



Revitalization of Language and Literature of the Button Wolio Region in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to describe and explain the revitalization of language and literature in the Wolio Buton area in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province. The research method used here is a qualitative research method. The study found out that local government and related institutions must coordinate to formulate policies for the revitalization of regional language and literature (Wolio Buton) in Baubau City. The revitalization must then be done through the preparation of dictionaries, standardization of spelling, preparation of grammar books and literary inventories for the purposes of preserving regional languages and literature. Regional literature (Wolio Buton) must utilize technology and information on its preservation and dissemination. The culture of the kingdom and sultanate of Buton must also be directed as a harmonization. For the sake of tribal welfare, educational institutions must play an active role in revitalizing regional language and literature and their developments. The regional government of Baubau City must also strengthen the policy of using one regional language one day based on the respective regional government policies, and improve the role and function of regional languages (Wolio Buton) in all families. All stakeholders must also work together to support the implementation of the revitalization. In short, the revitalization of the Wolio Buton regional language is one of the important steps and strategies to protect language and literature, namely: language capture, study of language vitality, conservation, revitalization, and registration.

Keywords: Revitalization, Regional Language and Literature of Wolio Buton



INTRODUCTION

The XII Indonesian Language Congress which was held by the Language Development and Development Agency in 2023 is very important and specifically strategic for the revitalization of the Wolio Buton regional language in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province. This paper is very important to collect ideas, thoughts and opinions of experts and observers of regional languages throughout Indonesia to be used as a basis for formulating policies for the development, protection and development of regional languages. Besides, this congress is also a efforts to observe, discuss and explore linguistic conditions and situations, especially in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province, in the context of formulating appropriate language policies and planning according to the needs of the people of Southeast Sulawesi.

The city of Baubau, as the area with the largest fort in the world, is one of the cities in the Buton Islands, Southeast Sulawesi Province. For the Buton people, the existence of the Buton palace fort is very amazing and the work of the Buton people in the past is very monumental in terms of architecture, including the languages used in the manuscripts. - ancient manuscripts as evidence of the civilization of the Buton kingdom and sultanate use the Wolio Buton regional language (Buri Wolio or written Wolio language), where the Wolio Buton regional language is one of the regional languages in Southeast Sulawesi Province which is threatened extinct, (Munafi, et al. 2015).

The regional languages that live and develop in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia from Aceh to Papua and from Rote Island to Miangas Island are very diverse. Regional languages have many dialects and variants which are still used by their speakers, especially older people, while the millennial generation can no longer use their regional languages because they think that regional languages are languages left behind by the progress of time and technology. Therefore, looking at the increasingly worrying condition of regional languages, it is very important that regional languages must be revitalized or preserved, not only preserved but regional languages must be used as local content teaching materials for elementary/MI students and even for junior high school students. /MTS, SMA, SMK, MAN in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province, (Bagea, et al. 2018).

Nowadays, the symptoms of regional language maintenance are weakening and very worrying in almost all regions of Indonesia, including in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province, especially speakers of the Wolio Buton regional language, which are on the verge of extinction, even though if we look at the history of the civilization of the Buton kingdom and sultanate, the Wolio Buton regional language is an official language



and the language of unity in the kingdom and sultanate of Buton. Therefore, the authors really hope for the strategic roles of the central government, provincial government, Baubau City Government and all areas of the former kingdom and sultanate Buton must play a direct role in revitalizing the Wolio Buton regional language because the Wolio Buton regional language contains a lot of local wisdom from the ancestors of the Buton sultanate.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used in writing the paper is qualitative research, in which the researcher directly conducted research with key informants and supporting informants in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province. The researcher is also a Butonese resident who speaks the local language Wolio Buton. In conducting research the researcher conducted interviews directly to informants and reviewing documents related to the language and literature of the Wolio Buton region in Baubau City to strengthen the research results in writing this paper.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Looking at the facts and conditions of regional languages in Indonesia, especially in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province, the Buton Wolio regional language should be revitalized or preserved. You all need to know that as long as the kingdom and sultanate of Buton existed as a large kingdom in the archipelago, the connecting language between the Butonese people throughout the archipelago was using the regional language Wolio, because the Wolio language is one of the agreements of the Buton ancestors and was used as a unified language in the kingdom and sultanate of Buton which lived and developed for hundreds of years.

Currently, the symptoms of the condition of the Wolio regional language are weakening, not to mention the phenomenon of language urgency in the speaking community is very visible. Regional languages are actually mother tongues which have many strategic and fundamental functions for the lives of the people who speak them, including school children, starting from the family environment, children will learn to use their regional language. So the term mother tongue is appropriate so that the annual momentum which is celebrated every year as international mother language day, should be a strategic momentum with independent learning programs such as the revitalization of regional languages in Indonesia and specifically in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province.



There are 718 regional languages in Indonesia which are currently in danger of extinction and are in critical condition, this happens because nowadays many regional language speakers no longer use and pass on regional languages to the next generation. Until the treasure the richness of language and literature as well as culture, thought and knowledge systems regarding regional language, literature and culture are threatened with extinction, therefore the author really hopes that central, provincial, district and city policy makers will take a concrete role in saving these regional languages from extinction. one of them is budgeting in the Main APBD and Revised APBD, especially for the revitalization of regional languages and literature in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province, especially the Wolio Buton regional language.

Seeing the condition of the Wolio Buton regional language, which is said to be the language of unity and integrity of the Buton kingdom and sultanate for tens of centuries and used by the majority of its speakers, it is in a vulnerable condition. This means that they are prone to being left behind; in fact, more and more of the younger generation of Baubau City cannot speak Wolio Butonese. They are more interested in learning foreign languages, English, Mandarin and Arabic. Therefore, this kind of problem is certainly a condition that must be resolved by the government and the speaking community (Zahari, 1997).

Buton Palace Festival

Departing from the real conditions of the fate of regional languages in Indonesia, especially the Wolio Buton language in Southeast Sulawesi Province, in the nineties, the Baubau City government together with the regions of the former kingdom and sultanate of Buton almost every year held events in the context of Wolio Buton culture, on At that time, Buton Wolio language, literature and culture still existed, but for several decades the Buton Palace festival activities were rarely held, so slowly Buton Wolio language as the proud language of the Butonese people was on the verge of extinction. The author is very proud and touched by the real program of regional language revitalization through the Tunas Mother Tongue Festival (FTBI) from 2022 to 2023. I think this central program has a very clear direction, because mother tongue speakers can immediately implement their thoughts and ideas in the Tunas Language Festival activities, mother.

To the author, as a form of revitalizing the mother tongue, the central government must revitalize all regional languages and literature and culture throughout Indonesia so that the threat of language extinction can be avoided. Efforts to revive



passion for the mother tongue in the archipelago are now being promoted by the Ministry of Education and Culture through the Language Development and Development Agency under the title of the independent learning series. 17. What is the direction of the policy so that it can be implemented directly in remote areas of the country?—not just in theory and in big cities, but must be promoted in remote areas throughout the archipelago?

The revitalization of language, literature and culture in Baubau City is very important and strategic to prevent the extinction of the Wolio Buton regional language because the current young generation of Baubau City, especially young speakers, can no longer use the Wolio Buton language and are no longer familiar with their mother tongue. Researchers from Buton Muhammadiyah University concluded that their research on the Buton Wolio language was quite intriguing, namely that the Buton Wolio language was on the verge of extinction. The condition of the Wolio Butonese mother tongue is in a very worrying condition or is vulnerable to extinction. Vulnerable means it can be in a condition that can be said to be in an unsafe condition. Therefore there must be concrete action taken by the Southeast Sulawesi Provincial Government and the Baubau City Government together with all stakeholders to take action. saving the Wolio Buton language, one of which is the Governor of Southeast Sulawesi issuing a Regional Regulation. The Governor's Regulation, including the Mayor of Baubau, issued a Perwali for the sake of preserving Butonese language, literature and culture, especially in the City of Baubau Islands Buton.

The government must also promote local wisdom every Friday. Baubau City civil servants are required to wear traditional regional clothing and must also communicate using the Wolio Buton regional language, including in schools it is also encouraged through learning the Wolio Buton language as mandatory local content. Ironically, even now various strategies have been taken, but the critical condition of language, regional literature and culture in Baubau City is still worrying to avoid from the threat of extinction of the Wolio Buton regional language.

Current Conditions

The Central Government program which is framed in the independent learning program needs to be scrutinized carefully, not just policy, but policy from the center must reach the regional level throughout the archipelago, monitoring and evaluation must be carried out, whether the central policy is implemented by the regional government or not. If necessary, there must be sanctions created by the central government to be directed at regional governments.



Central government policy is not just policy, but must also include clear evaluation results and there must be clear goals and settings. Revitalization policy language, literature and culture with the spirit of independent learning become a benchmark or reference for regional governments throughout Indonesia, especially since all provinces throughout Indonesia already have representatives through language centers to synergize, be together, unite and collaborate with all stakeholders in each province, if These rules and policies are working effectively, I think the problem of regional language extinction in Indonesia will experience a good fate or not experience accelerated extinction. Concreting a regional language revitalization program is not an easy job, this program requires time, energy, thought, including large costs; and like it or not, the regional government must prepare funds to make the regional language revitalization program a success in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province and the Southeast Sulawesi regional government to foster and re-encourage cultural events, so that the young generation of Buton Raya can recognize their identity and true identity, that they are successors who understand and understand their customs and culture, rather than being uprooted from their own culture, (Moersidi, 1990).

It must be noted that there are 6 categories of regional language fate, namely:

- 1) It is safe if all speakers still loyally use their regional language, the younger generation and the older generation have the same enthusiasm for actively using regional languages.
- 2) Stable means that all the younger and older generations use their local language but the number of speakers is small.
- 3) Decline if the older and younger generations begin to use their regional language less.
- 4) Extinct if there are fewer speakers aged 20 years and over.
- 5) Critical if there are fewer speakers aged 40 years and over.
- 6) Extinct when there are no more speakers of the regional language.

In accordance with the explanation of the six categories of the fate of regional languages in Indonesia above, I, as a speaker of the Butonese regional language, conclude that the fate of the Butonese Wolio language is on the verge of extinction because both the younger and older generations are no longer fluent and can no longer use the Butonese Wolio language properly to communicate. in the family, with the Butonese people, what is even worse is that the mother and father speak the local Wolio Butoneese language but the children are no longer taught to use the language. Wolio Buton area, so in my opinion parents should teach their children using their mother tongue, especially in the family environment.



Strategic Role of the Regional Government

Globalization is the culprit as one of the triggers for the low number of regional language speakers in Indonesia. Meanwhile, the government in Indonesia since 2021 has been expanding or electrifying regional language revitalization programs throughout the archipelago.

In my opinion, the reverberation in society is not yet optimal because it is not managed professionally, policy makers should involve alumni of language and literature students, not just the speaking community, regional language teachers, there are also regional language teachers in the field but those teachers are not language speakers. the area, the principal too, the supervisor too, the students too.

The target of the Buton Wolio language, literature and culture revitalization policy must also be to target and strengthen the roots of language in various domains, including the family domain, the school domain, and the realm of society and communities. For example, in the Wolio family there is a young Wolio family who no longer have the loyalty of speakers of their mother tongue, namely the Wolio Buton regional language. This reality is influenced by several internal and external factors, namely intermarriage between ethnicity, profession and economy being one of the reasons, and What's even more ironic is that there are many families who intermarry within their ethnic group but their children are no longer taught their mother tongue. I also interviewed many of these when I gave courses at state universities and private universities both in Southeast Sulawesi and when I conducted research. in East Kalimantan in particular in Long Apari District, West Kutai Regency.

Wolio regional language revitalization activities, literature and culture must continue to be improved with many positive activities according to the local wisdom of the region such as writing regional short stories, singing regional songs, making speeches using regional languages, if activities like this continue to be encouraged and developed I think the current trend of extinction of regional languages, especially the Wolio Buton regional language in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province, will go well and avoid the extinction of the Wolio Buton regional language. It is extraordinary that the government's special role through the Ministry of Education and Culture is very serious about strengthening the revitalization of regional languages, hopefully in the future the target of revitalization at the

The province of Southeast Sulawesi, which consists of 17 regencies and cities, will be increasingly vibrant, and hopefully the response of the provincial, district and city



governments throughout Southeast Sulawesi will be quite responsive and more importantly, the provincial government must collaborate with the Language Office with Higher Education to allocate funds for the language revitalization program areas in Southeast Sulawesi include the Wolio language, Pancana language, Tolaki language, Moronene language, Bajo language, the language of the Tukang Besi (Wakatobi) islands, the CulamBacu language, the language Kaimbulawa, the Kolengsusu language which is spread throughout Southeast Sulawesi Province.

CONCLUSION

There are 19 regional languages in Southeast Sulawesi Province, consisting of 9 native languages of Southeast Sulawesi tribes, and 5 languages of immigrants in Southeast Sulawesi, (Southeast Sulawesi Language Office, 2021). The native languages of tribal speakers in Southeast Sulawesi are the Wolio language, the Tolaki language, the Pulo Wakatobi or ironsmith island language, the Muna (Pancana) language, the Moronene language, the Lasalimu-Kamaru language, the Kulisusu language, the Culumbatu language, the Cia-cia language. The nine native languages of the tribes in Southeast Sulawesi, the Wolio Butonese language is one of the languages in critical condition, therefore the role of the Central Government, Southeast Sulawesi Provincial Government and the role of the Baubau City Government must immediately revitalize, especially the language, literature and culture inherited from the kingdom and Buton Sultanate because they are on the verge of extinction.

The Buton Wolio language is spoken by the people of Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province, and is also spoken in Buton Regency, South Buton Regency, Central Buton Regency, and the Buton Wolio language consists of several dialects, namely the Wolio regional language, Waruruma dialect, Liabuku dialect, Busoa dialect, Pasarwajo, Kaimbulawa dialect, Tolandona dialect, Mawasangka dialect, Talaga dialect, Siompu and Kadatua. Revitalization of the Wolio Buton regional language, an effort to save an endangered language in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province, language revitalization is an effort to create new forms and functions for a language that is threatened with extinction. According to UNESCO, in the last 30 years, 200 regional languages in the world have become extinct. Every February 21, the world commemorates International Mother Language Day. Regional language revitalization efforts are not only the responsibility of the language development and development agency (Language Agency) of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (Kemendikbudristek), but regional language revitalization involves all stakeholders including the regional government of Southeast Sulawesi Province, in this case the Governor, Baubau City Government, in this case the Mayor of Baubau City,



elements of society such as traditional leaders, community leaders, speaking communities, and Traditional Institutions of the Kingdom and Sultanate of Buton as well as schools and campuses.

Regional languages in Southeast Sulawesi must continue to fulfill their role as media of communication and formation of ethnic identity, formation and development of national character, as well as unifying ethnic groups within the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Increasing the positive attitude of the people of Southeast Sulawesi so that they have awareness, pride and loyalty towards their regional language and literature, increasing discipline and exemplary regional language use and improving the quality of regional language use, the diversity of regional languages in Southeast Sulawesi must be used as harmonization and glue and knitting to realize the insight of nationalism and to Indonesia, dialogue on linguistic diversity and regional literature is needed to create synchronization and harmonization of the supporting communities, learning regional languages and literature to the community must be carried out through the introduction of folklore, proverbs, expressions, regional songs, and philosophies of life that are full of meaning and local wisdom, regional governments must follow up on central government policies regarding regional language revitalization, development, guidance and protection of languages and regional literature, regional governments must allocate funding for regional language revitalization programs, development, guidance and protection of regional languages and literature in order to strengthen regional identity, identity and culture, regional governments collaborate with universities in Southeast Sulawesi to open departments Regional Language Education in order to provide qualified and qualified human resources for potential teachers of regional languages and literature, developing local content lesson materials for the Wolio Buton regional language in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi Province by highlighting regional specific themes, including illustrations and examples. examples of folklore must be adapted to the regional context.

The revitalization of regional languages and literature must continue to be encouraged through the preparation of dictionaries, standardization of spelling, preparation of grammar books and literary inventories for the purposes of preserving and maintaining regional languages and literature. Regional governments in collaboration with universities and related institutions must inventory and preserve ancient manuscripts in the community so that they can become a source of research and education. In areas where regional languages are homogeneous, regional languages can be used as the language of instruction in low-class elementary schools and high-class elementary schools to explain lessons that are poorly understood by students. Revitalization of the Wolio Buton regional language and development of regional language and literature by



utilizing technological and information developments for the preservation, dissemination and increase of economic added value through creative industries. The preservation and development of regional literature through writing and multi-media as well as the creative economy must be balanced with strengthening the community. The revitalization of the Wolio Buton regional language and the guidance, development and protection of regional language and literature must involve mass media, both print and online.

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