

## Shifting the Use of Karo Language to Indonesian for the Karo Community in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City: Sociolinguistic Study

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### Abstract

*This study aims to describe the process of language shift and the driving factors for the shift in the use of the language. This study is a type of qualitative descriptive research. The data source for this study is in the form of excerpts from interviews with 10 informants. The data collection techniques used were observation and conversation (interview) with capture techniques, face-to-face conversation techniques and recording and note-taking techniques. The data were analyzed using a theory with a sociolinguistic approach. The results of this study indicate that there is a process of shifting the use of Karo language into Indonesian in the second generation of children of the Karo language speaking community in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City. Of the 10 informants, 2 people experienced a subordinate bilingual process ( $B1 > B2$ ), 3 people experienced equivalent bilingualism ( $B1 = B2$ ) and 5 people experienced subordinate bilingualism ( $B2 > B1$ ) and were driven by migration factors, economic and social factors as well as school and education factors.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Humans as social creatures will never be separated from the use of language as a tool for communication. Language is a tool used to express a person's ideas, aims and objectives. Each social group certainly has its own language, so to fulfill these social needs a person needs to learn other human languages for better communication purposes. Things like this usually happen in communities where there are various ethnicities that have different languages in a region. This linguistic diversity arises from people moving from one place to another. In a situation like this, of course it greatly influences the linguistic aspects of a linguistic community. As immigrants, of course you have to adapt well in terms of language when interacting with the local community. This triggers language contact in daily interactions within the same community.

This phenomenon reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity in society. In a situation like this, immigrants will be faced with two choices, namely whether they will maintain their language or they will adapt by using the language of the local community. Linguistic problems in social contexts must continue to be considered, not only by linguists but also by people who use language, including in the context of language change. Sumarsono and Partana (2002:231) state that in the reality of language, language can replace other languages, especially languages that cannot survive. Both of these situations arise as a result of language choices made collectively over the long term. Language shift refers to a situation where a community completely abandons one language to adopt another. When a shift occurs, the community collectively chooses a new language. This is the main issue in the study of language shift, namely the process of leaving the original language and adopting a new language in their social interactions.

Language shift is related to the changing use of language by a speaker or group of speakers as a result of switching from one speaking group to a different speaking group. Amar 2004 (in Mardikantoro) believes that language shift is a change that occurs over time where the native language of a speaking group will slowly disappear until it becomes extinct. This is in line with the view of Mbetse (2003:14) which states that language change begins with a reduction in its basic functions and usually occurs over a long time and slowly involves several generations. Language shifts usually occur in countries, regions or areas that provide hope for a better socio-economic life, thus inviting immigrants/transmigrants to come there. If a person or group of speaking people moves to an area where a different language is spoken and mixes with local residents, their language will change. These immigrants or groups of immigrants are forced for the purposes of communication to adapt to using the language of the local population and can even abandon their own language. In their home environment they use their first language but when communicating with other people, they cannot continue to use their own language and they slowly have to learn the language of the local people. One issue that is quite interesting in the study of language shift and maintenance is the powerlessness of immigrant minorities to maintain their native language in competition with the more dominant majority language.

The phenomenon of language shift occurred in a group of children from the Karo di community Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City caused by various factors, one of which is migration. This sub-district is the central axis of economic sector strength for Medan Selayang District. The Tanjungsari sub-district area, which is also crossed by the Sumatra highway to the city of Medan, is inhabited by many immigrants from the Karo, Simalungun, Dairi, Samosir and various other ethnic groups. A group of Karo people migrated to Tanjung Sari Village where in this area there are various tribes and languages (heterogeneous) so the environment influences their language. The language commonly used to communicate in this region is Indonesian, which is the national language as a unifying language for various ethnic groups. So slowly they have to adapt well in terms of communicating with the people in the area. This means that their mother tongue is starting to fade because children from the Karo language speaking community are starting to replace their mother tongue with Indonesian in everyday communication. As time goes by, they begin to abandon their first language (B1) and prefer the new language (L2) in the environment where they live. A group of children whose first language was Karo then moved and adapted to using Indonesian, which is the language in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City.

The following is an example of the Karo language shift that occurred in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City.

Andri and Yori are two students descended from the Karo-speaking community who have lived for a long time in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City. Previously they lived in Karo Regency, but moved to the Tanjung Sari Village area. When the two of them communicate in daily interactions, they always use Indonesian and almost never Karo. When asked why they didn't use Karo, they answered as in the conversation example below.

*Researcher* : "Are you descendants of the Karo people?"

*Andri/Yori* : "Can."

*Researcher* : "Why don't you use Karo language?"

*Yori* : "We are used to using Indonesian every day, because where we live there are several different tribes such as the Batak Toba, Simalungun, Javanese and Malay tribes. So, we use Indonesian because they don't understand our language and vice versa."

*Researcher* : "What language do you speak at home?"

Andrew : "Our parents sometimes use Karo when they speak, but when they talk to us they use Indonesian."

Based on the answers to the conversation above, it can be seen that this shift occurred due to adjustment to an environment where there was a heterogeneous environment and parents as the first generation no longer passed on their mother tongue to them so that the mother tongue began to fade and experience a shift. This language shift research has been carried out and studied previously by language researchers and students. Some of the research that became the basis for the development of this research is contained in scientific journals and the following thesis.

This language shift research has been carried out by Baldy Arezky in his thesis entitled "*Javanese Language Shifts in the Social Realm of the Study Community Case in Petajen Village, Bajubang District, Batang Hari Regency: Sociolinguistic Study*". In this research, there is a language shift in children (second generation) in terms of bilingual language (B2-B1) where mastery of the second language is more dominant than the mother tongue. As time goes by, Javanese ethnic children will enter the monolingual process (B2), namely becoming second language speakers. in Petajen Village, Bajubang District, Batang Hari Regency. This research is very relevant to the research being conducted, where the researcher took the same topic and model of applying the theory to be researched but with different research subjects. This research discusses language shifts. The difference between this research and the research conducted by the author lies in the research subject. This research focuses on the shift from Javanese to Indonesian and Jambi Malay in the Javanese ethnic community in Petajen Village, Bajubang District, Batang Hari Regency, while in the research conducted by the author it focuses on the shift from Karo language to Indonesian in a group of children from the community. , Karodi language speaker, Tanjungsari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City.

Research by Nini Ernawati in 2019 with the title "*Language Shift of the Chinese Ethnic Community in Bima*". This research aims to determine the positive and negative impacts of language shift. The positive impacts are 1) making it easier for ethnic Chinese people to communicate with people in their new living environment, 2) increasing social status; and 3) providing profits as a means of earning a living, increasing economic value. The negative impact of language shift is that it can cause their mother tongue to experience death or extinction (language death/language loss). However, the language shift that occurred in the ethnic Chinese community did not cause the extinction of the mother tongue. This research has a contribution to the research that will be carried out, namely the application of Sumarsono's (2002) theory regarding the factors driving language shift. This research explains the positive and negative impacts of language shift experienced by the ethnic Chinese community in Bima, while the research that will be carried out by the author is to find out how the language shift process works and what factors cause language shift in a group of children in the sub-district. Tanjungsari, Medan Selayang District, Medan City.

Research by Mujid F. Amin and Suyanto in 2019 with the title "*Mother Tongue Shifting and Maintaining in migrant households in Semarang City*". The results of this show that there are differences in the process of language use in households. In the communication process between husband and wife in migrant families, it is more common to use a mixture of mother tongue and Indonesian in family and other matters. Meanwhile, when communicating with children they tend to use Indonesian. This shows a trend of decreasing use of mother tongue in migrant families, which may be caused by parents' lack of awareness about passing on mother tongue to their children. On the other hand, the language that is often used is the language of the migration destination. This research discusses language shifts. The difference between this research and the research conducted

by the author is that this research explains the process of using different languages in the household, whereas this research focuses on the process of shifting the factors driving this shift.

Based on the description of the language shift phenomenon that occurred in a group of children in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City, there are questions about the process of language shift occurring in this group of children and what factors influence and encourage the language to fade over a certain period of time. So this research aims to review how the language shift process occurs and what factors drive the shift from Karo language to Indonesian among a group of children in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City. Regional languages such as the Karo language need to be protected and preserved so that they do not simply disappear because mastery of a regional language is one of a person's identities. Regional languages are also national cultural assets, so they need to be fostered and developed. In social life, it is necessary to learn various languages, but regional languages must be maintained, developed and preserved so that they do not become extinct. This phenomenon is what prompted researchers to conduct research "Shifting Karo Language into Indonesian in a Group of Children in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City".

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this research uses a qualitative descriptive approach. According to Creswell 1998 (in Eko Murdiyanto 2020) defines a qualitative approach as research and understanding process based on a methodology that investigates a social phenomenon and human problem. In this research, the observation method and skill method (interview) were used. Researchers directly observe language use by children from the Karo language speaking community, then have conversations or contact with language speakers as sources to obtain information or research data. The data source used in this research is oral data, namely oral speech from various speech events with a group of children from the Karo language speaking community in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Kota. The technique used to obtain data is in the form of a fishing rod technique. Researchers try to provoke informants to talk, which is done by direct conversation with an informant. The interview was carried out by preparing several main questions which are known as semi-structured interviews, then continued with a face-to-face technique where the researcher faced the informant directly. The last technique is the recording technique and note-taking technique. Due to the limited ability to remember all the results of the conversation or interview, recording and note-taking techniques were used to capture relevant matters in collecting the data. Research records all data or information needed for research materials (Sudaryanto, 1993:137-139). Data were analyzed using the matching method, with comparative techniques. The matching method is a method used to determine the identity of a particular language outside of a language that is not part of the language concerned (Sudaryanto, 2015). The data presentation that will be carried out in this research uses informal presentation, where this method is carried out using ordinary words even though the use of technical terminology is used.

## 2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Research Results

The results of the research show that there has been a shift from Karo language to Indonesian among a group of children from the Karo language speaking community in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City. This language shift can be seen in the use of language by children from Karo-speaking communities, where these children no longer use Karo (B1) but prefer to use Indonesian (B2) when

communicating in everyday life in their environment. This shift in the use of the Karo language occurred through stages and factors that influenced it.

### **2.1. 1 Process of Shifting the Use of Karo Language to Indonesian for a Group of Children in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City**

In this research, it can be seen that the process of language shift in the Karo community who moved to Tanjung Sari Village, especially in a group of children from the Karo language speaking community, is in accordance with the pattern stated by Fishman which occurs in several stages, namely monolingual (B1), subordinate bilingual (B1>B2), equivalent bilingual (B1=B2), subordinate bilingual (B2>B1) and monolingual (B2).

#### **3.1.1.1 Lower Bilingual (B1>B2)**

Subordinate bilingual (B1>B2) is the ability to use two languages (mastering the first language and the second language but the use of the first language is more dominant).

#### **Data (1)**

*Researcher* : “How long have you lived in Tanjung Sari Village?”

*Informant* : “Not too long ago, still around three years.”

*Researcher* : “What language do you use when communicating with your family at home?”

*Informant* : “Karo language.”

*Researcher* : “What language do you use when communicating with people in the Tanjung Sari neighborhood?”

*Informant* : “Karo language and Indonesian.”

*Researcher* : “So which language is used more often in everyday life?”

*Informant* : “At home we use Karo, but when we meet other people outside, we sometimes use Indonesian.”

In the conversation above, the informant is a Karo speaking child who migrated to Tanjung Sari Village. From the data from the conversation, the informant uses two languages, namely Karo and Indonesian when communicating in the surrounding environment. When the informant was asked what language, he used when communicating at home, the informant answered that he still used Karo and when asked again what language he used when communicating with people in the environment where he had migrated, the informant answered Karo and Indonesian. Then when asked which language was used more often, the informant answered that at home he used Karo and when he went outside, he sometimes used Indonesian. From this speech, it can be seen that children who speak Karo language use Karo language more often compared to Indonesian which is only used at certain times. This means that the use of the mother tongue (L1) still dominates even though the second language (B2) has been used. So, it is said that the child is subordinate bilingual (B1>B2).

#### **3.1.1.2 Bilingual Setara (B1=B2)**

Bilingual equivalent (B1=B2) is the ability to use two languages (mastering the first and second languages and mastery of both languages is equivalent).

#### **Data (2)**

- Researcher : "What language do you use when talking to people in the Tanjung Sari neighborhood?"
- Informant : "Indonesian and Karo."
- Researcher : "Why use Indonesian and Karo?"
- Informant : "Because here there are also Karo people who speak Karo, so I use Karo and for other people who don't speak Karo, I speak Indonesian."
- Researcher : "So what language is used at home?"
- Informant : "Sometimes it's Indonesian, sometimes it's Karo."

From the interview excerpt above, it shows that the informant masters both languages in his environment. This can be seen from the informant's speech where when asked about the language used in the surrounding environment, the informant said that the informant used Indonesian and Karo. Then when asked why he used these two languages, the informant answered as in the statement above, that in his environment there were people who still used Karo, the informant also said that when talking to people who could not use Karo, the informant usually use Indonesian. From this explanation it can be seen that the informant masters Karo (B1) and Indonesian (B2) and uses both languages. This means that the informant chooses the language according to what language the other person uses when communicating. So, it says that the child is equivalently bilingual (B1=B2).

### 3.1.1.3 Bilingual Subordinate (B2>B1)

Subordinate bilingual (B2>B1) is the ability to use two languages (mastering the first language and the second language but the use of the second language is more dominant).

#### Data (3)

- Researcher : "What language do you speak?"
- Informant : "Indonesian and Karo."
- Researcher : "So what language do you use when communicating with your parents at home?"
- Informant : "Indonesian."
- Researcher : "Why only use Indonesian?"
- Informant : "Because our parents speak Indonesian at home, our neighbors are also used to communicating in Indonesian."
- Researcher : "What language do you use when communicating with people in your surrounding environment?"
- Informant : "Indonesian"

In the conversation above, according to the interview excerpt with the informant, it can be seen that the informant masters two languages, namely Karo (B1) and Indonesian (B2), but the informant more often uses the second language when communicating in his environment. This shows that the first language has begun to be replaced by the second language. When the informant was asked what language was used at home, the informant answered using Indonesian and when asked the reason why they only used that language, it could be seen from the informant's answer that their parents were also used to them using Indonesian. This means that parents no longer accustom their children to communicate using their first language, Karo, so that children are not used to it and no longer use this language when communicating.

### 3.1.2 Factor The driving force behind the shift in the use of Karo language to Indonesian among a group of children in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City

Based on the results of observations and interviews conducted by researchers in accordance with the theory of factors driving language shift proposed by (Sumarsono and Partana, 2002), it was found that there were factors driving language shift in the Karo community, especially in a group of children from the Karo language speaking community who migrated to Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City. The driving factors are as follows.

#### 3.1.2.1 Migration Factors

Migration or population movement carried out by a small portion of the Karo language speaking community causes them to have to adapt to their destination. After they moved from Karo Regency to Tanjung Sari Village, initially they still used their first language, namely Karo, with their fellow Karo speakers, but as time went by there was a mixture of languages when there was interaction with the people at the migration destination where they There is a heterogeneous society. This also triggers them to adapt to their environment both in communicating according to the language commonly used in that place.

#### Data (4)

- Researcher* : "What language do you use when communicating with your family at home?"
- Informant* : "Sometimes I use Karo language too use Indonesian."
- Researcher* : "What language do you use when communicating with the people in your neighborhood?"
- Informant* : "Indonesian."
- Researcher* : "Why use that language?"
- Informant* : "Because the Karo language is our regional language, so we still use it occasionally like at home, but if we use Indonesian after we live here because around this environment there are also more people use a lot of Indonesian."

In the interview excerpt above, when asked what language is used at home and in the environment where he lives, the informant said that the informant uses Karo and Indonesian. The reason the informants use these two languages is because Karo is their native language so they still use it when communicating at home. Then, when asked about the language used when communicating with people in the surrounding area, the informant explained again that they used Indonesian after they lived in Tanjung Sari Village because in this area the language used by the local people was Indonesian. This means that the informant adapts and follows the local community using Indonesian after living with that community.

### 3.1.2.2 Economic and Social Factors

One of the factors that also drives language shift among children from Karo-speaking communities in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City is economic and social factors.

#### Data (5)

- Researcher : *"What language do you use when communicating with people in your environment?"*
- Informant : *"Indonesian."*
- Researcher : *"What language do you use when communicating with people at work?"*
- Informant : *"Indonesian."*
- Researcher : *"Why use that language?"*
- Informant : *"As someone who sells, I work using Indonesian because I don't know what ethnicity the buyers come from. So to make it easier to communicate with people, I use Indonesian."*

Based on the results of the interview above, children from Karo-speaking communities are accustomed to using a second language, namely Indonesian, when communicating because they adapt to the work environment. In the conversation above, when asked what language is used when communicating with people in the surrounding environment and when working, the informant said that the informant chose to use Indonesian because his job as a salesperson is used to using Indonesian to facilitate social communication. This aims to facilitate the communication process with the work environment and with other communities, so that the use of their mother tongue, namely Karo, is slowly no longer used. This shows that the use of Indonesian has replaced the use of mother tongue among children from Karo-speaking communities in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City.

### 3.1.2.3 School and Education Factors

Educational factors play a very important role in the process of language shift, where schools generally teach or use Indonesian when communicating in the school environment and it is also the national/official language so they have to use that language which causes school children to become bilingual. Like children from the Karo language speaking community who experience a language shift process, due to the influence of school factors. Because in the school environment they are accustomed to using Indonesian, in the end children of Karo language speakers choose to use Indonesian when communicating outside of school or in the community.

#### Data (6)

- Researcher : *"What language do you use when communicating on school environment?"*
- Informant : *"Indonesian."*
- Researcher : *"Why only use that language?"*
- Informant : *"Because at school we usually use language  
"Indonesia during the teaching and learning process and when talking with other teachers and students, I am already used to using Indonesian."*

In the results of interviews with children from the Karo language speaking community, when asked what language the informant used when in the school environment, the informant said as stated above that schools usually teach to use Indonesian and also when talking to teachers and other



students. use Indonesian, so you are already familiar with Indonesian. This has a big impact on the shift in the use of a language because people get used to using the second language and eventually the use of the first language starts to fade and is rarely used.

## 3.2 Discussion

### 3.2.1 Language Shift Process

Based on research conducted, data obtained from interviews with Karo-speaking children showed that the use of Indonesian has shifted the use of Karo among children from Karo-speaking communities who migrated (population movement) from Karo Regency to Tanjung Sari Village, Medan District Selayang, Medan City.

The Karo-speaking people who moved to Tanjung Sari Village were parents who were referred to as the first generation and children as the second generation who moved with their parents. Previously they used Karo as their first language (B1) and after moving they switched to using Indonesian. (B2), then this shift occurs in the second generation of children. The Tanjung Sari Village area, Medan Selayang District, Medan City is a heterogeneous area, so when migration occurs in this environment there will of course be cultural and social assimilation which influences the behavior and linguistic aspects of people who come from outside the area. At first, they still used their first language when communicating among Karo speakers, then as time went by, they began to merge with the local community so that interactions occurred which led to language contact with the language commonly used in Tanjung Sari Village, namely Indonesian.

The pattern of language shift that occurs in children from Karo-speaking communities is in line with the pattern of language shift discovered by Fishman (Chaer and Agustina 2010:144). Initially, when people had just migrated, their language was still unknown *monolingual* use one language, namely their mother tongue. Then they begin to experience the pattern of being bilingual *subordinates* (B1>B2) where in this pattern the language community has mastered two languages (bilingualism) but the use of the first language still dominates in every speech event. Then, after adapting to the environment for some time, the linguistic community begins to enter the process of language shift in the second stage, namely *bilingual equivalent* (B1=B2), in this process the use of the first and second languages is equivalent. Then, after a long period of time, the language community experienced the third stage, namely *subordinate bilinguals* (B2>B1). At this stage the language community uses two languages but the use of the second language dominates. Until finally the language community experienced it again *monolingual*, but at this stage they master one language, but the language they master is the second language, namely the language at the migration destination.

The first stage of the language shift process in children from the Karo language speaking community which occurs in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City is the stage *subordinate bilinguals* (B1-B2), at this stage, children of Karo-speaking communities use Karo and Indonesian when communicating at home and in the surrounding environment, but the use of mother tongue is still more frequent than Indonesian because their parents and several communities in the environment have Karo and still use the Karo language. In an excerpt from an interview with a child who speaks Karo, when asked what language they use when communicating at home and in the

surrounding environment, the child answered that at home they still use Karo and in their environment they use two languages, namely Karo and Indonesian, but the most frequently used is Karo language while Indonesian is used by certain people. This shows that children who speak Karo language still choose language when communicating.

As time goes by, Karo language speaking children become more and more integrated into their surrounding environment, finally starting to experience the second phase of the shift process, namely *bilingual equivalent* (B1=B2), at this stage it occurs in children of the Karo language speaking community who have long migrated to Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City. They also use two languages when communicating, namely Karo and Indonesian. Children from Karo-speaking communities are increasingly following the local community in communicating using Indonesian, although the use of Indonesian and Karo is still balanced. Based on the results of interviews with children who speak Karo, when asked what language they mastered, the child said they mastered both languages, namely Karo and Indonesian. Furthermore, when asked what language was used during communication interactions at home or in the environment where they lived, the Karo-speaking child said that at home he sometimes used Karo but also Indonesian. Furthermore, when asked about the language used in their surroundings, the child said that they used Karo or Indonesian depending on the person they were talking to. This means that when the interlocutor uses Karo language, the child also uses Karo language, and vice versa, when the interlocutor uses Indonesian, the child replies using Indonesian. This shows that children who speak Karo language also choose the language they are talking to and use the two languages equally.

Furthermore, after living and settling for a long period of time in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City, children from the Karo language speaking community enter the shift process at the third stage, namely the *subordinate bilinguals* (B2>B1). At the in35hi stage, children from Karo-speaking communities use two languages, namely Karo and Indonesian, but prefer to use Indonesian compared to Karo when there are communication interactions both at home and with people in the surrounding environment. In an excerpt from an interview with children from the Karo language speaking community in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City, it shows that the use of Karo language is very rare, where when asked what language is used at home when communicating with family and also with the surrounding community. children from the Karo language speaking community said that at home they were used to using Indonesian. This shows that parents as the first generation are lacking in maintaining their first language because they no longer get used to it at home, and finally outside the home they prefer to use their second language.

The discussion regarding the shift from Karo language to Indonesian for the Karo community in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City, especially for a group of children from the Karo language speaking community, is in line with the opinion of Chaer and Agustina (2010: 142) who say that language shift (*language shift*) concerns the problem of language use by a speaker or a group of speakers which can occur as a result of movement from one speech community to another. There are several characteristics/signs of language shift in an area, namely;

1. The movement of one language (L2, new language, dominant language) into a

realm that uses another language (Sumarsono, 2012:279).

It can be seen that children from Karo-speaking communities have abandoned the use of their mother tongue, namely Karo. The use of the Karo language by the second generation of children from the Karo language speaking community has been replaced by the use of a second language, namely Indonesian, as the dominant language used in the Tanjung Sari Village. Therefore, the use of the Karo language has been replaced by Indonesian in the second generation of children from the Karo-speaking community in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City.

2. The number of older speakers is greater than the number of young speakers who use their mother tongue in the same area (Sumarsono, 2012:233).

In this study, children from Karo-speaking communities as young speakers are already using Indonesian more due to various environmental factors and also the language used in the area is predominantly Indonesian, although there are still some children who still use Karo. So, it can be said that the number of parents as older speakers uses their mother tongue (Karo) more than children as young speakers.

### 3.2.2 Driving Factors for Language Shift

Based on the results of the research above, the phenomenon of language shift from Karo language to Indonesian, especially among a group of children from the Karo language speaking community in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City is caused by several driving factors. One of the most basic things is the bilingualism of society, but there are also many things that encourage this shift to occur

The factors driving the language shift in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City are migration factors, economic and social factors as well as school and education factors.

The first factor is the migration factor which is one of the factors that has a very big impact on language shift. The migration of the Karo community from Karo Regency is in accordance with the number of informants including 3 people from the Tanjung Barus Village area, Barus Jahe District, 2 people from the Sukandebi Village area, Namanteran District, 1 person from the Bulan Jahe Village area, Barus Jahe District, 3 people from the Village area Beganding, Simpang Empat District, 1 person from the Manuk Mulia area of Beganding Village, Simpang Empat District who initially used Karo as their first language (B1), but after moving to Tanjung Sari Village, they were forced to learn and use a second language, namely Indonesian ( B2) which is in that place. This phenomenon will greatly influence the use of language as a communication tool in social interaction.

The use of different languages in two mixed areas certainly makes communication difficult to understand when social interactions occur in their environment, therefore as immigrant communities usually adapt by using the language in their new place of residence and begin to abandon their native language or regional language. for good communication purposes. Thus, Karo-speaking communities who migrate to heterogeneous areas will slowly blend into the local community both in terms of communication and the use of their native language will begin to fade.

Economic and social factors are also complementary factors in the occurrence of a language shift, where in a region or area where there is a more decent social and economic life, of course it attracts immigrants or transmigrants to migrate there. When someone moves to a new area with greater economic opportunities, they of course have to interact with the residents of the new area. In this process, if the immigrant community does not learn to use the new regional language, then they will have difficulty in the process of social interaction, like it or not they have to also learn the local language, in this process the language shift begins, if the immigrant community cannot maintain their original language, then gradually the language changes. its origin will be displaced by the local language which is continuously used in the process of social interaction. This phenomenon occurs in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City, where this area is a heterogeneous area.

Then the third factor which is also very influential in language shift is the school and education factor. Schools and education usually use the language of instruction in teaching. Official languages or formal languages are used as the language of instruction in schools and other educational fields. In the world of education, it is required to use good and correct Indonesian so that every child can understand what the teacher is saying. This results in children from the Karo language speaking community becoming bilingual, that is, apart from mastering their mother tongue, the child also masters a second language (Indonesian) which is obtained from the school and education process, so that in the end there are children from the Karo language speaking community who use it more often. Indonesian and are accustomed to using this language in the surrounding environment when communicating on a daily basis.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The conclusions from this research are:

- 1) The shift from Karo language to Indonesian for the Karo community, especially among a group of children in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City, occurred among second generation children. Based on the research results, of the number of informants was determined, namely 10 informants from children from the Karo language speaking community, 2 of whom were subordinate bilingual ( $B1 > B2$ ), namely mastering the first and second languages but the use of the first language still dominated. This happened to a group of children who had been migrating to Tanjung Sari Village for several years. Then 3 people experienced equivalent bilingualism ( $B1 = B2$ ), namely mastering the first and second languages and the use of both languages was equivalent, which happened to a group of children who had long migrated to Tanjung Sari Village. Furthermore, there were 5 informants who were subordinate bilingual ( $B2 > B1$ ), namely mastering Karo and Indonesian, but the use of the second language dominated. This is what happened to a group of children who had migrated for quite a long time in Tanjung Sari Village. As time goes by, the language chosen by children from the Karo language speaking community is a second language, namely Indonesian.
- 2) The factors driving the language shift from Karo to Indonesian among a group of children in Tanjung Sari Village, Medan Selayang District, Medan City, are:
  1. migration factor
  2. economic and social factors, as well
  3. school and education factors.

## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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