The data processing process is supported by verification through

triangulation according to Sugiyono (2017). Drawing conclusions is the final part of the data analysis carried out. With a research approach and design, the results are presented to be able to explain in detail the language development behind the language differences in the world.

Findings and Discussion

This study will explain the development of language evolution from centuries, the development of communication as a lingua franca facilitator.

The evolution of language through centuries.

Language evolves all the time. Language development is also influenced by people who speak the language and develop the language itself (Kanaza, 2020). Language is used in most human activities, in the form of human language being unable to express feelings, convey desires, give suggestions and opinions, even to the level of one's thoughts related to language (Aldawood & Almeshari, 2019; Rublik, 2017; Yue, et al, 2021). At the beginning of its development, language is used as a tool that integrates the results of communication between one individual and another (Mulyana, 2019). In this realm, two distinct types of language develop that cannot be separated from one another.

These two types of communication conceptualized as verbal and non-verbal language. Prior the invention of verbal language, people were accustomed to communicate with non-verbal language (Gross, 2010). Let's travel to the past to pick some examples that able to broaden our knowledge. Ancient human, our ancestor, used to communicate by using their hand gesture and voice signal to say something to their kinds. By the time being, they started to notice that there's a pattern in how they uttered something from their mouth and it finally evolved into a word. Along with the new inventions of words regarding how they act, tools they use, how they mention animals, and others stuffs made them aware that they need more words to define what in their surroundings and it becomes a verbal language that we know today. According to the expert, Jakobson in 1972 stated that verbal communication is the ability of human language to convey an infinite number of messages and to form and develop new concepts is based on the unique and universal properties of the verbal code. It summed up that all the words that ancient man invented, become the language that we use today's status quo.

However, non-verbal language takes a bigger role in communication. It developed more ancient than the verbal one. According to Suprpto (2006) the emergence of non- verbal languages preceded the development of verbal languages, although it is not yet known how the exact theory of the emergence and which language is the measuring point for language development in the world. Then came the idea that language develops by itself through the phenomenology of behavior and social contexts carried out by humans. Humans who communicate through non-verbal movements, such as expressions, body gestures, and others, begin to emit murmurs that are formed into words and are mutually agreed upon. The use of language led to the development of humans to repeat the articulation of verbal signs (Abdalla, 2020). This is also a point of rapid development of homo sapiens compared to other types, is that we are better able to develop a system of signs and symbols in verbal speech, associated with the existence of language. Homo sapiens evolved and socialized with creatures around, forming groups that

cause them to be organized, they have time to have fun, create innovations. Many languages developed as a medium to connect them to communicate. Their way of speaking spreads and develops into new areas where they can socialize and survive (Benítez-Burraco & Kempe, 2018; Ferretti, 2013).

This brings us to a discussion that affects the development of language, namely the area of residence and the geographical conditions of human territory. Geographical location cause language differences (Wolfram & Schilling, 2020). From the ancient human period until the invention of Boats humans are living in their own homeland because they weren't able to travel anywhere but near them due to the lack of transportation they can utilize. The gigantic range of ocean led them into shortage and luckily, the shortage let them to be creative by creating verbal language with their own version. The inability to travel to the other region made language restricted to that area, for example it used to be impossible for Korean to travel to England, so Korean will speak Korean language because they are not familiar with English as a language and vice versa. The language familiarity was resulted by the first language they acquired from their surroundings, meaning to say a child will be familiar with the language which their parents or care-taker uttered to them in daily basis. First acquired language is also known as vernacular. Vernacular is the language that is spoken by people within the same group, region, interest, occupation, political interest and others that still possesses similarity among them (Blakeley, 2021). Vernacular is the language that did not gain any official status and it is used for an informal function. The existing example of vernacular in Indonesia is Javanese, Sundanese, Sumatran language, and so on that is basically used by native people from each area.

The awareness of vernacular insufficiency to bridge people's conversation. As the invention of boats, people began to travel across the globe to find spices, knowledge, gold, glory, and to spread religion or gospel. As they found different continents and met the local people of that area, traveler also found that the locals from that area are speaking differently. Let's take Portuguese arrival in Strait Malacca as the example. In 1511, Portuguese might have problem in communicating with people from Strait Malacca as the Portuguese speak Portuguese, the people from Strait Malacca used Malay language. The language difference possessed by them called language barrier as there is a barrier that restrict two parties in understanding the message of the conversation. This happened because they have a total vocabulary on how they refer to things for example in Indonesia eat is makan while in Portuguese it is called comer. Finally, language barrier slowed them in understanding each other but both of interlocutors did not give up easily, supposedly involved pidgins in their communication to make the conversation become easier to be understood by both parties. Pidgins is a simplified language as both parties come in contact with no language in common (Manfredi & Bizri, 2019). It can be equalized with baby talk because it changed the complex structure of one language to its simplest form. What makes it more interesting is that pidgins have no native speaker because this language is only used during the happening conversation. Once the conversation is done and both groups are separated, no one will use pidgins anymore as it is not something that can be inherited.

As the time being, people were starting to gain something from each-other's language. From this case, the Portuguese might try to learn something from the Malay language to ease them in communicating with locals to complete their purpose. The conversation was running smoothly because two parties are finally understood the message in the communication. Here Malay language is considered as the lingua franca that is able to bridge the conversation between the Portuguese with people from Strait Malacca. Lingua franca is a language as a medium that is able connect two people with different native languages (Nordquist, 2020). The idea of lingua franca is basically the language that helps you communicate the best with the person whom you are talking with. According to the origin of the word, Lingua franca is an absorption word that comes from Italian. Lingua or in English Language is the same as language, while franca is association. In other words, Lingua franca is a linguistic term which means "language of instruction" or "communication language" in a place where there are speakers of different languages. The term is usually used in intermediate languages, from the words "base" or "language" and "intermediate".

Lingua Franca or it can also be called bridge language is a language that is systematically used as a means of communication between parties who do not have the same language (Pertiwi, 2019). The existence of this concept is to communicate between people who come from different language backgrounds. Lingua Franca is a language of instruction or lingua franca so that each party from a different language understands what is being conveyed. a language that is adopted as a common language between speakers who use different mother tongues. An example of Lingua Franca is English because it is widely used by the international community as a means of communication for trade, politics, science, and so on (Kita Ngatu & Basikin, 2019).

The usage of lingua franca around the globe. Let's travel further from the past and observe the example of lingua franca that existed in Indonesia first. In 1928 the second youth congress in Indonesia initiate the Idea of Indonesian language to be the lingua franca of Indonesian, then it finally gained the official status as the national language of Indonesian people. The background of why Indonesian had to point one language as a lingua franca because Indonesia has hundreds existing language and it will be impossible for us to learn one by one in order to communicate with people from another region. It will be hard for us Javanese when we want to talk with people from Sumatera for instance, they will be using their own vernaculars and we will be using ours. However, with the help of Indonesian language of our lingua franca, our communication able run smoothly and both parties able to understand each other.

Lingua franca as communication facilitator

Language development cannot be separated from the history of language itself. Whereas in the past century many areas of the earth were inhabited by people who spoke very different languages. Community groups are required to communicate for social and commercial purposes, usually using one language based on mutual agreement (Majid, 2017). Lingua Franca is a term that represents this phenomenon. Lingua Franca emphasizes the concept that language is a liaison between speakers of different languages (Kita Ngatu & Basikin, 2019). The use

of the lingua franca develops along with the development of human thought patterns in speaking their daily language.

The usage of lingua franca is more frequent in these days. Technology is starting to evolve with its advanced and sophisticated features, people can get in touch easily mere by facing their phones, laptop, computer, tablet, or other compatible electronic devices. Moreover, isn't it tempting that people are able to purchase electronic devices with a very low price in nowadays? Thus, it is very reasonable that electronic device users are increasing lately. Data Reportal in 2022, stated that by April 2022 there are at least 5 billion out of 7.9 billion people use internet every day, it means that it is more than the half of human's population access internet on their daily basis. Relating this fact with nowadays status quo, it felt as if the window to communication with people across the globe is opened wider than before. Meaning to say, technology helps to support the possibility of people in communicating with other people whom they barely know before or even with people from foreign country.

This theory is supported by the power of social media such as Instagram and Twitter that can connect people from any parts of the world, slightly through the direct message feature. A case point, there are two people from different continents who are coincidentally having the same hobby, photography. One from Japan and one from Arab. The Japanese admire the photo from the Arabian, he wants to complement it. However, there is one thing that hinder the conversation to happen. The thing is that he does not understand Arabic language at all. Rather than making mistake, the Japanese felt that he should use other language to build the bridge between them and so he decided to communicate his feeling with English language as he supposes that the Arabic is able to understand English. After receiving the Japanese's direct message, the same case goes with the Arabic, he answered it with English language to make the conversation runs smoothly because he does not understand Japanese as the language. See, the case here is that English works as their lingua franca simply because they do not understand each other's vernacular.

Conclusion

Language does evolve from time to time. At first people start to create their own version of language due to the lack of transportation they can use to communicate with people from another area, the creation of one language for one region is known as vernacular or the first language that certain group possessed. Then after people getting smarter and easier transportation invented people start to notice that they need other languages beyond their own vernacular in order to communicate with people from different continents. At first, they didn't have idea how the other language sounds like so they use pidgins to help them in understanding each other. However, by the time they are starting to learn the language that is possible to help them speak with each other and nowadays we know that as lingua franca. That's how language evolved from time to time.

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