

## **BUGIS LANGUAGE: VITALITY AND REVITALIZATION IN BALIKPAPAN**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research was conducted in Mekar Sari Village, Balikpapan Tengah District, Balikpapan City, East Borneo. The purpose of this study was to determine and map the vitality level of the Bugis language in Mekar Sari Village and to analyse efforts to revitalize the Bugis language in Mekar Sari Village. Bugis language is one of the most used languages in Balikpapan, because there are many immigrants from other island living in Balikpapan. This research use geosociolinguistic's approach. The data was collected through interviews with 21 informants who were divided into groups of children, young, and adults, observation, and document analysis. Data analysis using domain analysis, taxonomy, componential and cultural themes. It was found that the vitality level of the Bugis language in the Mekar Sari Village, Central Balikpapan was at a severely endangered level, which means that the Bugis speakers in the Mekar Sari Village consisted of the adult age group and were found only in a few domains. Based on the regional distribution, it was found that the majority of the Bugis language was spread in neighbourhood association 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 14 and 27. The revitalization efforts found were in non-formal forms for the young and adult category, in the form of community associations. In the children category, revitalization efforts were found in games.

***Keywords: Balikpapan, Bugis language, language revitalization, language vitality***

### **INTRODUCTION**

Balikpapan is a city with a multicultural society where various tribes can be found in Balikpapan City. This is due to the transmigration of residents from outside the island to live in Balikpapan. The original inhabitants of the East Kalimantan region are the Kutai or Dayak tribes, but continuous transmigration in large numbers has made the city of Balikpapan a city with various migrants from all over Indonesia, one of whom is migrants from the island of Sulawesi. This population movement also caused a change in the culture of the people of Balikpapan, including language. The majority of migrants from the Sulawesi region use the Bugis language to communicate with their relatives, but to facilitate daily interactions with people from other regions, they adapt to communicating using the Indonesian language.

The habit of using the Indonesian language is slowly displacing the existence of the Bugis language. Immigrants who have lived for a long time are getting used to using Indonesian and do not pass on the Bugis language to the generations below them. The existence of the Bugis language is increasingly threatened due to the small number of speakers. To overcome this, it is necessary to make efforts to revitalize the Bugis language in order to maintain the existence of the Bugis language.

Language revitalization can be interpreted as an effort to revive vitality and efforts to revive languages that are considered to be almost extinct or endangered (Muhammad & Manilet, 2020). Language revitalization refers to developing programs that result in reshaping a language that is no longer the language of communication in speech communities and bringing it back to

full use in life, such as Hebrew. Language revitalization can also be interpreted as the loss of a language, as found in Ireland or Najavo. Both of these languages are still used by children in daily conversations but both of them no longer have a foothold. Hinton classifies 5 categories in the language revitalization approach, namely, (1) language programs at school, (2) language programs for children outside of school such as extracurricular activities, (3) language programs for adults, (4) documentation, and (5) home based program. (Hinton and Kale, 2013). Efforts to revitalize the language in Balikpapan City are not carried out to eliminate the existence of Indonesian as the language of everyday communication. The revitalization of the Bugis language is carried out to maintain the vitality of the Bugis language in Balikpapan City so that Balikpapan City remains a multicultural city.

In carrying out revitalization efforts it is necessary to know the vitality level of the Bugis language in Balikpapan first. Language vitality can be interpreted as the existence of a language and the intensity of its use in various social contexts (Aninsdyatri & Mufidah, 2020). There are various indicators in determining the level of language vitality. UNESCO formulates 9 indicators that can show the level of language vitality, namely language transmission, number of speakers, ratio of speakers to population, domain of language use, response to new domains and media, linguistic and literary education materials, government policies and related agencies, attitudes of the speaking community, and quality of language documentation (UNESCO, 2013). 6 indicators are used to evaluate the level of language vulnerability, 2 indicators are used to determine language attitudes, and one indicator is used to evaluate the urgency of language documentation. The language vitality indicator initiated by UNESCO aims to determine the level of language vitality which is divided into 6 categories; (1) Safe, (2) Unsafe, (3) Definitely Endangered, (4) Severely Endangered, (5) (Severe) Critically Endangered, and (6) Extinct (Extinct).

Research related to language vitality can be found in several previous articles (Inayatushalihah, 2018; De Cia, 2021; Aritonang, 2016; Wibowo, 2016; Labrada, 2017, Masfufah and Yessi, 2020, Wagiati et al, 2017; Wahyuni, 2021). As for research related to language revitalization (Sartini, 2014; Muhammad & Manilet, 2020; Istimurti, 2013; Asyhar, 2020; Gloriani, 2017; Sudarmanto, 2020; Hwia, 2017). In previous studies, the vitality and revitalization of language was studied for revitalization in general. Previous studies have not integrated mapping, vitality levels, and language revitalization efforts in one study. Previous research has not divided language revitalization efforts based on age ranges. In fact, the revitalization process differs from one age group to another. This study aims to determine and map the vitality level of the Bugis language in Mekar Sari Village and to analyse efforts to revitalize the Bugis language in Mekar Sari Village based on age category.

## **METHOD**

This type of research is descriptive qualitative using a geosociolinguistic approach. This research is included in qualitative research because this research is a naturalistic field study that examines the level of language vitality and language revitalization efforts in Mekar Sari Village, Central Balikpapan District (Alwasilah, 2011). The geolinguistic approach is used to map the presence of languages according to region. The sociolinguistic approach is used to describe social linguistic phenomena that affect the vitality and efforts to revitalize the Bugis language.

The location of this research is limited to Mekar Sari Village, Central Balikpapan District, Balikpapan City. In the Mekar Sari area there is an alley called Karang Bugis. This shows that the Bugis community is quite dominating in the Mekar Sari area. The following is a map of the Mekar Sari Village area, Central Balikpapan District.

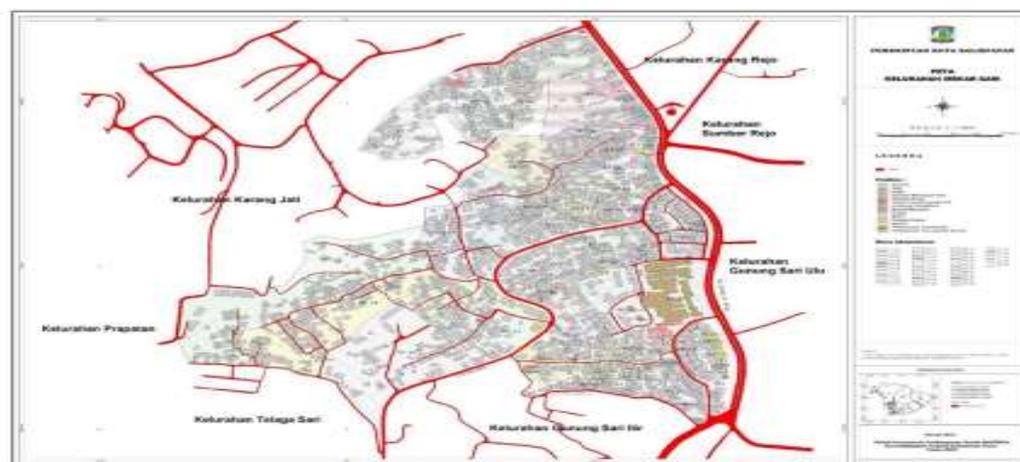


Figure 1. Map of Mekar Sari Village

### **Respondents of the Research**

In this study, the research respondents were divided into two types, respondents for Bugis language vitality and respondents for Bugis language revitalization. Criteria set for 21 language vitality respondents; (1) Residents of Mekar Sari Village, (2) Coming from Bugis ethnicity, (3) Male or female and (4) Being at the age level of children (9-16 years), teenagers (17-25 years), and adults (25-50 years). The criteria set by respondents were language revitalization; (1) Officials in the Mekar Sari Exit area and (2) Officials at the East Kalimantan Language Center.

### **Research Variables**

Variables in this study were collected through interviews, observation, and document analysis. The variable is based on 9 criteria of language vitality according to UNESCO; (1) language transmission, (2) number of speakers, (3) comparison of speakers with population, (4) domains of language use, (5) responses to new domains and media, (6) linguistic and literary education materials, (7) government policies and related agencies, (8) the attitude of the speaking community, and (9) the quality of language documentation (UNESCO, 2013). Interview results, observation results, and the number of Bugis speakers are the data in this study.

### **Instruments**

The research instrument for interviews was prepared using an interview guide consisting of 32 questions. 8 questions related to language transmission, 8 questions related to language use, 8 questions related to new media, and 8 questions regarding language attitudes. The level of language vitality is determined based on the fulfilled components of the nine indicators of language vitality according to UNESCO. To determine the level of language vitality, the following limits are set for fulfilling the language vitality indicator.

- 0 indicators: extinct
- 1-2 indicators: critically endangered
- 3-4 indicators: severely endangered
- 5-6 indicators: definitively endangered
- 7-8 indicators: unsafe
- 9 indicators: safe

The level of language vitality is illustrated in a colour map according to the distribution of

Javanese and Bugis language vitality in each RT in Mekar Sari Village. The following are the provisions for colouring the vitality level maps of the Javanese and Bugis languages in the Mekar Sari Village.

- : extinct
- : critically endangered
- : severely endangered
- : definitively endangered
- : unsafe
- : safe

### **Data Analysis Techniques**

Data analysis techniques consist of domain analysis, taxonomic analysis, componential analysis and analysis of cultural themes (Santosa, 2021). The domain referred to in linguistic research refers to the context that influences the data. Domain classification must be based on related theory to determine the basis of research. Taxonomic analysis is used to reduce data into sub-categories based on scientific categories of object reality. Componential analysis is an analysis that connects between components or aspects, namely those contained in domain and taxonomy analysis. Analysis of cultural themes is a complex analysis to look for theories with more detailed explanations based on relationship patterns, contexts, theories, and results of previous research (Santosa, 2021).

### **RESULTS**

Based on the research conducted, it is known that the level of vitality and efforts to revitalize the Bugis language in Mekar Sari Village, Central Balikpapan District.

#### **Vitality Bugis Language in Mekar Sari**

Table 1. Componential Analysis of Buginese Language Vitality in Mekar Sari Village

Society	Age	Indicator of Language Vitality																		Level of Vitality						
		LT	AS	RSP			LD			ND			MP		GP		AC		QD		S	US	DE	SE	CE	E
				MA	MI	T	SD	R	N	F	W	S	MC	O	T	MD	TD	P	N	CT	RA	9	8/7	6/5	4/3	2/1
Society of Bugis	C		<50		√								√			√			√						√	
	Y	√	<100		√		√				√		√			√			√			√				
	A	√	>100	√		√	√			√	√		√	√		√			√		√					

#### **The Vitality of the Bugis Language for Children in Mekar Sari**

The table above shows that the vitality of language in the children's age category is at a critical endangered level. This is influenced by 9 indicators of language vitality. In the indicator of language transmission, there is no language transmission in children. Children aged 9-16 years in the Mekar Sari Subdistrict use Indonesian rather than Bugis. Children aged 9-16 years are not taught Bugis either at home or in their neighbours. Parents often use Indonesian rather than Bugis to communicate with their children at home. This causes the process of transmitting language to children does not work. Some children are able to speak Bugis only in certain words.

In terms of the number of speakers, Bugis language speakers among children do not reach 100, so the comparison of the number of speakers is in the minority group. In the domain of language use, there was no use of Bugis language by children. In the domain of

new media in the school environment, children do not use Bugis language. Teachers at school also do not teach Bugis language, this is in accordance with the absence of Bugis language teaching media in schools located in Mekar Sari Village.

The attitude of the children regarding the use of the Bugis language tends to be positive. Children are still interested in learning the Bugis language and appreciate the Bugis language. However, some children think that the Bugis language is difficult to pronounce and learn, so they are reluctant to learn Bugis.

### **The Vitality of the Bugis Language for Young in Mekar Sari**

In the adolescent age category, the vitality level of the Bugis language is at a vulnerable level. Language transmission is still found in the 17–25 year age category. There are still parents who use the Bugis language to their children. However, teenagers tend to speak Bugis passively. The adolescent age category can understand Bugis language but is limited to simple words or sentences. Some teenagers also speak fluent Bugis because of the smooth transmission process in the family and environment, but only in small numbers. Based on the number, Bugis language speakers in the adolescent age category are not found so that they are included in the minority group.

In domain of language use, the use of Bugis language in the adolescent category is found in the domain of solidarity and family. When gathering with extended family or at weddings, communication is still found using the Bugis language.

### **The Vitality of the Bugis Language for Adult in Mekar Sari**

The level of vitality of the Bugis language in adulthood is at the highest level when compared to the other two categories. The adult age category obtains a level of vitality that is quite vulnerable. The use of the Bugis language among people over the age of 25 is still common. In the adult age category, there are still many uses of the Bugis language when communicating with parents, however, this transmission does not continue to the next generation. The number of Bugis speakers in the adult age category is still in the majority group. Because Bugis speakers in the Mekar Sari Village are dominated by the adult age group.

In the domain of language use, adult categories of Bugis language use were found in the transactional, solidarity, neighbour, and family domains. One example of the use of the Bugis language in the transactional domain is in a shop located at RT 7 Mekar Sari Village. The vegetable seller at the stall is from the Bugis tribe. He communicates using the Bugis language with buyers from the surrounding environment. If the buyer does not come from the surrounding environment, he uses Indonesian but still inserts a bit of Bugis language. In the domain of intimacy and neighbourliness, the use of Bugis language is found between communities. In the familial domain, the Bugis language is found when gathering with extended family or when families from Sulawesi come. On family occasions such as weddings, the adult age category also still uses the Bugis language for communication.

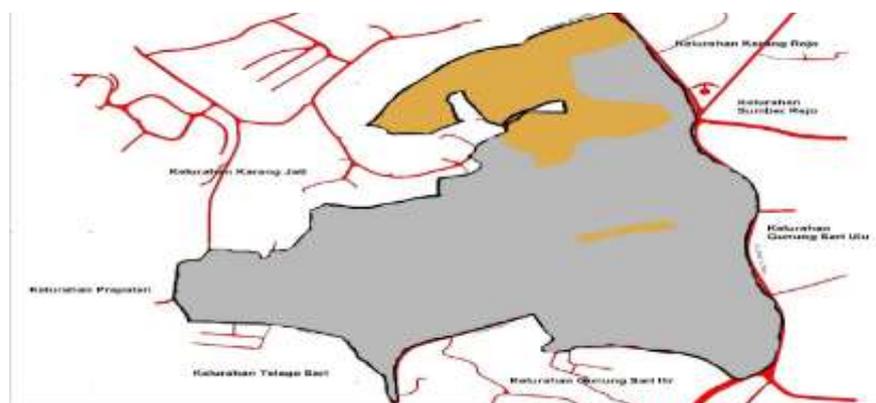
In the new domain, the use of Bugis language in the adult age category was found in the work environment. The work environment found was a motorcycle taxi base located in the Karang Bugis alley, Mekar Sari Village. Karang Bugis is an area where there are Bugis people in the Mekar Sari Village. At the ojek base, there were adults who still used the Bugis language to communicate. The use of the Bugis language among motorcycle taxi drivers who both come from the Bugis tribe.

## **Government Policy on the Vitality of the Bugis Language in Mekar Sari**

Bugis language is one of the languages originating from outside the region or it can be said that it is the language of nomads in the City of Balikpapan, East Kalimantan. The East Kalimantan Language Office has policies that support increasing the vitality of language in community empowerment, home-based programs, and teaching to children. Community empowerment is an effort to increase the vitality of language by using local communities. The existence of this community allows people to interact using the local language. The target community is for teenagers and adults. Home-based programs are programs with home monitoring that use local languages as the language of daily communication. The house is monitored and used as an example so that it can transmit the use of regional languages to the surrounding environment. The target of the home-based program covers all age categories, including children, youth and adults. Teaching to children has two models namely formal and non-formal. Formally, namely by inserting it into learning material at school and informally by teaching outside school learning. The government still does not have a policy regarding the procurement of local content. The local content of regional languages in East Kalimantan has been included in the planning.

### **Map of the Vitality Level of the Bugis Language in Mekar Sari**

Based on the description of 9 indicators of language vitality based on age category, it is known that overall, the vitality of the Bugis language in Mekar Sari Village is at a very vulnerable level. The following is a mapping of the vitality level of the Bugis language in the Mekar Sari Village.



Picture. 2 Map of the Vitality Level of the Bugis Language in the Mekar Sari

The orange colour on the mapping indicates that the Bugis language in Mekar Sari Village is at a severely endangered level. Wara Jingga covers the areas of RT 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 14 and 27. These areas are areas with a majority of Bugis people so the colouring in the mapping only focuses on these areas. The orange-coloured area does not indicate that the only people living in that area are the Bugis people. There are also people from other tribes. The grey colouring is the area inhabited by people from other tribes or areas with mixed tribes. Areas in grey do not indicate that there are no Bugis people in that area. Bugis people are also found in the grey area but not as the majority of the population, one of which is in RT25. The RT 1,2,3 and 4 areas are located in the Karang Bugis alley. RT 6 and 7 are areas that are located in Selamat alley. The two areas are interconnected so that the Bugis community still dominates in the area with the orange colour.

## Revitalization of Bugis Language in Mekar Sari

Table 2. Componential Analysis of Revitalization in Mekar Sari

Society	Age	Level of Vitality						Revitalization	
		S	US	DE	SE	CE	E	F	NF
Society of Bugis Language	C					√			√
	Y			√					√
	A		√						√

Based on the level of vitality of the Bugis language in the Mekar Sari sub-district, which is at a severely endangered level, it is necessary to revitalize the language to maintain the existence of the Bugis language in the Mekar Sari sub-district, Balikpapan. Efforts to revitalize Bugis language were found in the adolescent and adult age categories. Efforts to revitalize the Bugis language in the adult age category are not carried out formally in the form of learning, but in non-formal forms. Efforts to revitalize the Bugis language in the adult age category are found in communities originating from the Bugis ethnic group. The community is KKSS. KKSS is a community organization originating from the South Sulawesi region. The association held a meeting to stay in touch among its members. In their meetings, it is not uncommon for people to communicate using their local language. The presence of a community like this perpetuates the vitality of the Bugis language among the people. If one looks at the relationship between the level of vitality and efforts to revitalize the Bugis language, it can be seen that one of the reasons for the continuity of the Bugis language among adults is this effort. With community meetings, the vitality level of the Bugis language in the adult category is quite vulnerable.

In the category of children there is no revitalization effort in a formal form as learning at school. Schools in Balikpapan do not have local language subjects as local content. The local content lesson for students in Balikpapan is PKN (Citizenship Education). Students ranging from kindergarten to high school equivalent do not receive local language lessons at school, neither the regional language of origin nor the regional languages of Kalimantan such as Dayak or Paser. The East Kalimantan Language Office has initiated the procurement of regional language local content. Procurement of regional language local content will adjust to language conditions in the districts or cities in the province of East Kalimantan. Revitalization efforts at the child level in non-formal forms are found in games, namely in the mention of *latto-latto* games. *Latto-latto* in the Bugis language means the sound that is emitted when two balls collide. Revitalization efforts like this can be developed to attract children's interest in learning the Bugis language.

## DISCUSSION

Language vitality and revitalization efforts have a relationship. Language revitalization can only be done if the vitality of the language is at a level other than safe. The vitality of the Bugis language in Mekar Sari Village, Balikpapan is at a very vulnerable level, so it requires revitalization efforts. The level of language is very vulnerable indicating that the language is no longer used by the younger generation and children (Wibowo, 2016). Few Bugis speakers in

their teens and children are caused by the absence of language transmission. Some of the reasons for the absence of language transmission in children are: (1) Parents come from different tribes, so they often communicate using Indonesian at home, (2) Parents feel Indonesian is at home with the aim that children will not have difficulties while at school, and (3) The living environment is a multicultural environment, so that more interactions use Indonesian. Based on this, it can be seen that language revitalization efforts are not only carried out by the local government but also require the role of the environment and society. There are several things that can be done, namely with the habituation of communication using the Bugis language at home. This is in line with what was conveyed by Hinton and Kale regarding home-based programs (Hinton & Kale, 2013).

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that the vitality level of the Bugis language in the Mekar Sari Village in the child category is at a critical level. In the category of adolescents are at a vulnerable level. In the adult category, they are at a severely endangered level. In the mapping of the vitality level of the Bugis language in Mekar Sari Village, it is marked in orange which indicates a very vulnerable condition. The orange-coloured areas cover RT 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 14, and 27. The revitalization efforts found were in non-formal forms at the age level of children, adolescents and adults.

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