

Lampungic Languages: Looking for New Evidence of the Possibility of Language Shift in Lampung and the Question of its Revers

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This paper will report on the findings of research, showing new evidence for what is happening in the Lampung language and whether it is a case of language maintenance or that of language shift. The Lampung language is spoken mainly in Lampung Province, Southern Sumatra, Indonesia. Asim Gunarwan (1994) explained that the Indonesian language is encroaching upon the Lampung language in the home domain of language use. But Gunarwan did his research in the urban areas of Lampung. Most of native speakers of the Lampung language, however, still live in outlying villages. Thus, the author explains the phenomenon of language use by native speakers of Lampung in the more remote areas, such as Ranau, Krui, Talang Padang, Jabung, Melinting and Mesir Udik, where the populations are predominantly Lampungic peoples.

This study uses the survey technique and interviews from a sociological approach and also makes use of the concept of language choice, especially of domain. Language attitudes are also used as supporting data.

In addition, this paper also discusses the question of reversing the shift occurring in the Lampung language because the Lampung language has also been identified as a language for use in local language education. This means that Lampung has been indexed as a symbol. Actually, however, Lampung province is a multi-ethnic society and therefore this question will be discussed from the perspective of multiculturalism.