

Timor Leste Community Perceptions About the Use of Portugal Language in Telejornal News on Television Radio E Televisaun de Timor Leste Empreza Publica (RTTL, EP) (Case Study in Lautem District, Tutuala Sub District, Dili Timor Leste)

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Abstract

This research is motivated by the different perceptions among the people of Lautem district, Tutuala sub-district, Timor Leste about the use of Portuguese in the Telejornal RTTL'EP news. In its reporting, Telejornal uses two language versions, namely Tetum and Portuguese. However, in the Tetum version of the news, it is more dominated by Portuguese which is generally not understood by the public. PThis study aims to determine the perception and understanding of the people of Timor Leste about the use of Portuguese in the news of Telejornal Rádio e Televisão de Timor Leste Empresa Publica (RTTL, EP) and how the people of Timor Leste interpret Portuguese itself. The approach of this research is descriptive qualitative research with the number of informants as many as 25 people, with data collection techniques through in-depth interviews and documentation. The results showed that only 13% of the people understood Portuguese and the remaining 87% of the people did not understand Portuguese through the news *Telejornal*. This is due to the different understandings of the people of the Tutuala sub-district according to generations from three different eras, namely the Portuguese era generation, the Indonesian era generation and the generation after independence. In addition, Portuguese for the people of the Tutuala sub-district is interpreted as a foreign language/language of another nation/Bulenese language which is unable to unite the people of Timor Leste with different cultural backgrounds. In the end, this phenomenon created discomfort for the people of Timor Leste so that people preferred foreign television channels, namely Indonesian television broadcasts, rather than Telejornal RTTL, EP broadcasts.

Keywords: *Perception, Language Use, Tetum-Portuguese, Telejornal RTTL'EP.*

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A. INTRODUCTION

Mass media is a channel or tool used to convey information from communicators to audiences by using mechanical communication tools such as newspapers, films, radio, TV (Habibie, 2018). The mass media has an important role in people's lives, this is because people's lives depend on the information provided by the mass media. The mass media is also a neutral information agency or agent for the public in charge of sending information or messages to the masses (Khalilurrahman, 2018). The sender of an informational message usually has more power of honor than the receiver (McQuail, 2012). The development of technology

and information is so fast that it helps human activities in accessing information easily. This of course requires the media, one of which is television, to be able to carry out their functions and responsibilities as well as possible by providing appropriate programs so that they can capture the interest and attention of the audience. In line with what Morissan said, broadcast media are basically trying to compete for public attention. Therefore, broadcasting station managers must really know who is the target or audience, and what is needed (Morissan, 2008).

In relation to mass media, television is a medium that is very popular with the public. Television has a very big influence in changing the attitudes and behavior of the audience through a variety of programs that are presented (Parwadi, 2005). In the era of globalization, various events, information and knowledge become very important things to know. Furthermore, according to Morissan, broadcast media is an organization that disseminates information and messages as cultural products that reflect as well as influence the culture of society (Morissan, 2008). Conceptually, like other mass media, television has the function of information, education, and entertainment. But the biggest function of television media is to entertain.

The mass media is positioned as a part that has value and is even positioned as an information agent that is seen as the most influential in determining the process of economic, social, cultural and political change (Sobur, 2015). Karl Deutsch in Sobur said that mass media are the nerves of government (Sobur, 2015). Television is also described as one of the tools or platforms in mass communication in carrying out message or information packaging activities to then be presented to a wide audience as an effort to fulfill the information needs of the audience (Karyanti, 2005) as well as the people of Timor Leste.

Currently, Timor Leste has one state-owned television station, Radio E Televisao Timor Leste Empreza Publicu (RTTL, EP) and five private television stations, namely Televizaun Edukasaun Timor (TVET), Grupo Media Nasional (GMN), Etto TV, Radio Televisaun Maubere (RTM) and Suara Timor Lorosae (TVSTL). Radio E Televisao Timor Leste Empreza Publicu (RTTL, EP) has programs that grab people's attention, especially news that provides information about various problems or phenomena that are currently happening and being discussed, both domestically and abroad. In the communication process of delivering messages, the media or communicators also use verbal and non-verbal language in expressing the contents of the communicator's thoughts (Wibowo, 2009). In connection with that matter, Language that is closely related to journalism is a major part in the process of finding, gathering, writing and conveying information (Wibowo, 2009). Journalistic language is a style of language used by journalists or journalists to write news. The language of communication or newspaper language is also known as the language used in mass media, both spoken on electronic media and written on print media which are often used briefly and concisely so that they are easily understood by the public (Rahma, 2016).

Currently, the language used in the mass media in Timor Leste, both electronic media and print media, consists of four languages, namely Portuguese,

Indonesian, Tetun and English (Ximenes, 2013). Timor Leste has 19 kinds of local languages from different cultural backgrounds. Culture and language have an inseparable and reciprocal relationship (Chahak & Basri Zadeh, 2012; Choudhury, 2013; Ho, 2009). Tantri (2013) assumes that language is persistent, decided and strongly influenced by culture. As Chaer said in Dacosta (2016) that, in every existing culture there is also language which is a key element in certain community groups, while in Puspitasari (2018) that language is a tool in communication in the form of symbols and sounds that are used as a tool in interaction in society. Language has levels in each tribe or ethnicity, proving that language is used as the identity of a particular community.

Tetum language is one of the local languages that is widely used by the people of Timor Leste (Neonbasu, 2006). In 2002 Timor Leste officially adopted Portuguese as one of the national languages. This is stated in the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Timor Leste in Article 13 Paragraph (1) which explicitly states that the official languages of Timor-Leste are Portuguese and Tetun (Republika Demokrata de Timor Leste is the national language then Tetutun no Portugues). (RDTL Constitution, 2013). Since then Portuguese began to be used in various official activities in Timor Leste. Tetum language itself is a regional language that is generally used by the people of Timor Leste in their daily communication. Tetum is also commonly used in other entertainment worlds. However, the Tetum language has undergone many changes (positive and negative) due to being dominated by Portuguese. Currently, the Tetum language that has developed in Dili has been mixed with Portuguese which has finally created a new culture that is often used by people who generally live in the city of Dili. Although Portuguese has been legalized as the national language in Timor Leste, in communication, people still collaborate with Tetum and Portuguese as spoken languages. This is also widely found in the mass media in Timor Leste, both print and electronic media. For example, RTTL, EP, which is a station owned by the government of Timor Leste, also uses Portuguese and Tetum in some of its programs (Da Costa, 2016). As mentioned above,

Apart from having functions, television also provides various kinds of programs in the form of information and entertainment, such as news, infotainment, talk shows, reality shows, comedy, music, soap operas and others. Language collaboration also occurs in various kinds of television programs. The language of mass communication, the language of mass communication or the press, is the language used in mass media communication. Television and radio use oral communication or speech, while print media uses written communication which has the characteristics of being short, clear and easy to understand (Tebba, 2005). Article 41 paragraph 1 of the constitution of the democratic republic of Timor Leste on press freedom states that everyone has the right to express opinions and obtain information. Meanwhile, the Timor Leste Social Communication Law No. 5/2014 states that the press must be independent, protect the rights of Timor Leste citizens and provide professional and correct information. This raises a perspective in journalism that the information presented to the public must be clear, accurate and

true. The language used by mass media managers to package, load, present, broadcast or broadcast and also report events that have news value must be presented properly and correctly so that it is easy to understand and respond to the contents of the message conveyed (Katili, 2019). This raises a perspective in journalism that the information presented to the public must be clear, accurate and true. The language used by mass media managers to package, load, present, broadcast or broadcast and also report events that have news value must be presented properly and correctly so that it is easy to understand and respond to the contents of the message conveyed (Katili, 2019). This raises a perspective in journalism that the information presented to the public must be clear, accurate and true. The language used by mass media managers to package, load, present, broadcast or broadcast and also report events that have news value must be presented properly and correctly so that it is easy to understand and respond to the contents of the message conveyed (Katili, 2019).

However, there is something unique that has become a phenomenon in the reporting of the Tetum version of the Telejournal RTTL'EP news, that is, almost every part of the news is dominated by Portuguese, both in the news lead section, in the news content and in the closing. The dominance of the Portuguese language can be seen in several news leads of the Tetum language Telejornal published on June 17, 2019 below: *Parlamentu nasional la halo plenaria tamba prezensa deputados sira ekipa legislatura la prenze forum, rejimentu parlamentu ejije fo sedamentu forum baja ba prezensia deputadus nain ruanolu resin tolu nebe iha segundafeira nee marka prezensia la to'o nain rua nolu.* (The national parliament did not hold a session because the presence of members of the legislative council did not suffice for the forum. The parliament's refusal to agree to provide a response to the forum based on the twenty-three members of the legislative assembly and who attended this Monday did not reach twenty-three people).

From the Tetum version of the Telejornal news lead above, the underlined words are Tetum language words. So it is very clear that the news broadcasters mostly use Portuguese in delivering the Tetum version of the telejournal news. As stated in the introductory book on communication science (Sendjaja, 2012), the success of communication is not only determined by the source of information or the communicator but also by other factors such as the message, channel and condition of the recipient or communicant. In other words, the success of communication is the result of the totality of the ability of the source, the form and technique of presenting the message, the capacity of the channel or media used, and the condition of the communicant or audience who is the target recipient of the message.

The composition gap becomes even more crucial if you pay attention to the following data. According to the results of the census that was conducted in 2004, only 13.6% of the people of Timor Leste understand and can use Portuguese (Kingsbury, 2014). In line with what the former second president of Timor Leste said in an Action Asia Peacebuilder forum IV event on September 21, 2012 Dr. Jose Ramos Horta said that out of a total population of 1,321,929 people, only thirteen

percent (13%), and twenty-six percent (26%) understand Portuguese. and Indonesian and sixty-one percent (61%) speak Tetum" (Costa, 2016). In this case also according to the results of Costa's research (2016) showing the same thing, namely the people of Timor Leste in their daily life use the Tetum language instead of Portuguese. This is because as many as eighty-seven percent (87%) of the people of Timor Leste do not understand Portuguese. It is the same with the situation of the people of Timor Leste who are still confused with a unifying language, which can be used as a medium to unite the community and can communicate their thoughts in the same language, understood and understood (Chandra, 2013).

In line with the results of research conducted by Kristina, she said that the use of English in the promotional media for Solo Raya Tourism, both in print and online, was not effective because it built different understandings for tourist visitors to the message conveyed. This is due to grammatical errors that make the message conveyed ineffective (Wibowo Kristina, 2018). In a research conducted by Sulistiono regarding the effectiveness of using Javanese in promoting oral health in Sleman, Gatak, Sukoharjo, it was shown that the promotion of oral health using Javanese was more effective than Indonesian.

Meanwhile, Wibowo and Kristina (2015) said that the use of persuasive English in the promotion media for Solo Raya Tourism had not been effective because the way of expression in the message conveyed was still difficult to understand because there were so many spellings, grammars, dictions and also the use of language that was not yet understood. show persuasion or persuasion of tourists. From the results of the research above, it can be concluded that to achieve success or effectiveness in a communication, an understanding between the communicator and the communicant is needed. However, in reality, the language used to package messages in the telejournal news RTTL, EP is not in accordance with the conditions of the community or is not understood by the majority of the people of Timor Leste.

Cleverness in interpreting or perceiving information can come from the past experiences of each individual from the three eras. Experience will make learning for individuals to be good at perceiving a phenomenon. In line with the phenomenon of the use of Portuguese in the RTTL, EP telejournal news, this is the reason for researchers to conduct research on how the perception, understanding and eating of Portuguese for the people of Timor Leste is used in the RTTL, EP telejournal news with the research title Timor Leste people's perception of use of Portuguese in Telejournal news on Radio E Televisaun De Timor Leste Empreza Publica (RTTL, EP) (Case in Lautem district, Tutuala sub district Dili Timor Leste)

In this study, researchers also used the theory of cognitive dissonance proposed by Festinger in 1957, if individuals are faced with situations or conditions that are not appropriate, psychologically this will motivate individuals to avoid and reduce dissonance and individuals try to achieve harmony or his own harmony. In addition, individuals will also actively reject situations and information that increase dissonance (Tankard, 2009). Therefore, the language used in the news must be in

accordance with the social status of the audience. In writing news scripts for television and radio news broadcasts, one must use a non-formal language style (spoken language) with short, dense, simple, and easy-to-understand sentences (Romli, 2008). Meanwhile, according to Shaer in Wulansari the journalistic language used in writing news is solid, short, fluent, simple, straightforward, clear and interesting. In using journalistic language, there are three principles that must be applied, namely saving words, precise meaning and also interesting (Wulansari, 2015).

B. METHODS

Types of qualitative research with This research approach is descriptive, because in this study the researcher only describes the phenomenon under investigation, by describing the state of the object under study based on the facts that appear or are in accordance with the research objective, namely to describe how the East Timorese people understand and perceive the use of Portuguese in Telejornal news. and what is the meaning of Portuguese for the people of Timor Leste. The sampling technique used in this study is purpose sampling and data collection techniques in this study using in-depth interviews and documentation. The data were analyzed using several steps according to the theory of Miles, Huberman and Saldana (2014), namely analyzing data in three steps: data condensation (data condensation), presenting data (data display).

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In connection with the research question, namely how the perception and understanding of the people of Timor Leste about the use of Portuguese in the Telejornal Rádio e Televisão de Timor Leste news Empresa Pública (RTTL, EP) and what is the meaning of Portuguese for the people of Timor Leste the answers obtained from the data that have been collected from In-depth interviews obtained, it is clear that there are factors that underlie the perceptions of the informants about the RTTL'EP telejournal news that uses Portuguese, namely past experiences and the background of each informant. These factors cause public perceptions to differ from one another. The background of the experience and past of the informants is divided into three, namely informants who have existed since the Portuguese era,

Of these three generations, not all of them understand Portuguese. Based on the research results, only 13% understand Portuguese, which on average comes from the Portuguese and post-independence generations, while those who do not understand Portuguese also mostly come from the Portuguese and post-independence generations. including the generation of the Indonesian era as much as eighty-seven percent (87%). The generation that existed after independence said that Portuguese had been taught since elementary school to university but still did not understand Portuguese. In accordance with the researchers' observations, the local people do not use Portuguese or Tetum Prasa in their daily lives, but Fataku. As the Moon said, 20019 basically language is a sequence of sounds used by humans

in communicating, therefore language cannot be separated from the community, a sense of belonging is always there so that the acceptance of languages that are considered foreign does not go well (Month, 20019). This phenomenon is similar to that experienced by the people of the Tutuala sub-district, although Portuguese has been made the national language, the implementation of Portuguese in the daily activities of the people of Timor Leste still feels foreign to Portuguese.

Each of these generations also has a different perception of the use of Portuguese in telejournal news, namely the generation that has existed since the Portuguese era and the generation that existed after independence, thirteen percent (13%) perceive the use of Portuguese in telejournal news as positive and there is also a negative side. In this case, the informants said that the positive side of using Portuguese in the RTTL'EP telejournal news is that the audience can learn Portuguese to gain insight, while the negative side is that they often use Portuguese in the RTTL'EP telejournal news for information conveyed to the public. on average it is not understood or understood by the public and also the use of Portuguese in the RTTL'EP telejournal news will threaten the position of the Tetum language and other regional languages. This can be seen clearly in the use of Portuguese which increasingly dominates the Tetum language.

The perception of the people of the Tutuala sub district is influenced by their experiences and past because the people of the Tutuala sub district have experienced the loss of one of the local languages, namely the Makwa'a language due to the dominance of a new culture such as the Fataluku language. The use of the Portuguese language began to dominate the Tetum language in the telejournal news RTTL'EP and other media, even in everyday life it is often also found in activities such as workshops, seminars, or campaigns and other activities held by government and non-government agencies always use the Tetum language. prasa is a tetum language dominated by Portuguese.

The Tutuala sub-district community initially had two languages, namely Fataluku and Makwa'a, but the Makwa'a language was lost due to the influence of the majority language, such as Fataluku. Fataluku is the language commonly used by the people of Lautem district. The use of Portuguese in the telejournal RTTL'EP could result in the extinction of the Tetum language in the future. As stated (Vari, Bogori, 2005; Austin 2013) in (Rusminto et al., 2021) out of six thousand eight hundred and nine (6,809) languages, half of which are currently spoken, are predicted to disappear or become extinct in five hundred (500) in the coming years this is due to globalization which demands people's lives to change from various political, economic, social and cultural activities by communicating using other languages (Rusminto et al., 2021). The policy of the Timor Leste government regarding the determination of Portuguese as one of the national languages which continued to the mass media in Timor Leste caused the Tetum language to be marginalized.

Although Portuguese has been designated as one of the national languages of Timor Leste as stated in the constitution of the democratic republic of Timor Leste

(RDTL) article 13 paragraph one (1) which reads that the national languages of the democratic republic of Timor Leste are tetum and Portuguese (RDTL Constitution, 2013). However, the people of the Tutuala sub-district do not use Portuguese or Tetum Prasa in their daily lives.

The results of the study also show that of the twenty-five (25) informants consisting of three generations, namely the Portuguese era, the Indonesian generation and the generation after independence, on average, they did not like the language used because they did not understand the content of the information conveyed. using Portuguese. This makes people feel uncomfortable. Which finally chose to move to foreign television channels. In general, people in the Tutuala sub-district use satellite dishes only to get foreign television broadcasts such as Indonesian television broadcasts. Television broadcasts that are often watched are Rcti, Sctv, Indosiar, Metro Tv, Tvone, Antv, Kompas Tv and others. In cognitive dissonance theory says that when people experience psychological inconsistency, dissonance causes feelings of dislike so people are not happy to be in a state of dissonance, it is an uncomfortable state (Hutagalung, 2016).

The Portuguese language used in telejournal news causes a feeling of discomfort so that the sense of dissonance encourages efforts to obtain consonance and efforts to reduce dissonance or to avoid situations that create inconsistencies and try to find situations that restore consistency. This is in line with the condition of the people of the Tutuala sub-district who do not understand the contents of the telejournal news, this creates dissonance, a feeling that is not appropriate, unbalanced which ultimately encourages people to take action to reduce the feeling of discomfort. People prefer to move to television channels that they understand, such as Indonesian television channels, namely Metro TV, Indosiar, ANTV, RCTI, SCTV, and others.

In this study, it was also found that the people of the Tutuala sub-district who came from three generations, namely the Portuguese era generation, the Indonesian generation and the post-independence generation on average interpreted Portuguese as the language of another nation (the language of the Portuguese) which means that Portuguese is the language of the Portuguese who once ruled in Timor Leste and the language has been brought back to its country of origin. Portuguese as a Caucasian language which means the language commonly used by foreign tourists or often called "malai pitin" and as a foreign language which means a language that is not the native language of the people of Timor Leste.

The people of the Tutuala sub-district are still very attached to the fataluku language which is the cultural heritage of the local community so that people do not have the desire to use Portuguese in their daily life and feel foreign to the language. According to the understanding of the informants, the national language is a language that is able to unite people from various regions and is understood or understood by most people, not like the current situation experienced by the people of Timor Leste.

In line with what Miftah Thoha (2005) said, perception is essentially a cognitive process that is passed by every person or individual in understanding or responding to information about his environment, through his five senses either through sight, hearing, appreciation, feeling, and smell. In essence, understanding perception lies in recognizing or understanding that perception is a unique interpretation experienced by a person or individual towards a situation. Based on this explanation, public perception can be defined as a series of cognitive processes experienced by the community towards the phenomenon of the use of Portuguese in the RTTL'EP telejournal news that is watched according to their respective experiences and life backgrounds.

Portuguese for the people of Timor Leste is the language of the Portuguese which is used as the national language of Timor Leste, the original language of this country is Tetum and other regional languages, people also feel that Portuguese is currently too much mixed in the Tetum language in the city of Dili and even the mass media so that it is very clear that Portuguese dominates Tetum in telejournal news.

Turning to history Portuguese is the language of the Portuguese who had ruled in Timor Leste for 450 years, but after the flower revolution in Portugal in 1975 and the fall of the Salazar government, at that time a policy of decolonization was issued for all Portuguese colonies or relinquishing all colonies. only Timor Leste, and on November 28, 1975 at that time Fretelin declared Timor Leste independent but there are still conflicts between the political parties that have existed since then, namely the Apodete, UDT, Trablhistas and Kota parties, each of which has different desires. The Fretlin party has the desire for complete independence, the UDT party has the desire that East Timor administratively join Portugal after that switch to independence, but the Apodete party, Trablhistas and the City Party had different desires, namely wanting to join the Republic of Indonesia and on November 30, 1975 these three parties held a counter proclamation in Balibo which is the border area of Timor Leste and Indonesia by deciding that Timor Leste be part of the Unitary Republic of Indonesia. At that time the Portuguese language was no longer used in Timor Leste, over time the development of the Indonesian language in Timor Leste was so fast, this can be seen from the Portuguese generation being able to speak Indonesian automatically. After 24 years, Timor-Leste decided to become independent, Portuguese, which had been lost, was re-used as one of the national languages of Timor-Leste and was used in all government activities and even the mass media.

The function of mass communication in general, according to Effendy (1993) is to provide information, which means that the mass media is a disseminator of information for the audience, the second function of the mass media is as a means of education for the audience, because the mass media presents many educational things. One way of educating the mass media is through teaching values, ethics, and rules that apply to viewers or the public. Broadcast media is also an organization that disseminates information and messages as cultural products that reflect as well

as influence the culture of the community (Morissan, 2008) instead of turning off or getting rid of the cultural heritage which is the identity of the people in a country.

The results of this study explain that the perception, understanding and meaning of Portuguese in the RTTL'EP telejournal news especially for the people of Lautem district, Tutuala sub-district are divided into three generations, namely the Portuguese era generation, the Indonesian era generation and the generation after independence. These three generations have different perceptions. And not all of these three generations understand Portuguese. The generation of the Portuguese era and the generation that existed after independence only 13% understood Portuguese. There are also people who do not understand Portuguese as much as 87% come from three generations, namely the generation during the Portuguese era, the Indonesian generation and the generation after independence.

In this case, the people of the Tutuala sub-district have a different perception about the use of Portuguese in telejournal news, namely the use of Portuguese in telejournal news, there are good sides, such as through news, the people of Timor Leste can learn Portuguese and the bad side is that the information conveyed to the public is not effective. because it is not understood. However, people still say that Portuguese is not suitable for use in the RTTL'EP telejournal news because it is not understood by most of the people of Timor Leste and there are some people who also say that the use of Portuguese is inappropriate for use in the RTTL'EP telejournal news.

D. CONCLUSION

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the Tutuala sub-district community do not understand Portuguese and only thirteen percent (13%). The people of the Tutuala sub-district perceive Portuguese in the RTTL'EP telejournal news differently according to their background experiences. The generation that has existed since the Portuguese era and the generation that existed after independence as many as thirteen percent (13%) perceive the use of Portuguese in telejournal news as inappropriate and there are positive and negative sides. That is the positive side of the audience can learn Portuguese to gain insight, while the negative side, the use of Portuguese in the RTTL'EP telejournal news more often causes the information conveyed to be ineffective and also the use of Portuguese in the RTTL'EP telejournal news will threaten the position of Tetum and other regional languages, so the use of Portuguese in RTTL'EP needs to be reconsidered. In this case, another eighty-seven percent (87%) from three generations, namely, the Portuguese era, the Indonesian generation and the post-independence generation said that Portuguese was not suitable for use in the RTTL'EP telejournal news because it was not in accordance with the conditions of the Timorese society. East Timor in general.

The average community in Lautem district, Tutuala sub-district 100% interprets Portuguese as the language of Caucasians (malae pitin), the language of another nation (Portugal) that has ruled in Timor Leste for four hundred and fifty

(450) years, not the native language of Timor Leste. and also as a foreign language for the local community.

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