

SOCIOLINGUISTIC RESEARCH ON INDONESIAN AND MALAY IN THE SOVIET UNION

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The present sociolinguistic study has been carried out by a group of scholars in the Soviet Union following on the research begun in 1920-1930 and brought about by the need to analyse a number of practical problems in the language field.

As is known, the Soviet Union is a multinational country with 130 peoples each with different languages. Because of this, the ethnolinguistic situation in the Soviet Union is similar to the situation in various Asian and Pacific countries such as the Philippines and Indonesia.

During the years 1920-1930 a group of Soviet linguists accomplished practical work in a wide field, and created writing systems for languages which up till then had only been spoken, the dialect basis for these languages and the conditions of their further development. In those times the interest was mainly on the functional balance problem between the Russian language and the other languages in our country.

Many among those at the Conference are probably not aware that Russian is not the National Language of the Soviet Union.

All languages in our country have an equal value, but Russian is the language spoken by most peoples. Besides, Russian has been functioning as the means of communication for wider regions and peoples for a long time. Russian is a very well developed language with a very rich literary tradition.

That is why before the 1917 revolution Russian had already a function as the means of communication in a very wide area and after the revolution this process was accelerated.

Based on our practical experience in the field of language development, Soviet sociolinguists have applied the basic theory of modern sociolinguistics in the Soviet Union.

Oriental sociolinguistics in the Soviet Union began not very long ago. This science consists of macrosociolinguistics and microsociolinguistics. This classification was brought about by two problems which arose in a number of Asian and African countries after the Second World War.

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The most important problem is choosing an official language or National Language. It was known that in some Asian countries the solution of this problem was connected with severe conflicts between national groups as for instance in India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. It was also known that Indonesia is one of those countries who gained her Independence from the colonialists where the problem of choosing a national language did not exist.

It is obvious that only a language which is widely known and understood by most peoples in a country could become a means of communication and integration within that community.

In macrosociolinguistics investigation of various language positions was carried out, language policies, the relation between language development and social processes, ideological influences, including religion, on language.

The use of an autochthonous (original) language as the means of communication (official language) in the ex-colonial country must have the following conditions: i.e. vocabulary and modern terminology, since in the future that language will have to replace the western language which is currently used by the people.

A language must have standardisation. We Soviet linguists believe that any language could become the standard and modern language with a function as the means of communication. To be able to reach this function, a guided language policy has to be carried out consistently.

Every change in language system influence by language policy is analysed in microsociolinguistics.

Even though the grammatical problem of Indonesian had been studied by Soviet linguists for a long time, sociolinguistic study on Indonesian and Malaysian began just 10-15 years ago.

Among those Indonesian sociolinguistic problems, the most important problem is the position, the function of Indonesian and its development. For the first time in our linguistics, that problem has been brought up and studied by a well-known Soviet linguist on Indonesian, N.F. Alieva (who also attended the TICAL conference).

She wrote two articles entitled "The formation of the Indonesian literary language" (Alieva 1965) and "Aspects of the development of Indonesian as the National Language of the Republic of Indonesia" (Alieva 1967). In both articles Alieva discussed the reasons behind the changes from Malay to the national language of Indonesia; the political role of Indonesian after 1945 and new sources which influenced Indonesian language development in connection with the movement of the development centre from Sumatra to Jakarta.

The influence of local languages on Indonesian language; the first moves in the field of language policy of the Indonesian National Language; a number of problems in Malay and other languages in Malaysia were analysed by a very talented linguist, the late Dr. A.P. Pavlenko in his article entitled: "The creation of the modern Indonesian literary language in connection with other languages" (Pavlenko 1965) and "A number of language problems in Malaysia" (Pavlenko 1970).

A Soviet linguist, Dr. Y.V. Maretin in his article entitled: "The characteristics of Indonesian as the National Language of the Republic of Indonesia" (Maretin 1969), analysed the historic aspects of Malay and Indonesian. He also set out a number of difficulties faced by Indonesian in its development.

The Soviet linguists have been thoroughly following the process of functional and intra-structural development of Indonesian. The position of Indonesian as

mentioned above is different from the position of the Malaysian language. Because of the historical situation, Indonesia did not have any problems in choosing a national language by the time they gained their Independence. We could say that history has chosen the language i.e. Indonesian, which was a lingua franca in the Indonesian archipelago.

Since Indonesian became the National Language and had to serve most spheres of communication in the society, therefore there arose the necessity to complete and to develop the language i.e. to apply language standards both in the written and in the spoken language. In analysing this standardisation, I would like to quote the contribution of the Indonesian linguists, i.e. Prof. Sutan Takdir Alisjahbana, Prof. Amran Halim, Prof. Anton Moeliono, Prof. Harimurdi Kridalaksana, Prof. S. Effendi and the others.

We Soviet linguists followed thoroughly the studies carried out by the Indonesian linguists and completely agree that Indonesian needs standardisation urgently.

In our own study, we have analysed the linguistic situation in Indonesia at the present time and the place and role of Indonesian in this situation.

Our main interest is the evaluation of Jakarta's role and the Jakarta dialect in the language situation in Indonesia. In addition we are trying to make an evaluation of the results of language policy after 1945.

As a result of this study I have completed articles entitled "Sociolinguistic problems in Indonesia at the present time" (Kondrashkina 1975), "The linguistic situation and language policy in Indonesia" (Kondrashkina 1977), "Language problems in Indonesia in the 1970s" (Kondrashkina 1978a), and my doctoral thesis entitled "Sociolinguistic aspects of Indonesian language development after Independence" (1978b).

Some conclusions of these studies will be described as follows:

1. The linguistic situation in Indonesia is marked by a language dialect and subdialect hierarchy, which are different either according to its level of development or according to the distinction among the environment of human activities. In my opinion, the linguistic situation in Indonesia consists of four main components: (1) National Language - Indonesian, (2) local regional language (see explanation below), (3) local language and (4) Moslem language - Arabic.

Different from the usual classification of the original languages in Indonesia i.e. Indonesian and local languages, I use 'local regional language' in this report. 'Local regional language' means the language of a large ethnic group which is also called a nation. The local regional language is used as a basic language in primary school. Javanese, Sundanese, Balinese and some other languages are classified as local regional languages, whereas local language is a language used mainly as communication within the family and among local peoples. The local languages are for example in Lubu, Ulu, Sika, Ende and some other places.

2. The prominent tendencies of linguistic situation development in Indonesia at the present time are as follows: the position of Indonesian is getting stronger, its functions and the area of use are growing more extensive, stabilisation of its vocabulary, enriched by the sources of the local regional and local languages as well as of international terminology.

3. Most of the Indonesians master two or more languages. These two languages are usually their mother language and the National Language. For example Javanese and Indonesian, Sundanese and Indonesian etc.

Professor E.M. Uhlenbeck wrote: "There are few areas in the world where there is a more extensive and still growing amount of multi-lingualism than in Indonesia" (Uhlenbeck 1971:218).

I came to the conclusion that in most cases in Indonesia there are two kinds of bilingualism. The first is by contact — which arose in the area where two peoples live close together and the second is non-contact, which is usually caused by social-psychological factors, i.e. the desire to broaden one's knowledge, to know about the cultural standards, etc. The bilingualism of the second type usually includes the mother language and Indonesian. In this case the mastering of Indonesian is usually through the school, mass media, literature, work, or military service. The second bilingualism is the more familiar case and in my opinion is most interesting as a sociolinguistic study.

4. A very strong indication in the linguistic situation in Indonesia recently is the increasing influence of the Jakarta dialect on Indonesian. The reason for this linguistic event is, in my view, because of the more important role of the capital as the centre of political, economic and cultural life of the Republic of Indonesia.

5. We evaluate positively the language policy of Indonesia, that aims to further develop the Indonesian language and to extend the area of its usage, to classify and analyse the local languages.

In my opinion, after the foundation of the 'National Center for Language Development', language policy became more intensive and fruitful.

The problems of the linguistic situation and language policy in Malaysia were analysed by Dr. T.W. Dorofeeva in her thesis, "Functions and development of Malaysian Language" (1980) and in her article entitled: "Aspects of language policy in Malaysia" and "Linguistic situation and language policy in Malaysia".

Among others, Dr Dorofeeva analysed bilingualism in Malaysia. She came to the conclusion that most of bilingualism in Malaysia is non-contact Malaysian-English. Bilingualism arose because many Malaysians have a good command of English.

A specific indication in the linguistic situation in Indonesia and Malaysia is language interference. Research in language interference is known as micro-sociolinguistics.

In the frame of these studies, Soviet linguists also analysed interference in both languages. Interference in Indonesian is caused by Javanese and in Malaysian by English influences. Since there is no standard grammar up to date, it is very difficult for us to appraise such expressions as "Sampai ketemu lagi" *Until we meet again* and "Jangan ketawa" *Don't laugh* etc. Is it an interference or has it become a habit?

Soviet linguists also analysed the problems of terminological system and word formation. For example Dr. W.I. Peckurov in his article entitled: "Neologism in social political terminology of Indonesian" and in his doctoral thesis "Social-political terminology of Indonesian" (1970) analysed the main tendency in the terminological system in the social-political field in Indonesia.

Dr. N.M. Timonina wrote a doctoral thesis entitled: "Principal analysis on synthesis of noun pronunciation in Indonesian" (1980).

In this short report I cannot discuss in detail all the words of the Soviet linguists on Indonesian and Malay but I would like to point out an enormous work i.e. *A grammar of Indonesian* (Alieva, Arakin, Ogloblin and Sirk, 1972)

This Indonesian grammar is a contribution to Austronesian linguistics and also a source of sociolinguistic studies on the Indonesian language.

Finally I would like to thank the organisers of the TICAL Conference. I believe that this meeting of Austronesian linguists was most useful in enhancing knowledge and understanding among all the nations in the wide world.

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