A SURVEY ON GENDER DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE CHOICE OF COASTAL KONJO COMMUNITY

SEBUAH SURVEI PERBEDAAN GENDER DALAM PILIHAN BAHASA KOMUNITAS KONJO PESISIR

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ABSTRACT

Community language usage patterns are often fundamental to minority language maintenance. This study investigates the gender differences in language choice within the Coastal Konjo residing in South Sulawesi Province and explores the implications of its language maintenance. The contexts of language use are varied based on the speaker's role, the topic of conversation, and the situation of the conversation to understand how gender influences language use and transmission practices. A survey method is used to gather information from 80 respondents, and SPSS is used for descriptive and inferential statistical analysis. Descriptive analysis shows that the Konjo language is the most widely spoken, followed by Bahasa Indonesia, Buginese, and mixed-use languages. The inferential statistical analysis also shows that there are no appreciable gender disparities in the Coastal Konjo community's language choice ($p > 0.005$) in each context. However, the data reveals a distinct difference in how the Buginese is used, with females appearing to utilize it more frequently than males. This suggests that females have more language contact with Buginese who have long coexisted with coastal Konjo speakers in Bulukumba. Moreover, the findings indicate that males are more crucial to the maintenance of the Konjo language than females.

Keywords: Coastal Konjo, gender, language choice, language maintenance

ABSTRAK

Pola penggunaan bahasa komunitas sering menjadi dasar untuk menentukan strategi pemertahanan bahasa minoritas. Studi ini mengkaji perbedaan gender dalam pilihan bahasa pada komunitas Konjo pesisir di Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan dan mengeksplorasi implikasinya untuk pemertahanan bahasa Konjo. Konteks penggunaan bahasa yang dikaji berbeda berdasarkan peran pembicara, topik percakapan, dan situasi perbualan untuk memahami bagaimana gender mempengaruhi penggunaan dan transmisi bahasa. Metode survei digunakan untuk mengumpulkan informasi dari 80 responden, dan SPSS digunakan untuk analisis deskriptif dan uji beda. Hasil analisis deskriptif menunjukkan bahwa bahasa Konjo paling banyak digunakan, diikuti oleh Bahasa Indonesia, Bugis, dan campuran bahasa. Analisis statistik uji beda juga menunjukkan tidak ada perbedaan gender yang signifikan dalam pilihan bahasa komunitas Konjo pesisir pada setiap konteks yang dikaji ($p > 0.005$). Akan tetapi, data menunjukkan perbedaan yang sangat jelas dalam penggunaan bahasa Bugis, yaitu wanita lebih sering menggunakan bahasa Bugis daripada laki-laki. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa wanita memiliki lebih banyak kontak bahasa dengan penutur Bugis yang telah lama hidup berdampingan dengan penutur Konjo pesisir di Bulukumba. Akan tetapi, temuan studi ini menunjukkan bahwa pria lebih berperan penting dalam pemertahanan bahasa Konjo daripada wanita.

Kata Kunci: Konjo pesisir, gender, pilihan bahasa, pemertahanan bahasa

A. INTRODUCTION

Language choice is a prevalent phenomenon observed in multilingual societies. In such contexts, individuals and communities are tasked with choosing which language(s) to use for communication in various social and linguistic contexts. Language is seen as a powerful tool that reflects the intricacies of cultural diversity and societal dynamics. It expresses and negotiates gender roles, identities, culture, and societal power relations (Johnson, 1997). Thus, people commonly use more than one language in daily communications (Utami, 2017), and

it demonstrates how they influence language maintenance and language shift in the social environment.Understanding language choice, helps in unraveling the complexities of this linguistic diversity, shedding light on which languages are used in different contexts and by various communities.

Psychologically, human communication involves the act of selecting linguistic and stylistic elements from available options, which means preferring certain choices while disregarding others (Hoffmann, 2020). This selection process can occur consciously or unconsciously. While monolingual individuals make choices based on the norms of their speech community and personal preferences, speakers in diglossic communities face additional decisions. They must determine whether to use a High or Low variety of language in their communication. Importantly, the choice of language employed by the speaker conveys characteristics about them, similar to many other aspects of self-presentation (DeFrank & Kahlbaugh, 2019).

Indonesia is home to a vast array of languages and ethnicities so different regions and communities have theirlanguages and dialects, which contribute to their unique cultural identity (Muhid et al., 2023; Ningsih, et al. 2023). In the Indonesian context, the evolution of language choice has been shaped by various factors that shape the linguistic landscape, namely; regional language interactions, local language-national language interactions, and globalization processes (Fitriati & Rata, 2021). Therefore, most Indonesians tend to use more than one language in their daily life. By being bi/multilingual, individuals gain the ability to actively participate in and immerse themselves, enabling them to fully experience and understand its nuances and intricacies. Thus, mastering many languages is a vital step in fostering cross-cultural understanding and bridging the gap between different communities in the socialization process. Moreover, bi/multilingual individuals exercise discretion in determining the appropriate time and place to utilize a specific language (Sugianto, 2018). Therefore, the choice of language is influenced by the way of mother and father utilize the mother tongue and other languages for their children in the family and their surroundings.

Gender plays a crucial role in the socialization process, especially for minority communities (Stewarrt, et.al, 2021). Many minority communities in Indonesia have distinct cultural norms and traditions that assign specific roles and expectations based on gender, including the Konjo community in Bulukumba Regency. Socialization processes within families transmit languages, cultural values, norms, and expectations related to gender roles, influencing how females and males perceive their roles within the family unit. By considering those interconnected components, this study aims; to (1) examine the language choice patterns employed by the Konjo community in the family domain based on the speaker's role, conversation topic, and situational context from a gender perspective. (2). To measure the difference between females' and males' language use in maintaining the Coastal Konjo languages. The findings of this study will not only deepen our understanding of how gender shapes linguistic behaviors but also provide valuable insights for designing effective language maintenance and revitalization programs and policies for minority language. Due to preserving the Coastal Konjo language is crucial not only for the community's cultural identity but also for fostering a sense of pride, continuity, and belonging among its members.

Language and Gender

Language and gender are socially constructed and mutually influential. It suggests that gender identity is not fixed but rather shaped through language practices and discourses (Lawrence & Nagashima, 2020; Selleck, 2022). Thus, gender and socialization can be explored from the language choice within the family domain as a form of linguistic behavior. It can be used as a powerful indicator of identity construction and social positioning. Individuals can navigate different social contexts and employ specific linguistic features of language varieties to align with or challenge social expectations associated with their gender (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2003b).

The study of language and gender has undergone significant developments over the past century (Holmes et al., 2007). Initially, linguistic interest in gender arose manifest in distinct "women's languages" and "men's languages" characterized by varying grammar, phonology, and lexicon. Then feminist scholars re-conceptualized "women's language" as primarily pragmatic rather than structural, highlighting how women's speech reflected powerlessness in the real world (Bucholtz & Hall, 2004). The field of language and sexuality continues to evolve, with calls to explore psychoanalytic conceptions of desire and expand research into various topics such as globalization, life stages, asexuality, health, and bilingualism. It has become a vibrant and dynamic area of study, shedding its marginal status and gaining recognition for its contributions (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2003a).

Gender plays a crucial role in influencing a community's language choices (Hassan & Iqbal, 2023). For example, the grammatical gender, which examines how a language distinguishes between male and female in its grammar, manifests in the English pronouns "he" (men) and "she" (women) (Hellinger & BuBmann, 2003). This is supported by Mills's belief that gender biassing can be inferred from various patterns or forms of language use (Mills, 2008). Long ago, through linguistic theory, Lakoff (1972) emphasized the importance of comprehending the influence of language on the social structure of power, identity, and gender equality. He argued that linguistics should not be viewed as an isolated entity, but rather should be linked to social and political realities that impact language use and interpretation. In turn, (Coates, 2015) has an opinion that contrasts the difference between the discourse of men and women about men's dominance. In this position, females constitute an oppressed population. By this, Coates viewed the gender-biassed linguistic structure as the source of patriarchy in language, which stems from an ethnocentric worldview in which males are the center of the universe.

Some studies have explored the factors that affect the use of language and interpretation. According to Susan M. Ervin-Tripp (2005), four factors influence language choice, namely; (1) the participant, (2) the situation, (3) the content of the interaction, and (4) the interaction function. Moreover, by using a questionnaire of language choice in the family domain, Amir (2010) has elaborated on 3 factors that influence the language maintenance of Buginese, namely; the speaker's role, conversation topic, and situational context. The relationship between these three factors can be observed in the diagram 1. The role of the speaker refers to the individual's position or function within a family or community or social setting (Amir, 2010). In the context of language maintenance, it means that certain individuals or groups within the community play a more significant role in preserving and transmitting the language. In addition, the choice of conversation topics can have an impact on language maintenance (Nguyen, 2019). If there are specific domains where local language is traditionally employed, such as in rituals, ceremonies, or cultural practices, conversations within these contexts could contribute to language preservation. Last, the situational context refers to the circumstances or environment in which language use occurs (Aziz, 2020). Different situations may demand the use of local language, and the language may be more likely to be maintained in specific settings. These factors are utilized as the basis model of the current study. Therefore, to investigate the gender differences in language choices in the Konjo community, the hypotheses of this study are:

H0: There is no significant difference between the language choices of males and females in terms of role, topic, and situation factors.

H1: There is a significant difference between the language choices of males and females in terms of role, topic, and situation factors.
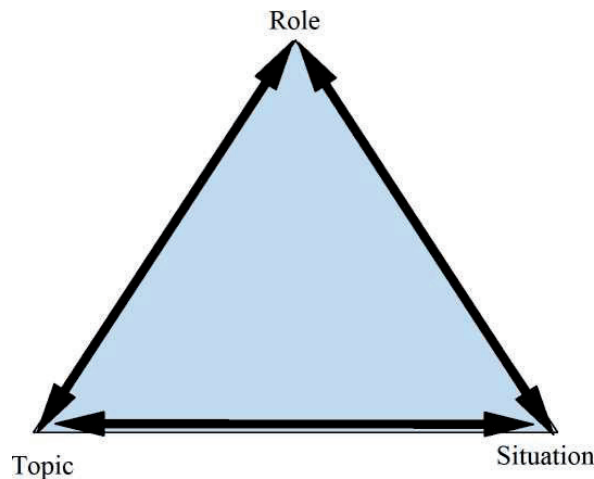
Diagram 1. Factors Influencing Language Choice

Quantitative surveys on language are generally associated with the challenges to its existence in the future. Language research amid of globalization was conducted by (Khansa, 2022) through an online survey, revealing that the impact of globalization and the development of communication and information technology has led to a decline in the use of the Indonesian language by millennials and has created dominant language trends or slang. A quantitative survey was also conducted by Yildirim (2020) to compare the bilingual attitudes of Arab-Turkish speakers in Mersin and Hatay. The survey results indicate differences in language attitudes between the two language communities, highlighting the dynamics of the endangered status of one language variety in the future.

Language use and function can reveal tremendously about society. In social practice, the language choice of community members reflects their experiences and social contexts, which influence their behavior and language vitality (Nguyen & Hamid, 2021; Park, 2022; Yildirim, 2020). Studies show that in Indonesia, a multilingual and multicultural country, the differences in language choices between females and males are very diverse and different in each community. According to Rizki et al. (2022), the use of the local language differs between males and females in the Gayo community who reside in Takengon. Males in Takengon are more likely to use the local language to speak with other Gayo speakers, while women more often use Indonesian. The Indonesian language is more often used in the context of formal events, the word greeting. This is supported by Atmawati (2018) that in languages with gendered bias in Java societies where choices are made in everyday conversations, Java women tend to choose more polite vocabulary than men. Moreover, Jupriono (2010) identified women found more passive than men in the Indonesian grammar structure.

Even though each community member desires to preserve their local language, the population's heterogeneity in a multilingual society renders local languages ineffective on occasion. As discovered by Saimon (2020) the Nyakyusa language contains discriminatory expressions in five forms: gender reference, social gender, lexical genders, proverb and proverb, and covenant. Besides, gender and other forms of social differentiation impact a person's capacity to access, participate in, and benefit from livelihoods. In his investigation on the Solomon Islands, Lawless et al. (2019) discovered that men's decision-making ability is viewed as superior in the eyes of living and strategic life decisions in general. In contrast, the capacity to make decisions within households requires negotiations between husband and wife, and consensus is regarded as more important than male or female dominance in decision-making. The findings indicate the need for improved gender-based calculations that provide opportunities for renegotiation to enhance living conditions (Lawless et al., 2019). It appears that

the relationship between gender and language preferences in coastal communities transcends the context of work and encompasses numerous social dimensions. In coastal regions where fisheries and maritime activities are prevalent, job roles, cultural norms, and social interactions influence the language choice of community members. Mangubhai's research revealed, for instance, that the fisheries industry, like other industries, is not immune to gender inequality, and women tend to perceive themselves as less valued and less represented actors in the management and development of fisheries (Mangubhai & Lawless, 2021).

Coastal Konjo Community

The Coastal Konjo community, residing in the coastal regions of Bulukumba district in South Sulawesi province, boasts a rich heritage, vibrant traditions, and a close-knit societal fabric. It consists of 10 sub-districts. Bulukumba is located in South Sulawesi and the distance is about 153 km from Makassar. Geographically located at coordinates 5°20' and 5°40' South latitude, and between 119°58' and 120°28' East longitude (see figure 1). Bulukumba district is the meeting area between two local languages, Buginese and Konjo language. Buginese are

distributed into sub-districts of Ujung Bulu, Gantarang, Rilau Ale, and Bulukumba. Coastal Konjo communities are mainly distributed in the sub-districts of Bonto Bahari, Bontotiro, Herlang, and Kajang (Ningsih, 2016), while Kindang is the area of Highland Konjo that is connected to Sinjai and Gowa districts. Highland Konjo and Coastal Konjo speakers are the two categories of Konjo speakers in South Sulawesi province that Friberg (1991, 1993, 1995) and Gibson (2000) distinguish. The Konjo population of the Gowa district and Sinjai district both speak Highland Konjo.

The Coastal Konjo community represents a distinct cultural group that has preserved its language and customs throughout generations. Konjo belongs to the Austronesian language family, specifically the South Sulawesi subgroup. Even though Konjo has been debated of scholars whether it is a dialect of Makassarese (R. A. Pelenkahu, 1971; Tahir et al., 2018) or a language (Friberg, 1995; Grimes & Grimes, 1987; Ningsih & Zulkhaeriyah, 2021), but in this case, we will not discuss this further because we only focus on the maintenance of the Konjo language. However, the Coastal Konjo language, with its distinct phonetics and lexicon, encapsulates the essence of their coastal lifestyle, where fishing,
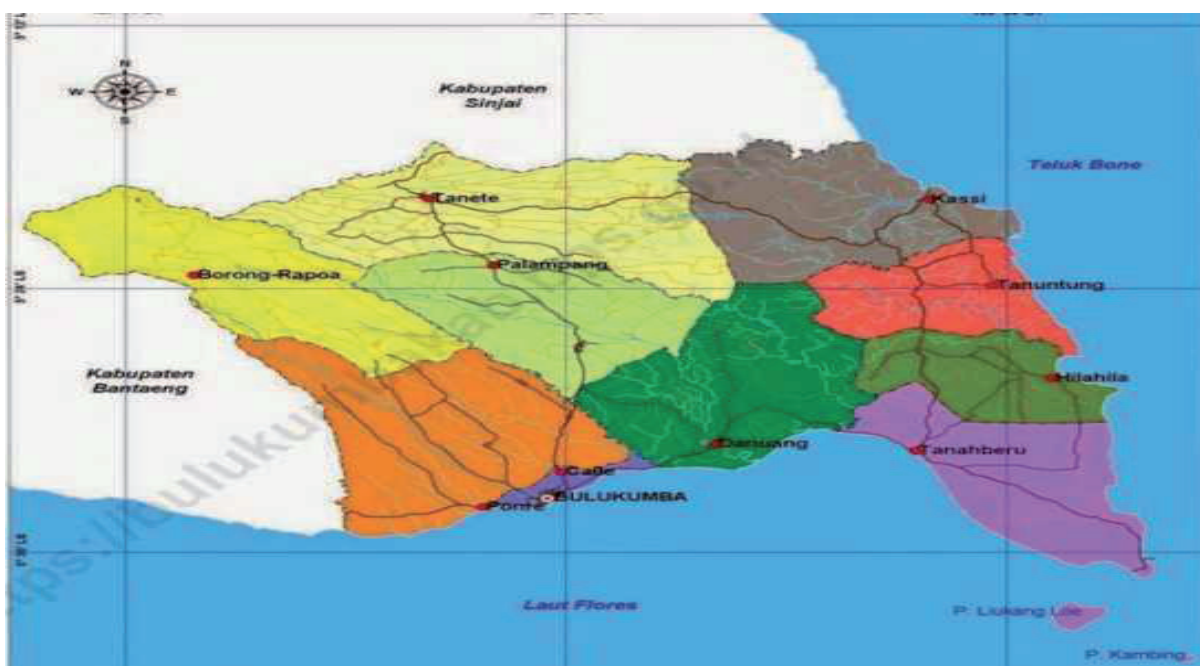
Source: Statistics Indonesia Bulukumba Regency (2023)
Figure 1. Map of Bulukumba

maritime traditions, and close-knit community bonds thrive. The community has developed a profound connection with its linguistic heritage.

Culturally, the center of the Coastal Konjo community is Kajang, where the Ammatoa indigenous people reside. They function as cultural institutions that aid in society's regulation. Their rights are recognized and protected by the Bulukumba Regional Regulation and the Regent Regulation. The cultural power of the Ammatoa indigenous community is based on the Pasang ri Kajang ideology, a holistic learning system that incorporates all aspects of life and contains related origins, beliefs, and legends (Ichwan et al., 2021). Ammatoa is the name of the traditional leader or custodian of this ideology, who is regarded as possessing cultural authority. However, they lack political authority and their influence is solely cultural (Sampean & Sjaf, 2021).

The linguistic situation of the Coastal Konjo community is characterized by bi/multilingualism. Language knowledge of individuals in the community navigate between Konjo as their heritage language, Bahasa Indonesia as the national language, Buginese as the neighborhood local language, and a mix of the national and local languages. They use the languages depending on the context and interlocutors. Therefore, the Coastal Konjo community's language maintenance efforts encompass various domains, such as family, education, and community interactions. Moreover, the availability of multiple languages in South Sulawesi province requires the Coastal Konjo community to have the ability to precisely choose the language or variety of languages that are appropriate to the communication situation.

METHOD

This research adopts a quantitative approach to explore gender differences in language choice within the Coastal Konjo community in South Sulawesi Province. Employing a survey methodology, the study targets individuals from this community residing in the sub-districts of Kajang and other areas within the Bulukumba district. The participant selection employs a purposive sampling technique to ensure a balanced representation of different genders.

Consequently, the sample size is established at 80 respondents, with an equal distribution of 40 females and 40 males, aiming to provide a balanced and comprehensive overview of language use scenarios.

The demographic data of the respondents who completed the questionnaire are categorized into several groups. Regarding age, female respondents were categorized as follows: under 20 years (n = 12), 20 to 30 years (n = 25), and over 30 years (n = 3). Male respondents were categorized as under 20 years (n = 7), 20 to 30 years (n = 22), and over 30 years (n = 11). In terms of marital status, female respondents were categorized as: single (n = 8), married (n = 27), and widowed (n = 5). Male respondents were categorized as: single (n = 11), married (n = 27), and widower (n = 2). Concerning educational attainment, female respondents were categorized as primary school graduates (n = 5), junior high school graduates (n = 3), senior high school graduates (n = 9), and university graduates (n = 3). Male respondents were categorized asprimary school graduates (n = 8), junior high school graduates (n = 19), senior high school graduates (n = 9), and university graduates (n = 4).

Data collection is meticulously executed through a structured survey questionnaire administered in person during June and July 2022. This questionnaire, comprising 38 closed-ended questions and using a nominal scale, is crafted to capture detailed information on three factors of language choice (Amir, 2010), namely; the speaker's role, conversation topic, and situational context. Respondents are presented with a variety of language options for their responses, including the Konjo language, Bahasa Indonesia, Buginese, and options for mixed language usage. The questionnaire design ensures that respondents clearly understand the questions, thereby facilitating accurate and consistent responses.

The analysis of the data collected involves a two-pronged approach: initially employing descriptive statistical methods to evaluate frequencies and percentages of language choices across various contexts, followed by inferential statistical analysis using t-tests to measure the testing hypotheses. These were conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

(SPSS) to determine the statistical significance of gender differences in language choice.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section presents the results of the analysis to see gender differences in the choice of language of the Coastal Konjo community. The analysis illustrates the percentage distribution of language choices among females and males in 3 language use contexts, namely; the speaker's role, the topic of conversation, and the situation of conversation. After that, we carried out a different test analysis to see to what extent the significance of the difference between females and males in their language choice and language use.

Language Choice Based on Speaker's Role

One intriguing aspect of language choice is the potential for gender differences, where females and males may exhibit distinct patterns in using their language. This study aims to uncover the nuanced dynamics of gendered language use and contribute to our understanding of language choice and maintenance within the Coastal Konjo community. In the following sections, we present and analyze the data collected, focusing on language choices based on the speaker's role within the family domain.

Table 1. presents the language choice pattern based on the speaker's role of female and male within the Coastal Konjo community family members. The languages considered in the table include Bahasa Indonesia (BI), Buginese (B), and Konjo (K), while "M" represents mixed use of languages. Commonly, the language choice between females and males is almost the same when they talk to family members at home. In terms of the language maintenance and language shift of Konjo, however, it can be seen notable distinctions between females and males in certain roles.

Firstly, there is a significant difference of 20% in the usage of the Konjo language when talking to their grandchildren. The data show only 64.5% of grandfathers use the Konjo language, while 82.5% of grandmothers speak Konjo to their grandchildren. Conversely, a Konjo grandfather is 20% more inclined to use the Indonesian language when conversing with their grandchildren compared to a grandmother.

Secondly, an intriguing finding is observed when Konjo individuals communicate with their family members from the Buginese ethnic group. Konjo females exhibit a 15% higher preference for speaking Konjo compared to Konjo males when talking with their Buginese family members. This suggests a stronger language contact and interaction between Coastal Konjo males and the

Table 1. Language Choice Based on Speaker's Role

Code	Speaker's Role	Language Choice (%)							
		Female				Male			
		BI	B	K	M	BI	B	K	M
R1	Talking to mother	10	5	85	0	15	0	85	0
R2	Talking to father	7.5	7.5	85	0	5	2.5	92.5	0
R3	Talking to husband/wife	12.5	5	82.5	0	2.5	2.5	95	0
R4	Talking to Children	15	5	77.5	2.5	20	5	75	0
R5	Talking to grandchildren	12.5	5	82.5	0	32.5	2.5	62.5	2.5
R6	Talking to sisters/brothers	12.5	10	77.5	0	15	0	85	0
R7	Talking to grandfather/ grandmother	12.5	5	82.5	0	5	2.5	92.5	0
R8	Talking to other family members	5	2.5	85	7.5	10	5	85	0
R9	Talking to friends	7.5	10	80	2.5	17.5	0	80	2.5
R10	Talking to Buginese relatives	42.5	10	47.5	0	45	5	32.5	17.5
Mean Score		13.4	16.4	78.9	0.14	16.4	2.6	78.9	2.3

Source: primary data

Buginese community. Additionally, females also have a 5% higher tendency to speak Buginese with their Buginese family members compared tomales.

Next, when talking to sisters or brothers, it is found that males are 7.5% more frequently using the Konjo language compared to females. Lastly, in husband-wife conversations, a Konjo husband uses the Konjo language 12.5% more frequently when speaking to his wife compared to the wife speaking to her husband. In contrast, a Konjo wife prefers to use the Indonesian language when conversing with her husband. However, the females and males show the same in language use when talking to other family members (85%) and talking to friends (80%).

In the practice of language transmission to the next generation, specifically the conversations between parents and children, as well as between grandparents and grandchildren, the data from Table 1 reveals that there is no significant difference between fathers and mothers in the process of language transmission to their children. However, a highly significant difference exists in the language transmission process from grandparents to their grandchildren. In this regard, grandmothers play a significantly larger role, with a 20% higher propensity for transmitting the Konjo language to their grandchildren compared to grandfathers. In summary, males are the agents of the language maintenance of Konjo based on their roles in family conversation in the home domain. This is in line with Rizki, et.al., (2023) who found Aceh local language in Takengon

differs between males and females where males are more likely to use the local language to speak with other Gayo speakers, while females more often use Bahasa Indonesia.

Table 2. presents the results of an independent sample t-test conducted to examine the equality of variances and means between female and male groups in the study. The purpose of the t-test is to determine if there are significant differences in language choice based on the speaker's role. The results show an F-value of .132 and a significance value of .895 when assuming equal variances. When equal variances are not assumed, the t-value remains the same, but the degrees of freedom (df) decrease to 77.866. In both cases, the significance value exceeds the threshold of .05, indicating that there is no significant difference in the means of the two groups. It shows that H0 is accepted and H1 is rejected. This implies that commonly the speakers' role may not have a substantial impact on the language preferences observed in the Coastal Konjo community.

Overall, the mean scores in Table 1 also show the language choices based on the speaker's role within the family domain revealing that the Konjo language is the dominant choice for both males and females across various familial relationships as shown in Figure 2. This indicates the strong presence and importance of the Konjo language in maintaining family communication. Bahasa Indonesia also has a considerable presence, particularly among females. Buginese shows a relatively lower usage among both genders, except when interacting with Buginese relatives.

Table 2. Inferential Statistical T-Test of Speaker's Role

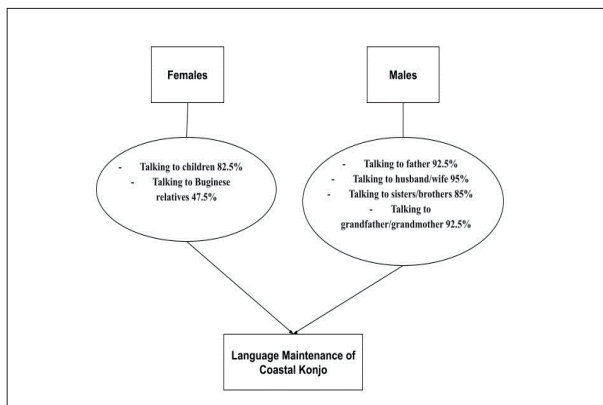| | | Levene's Test for Equality of Variances | | t-test for Equality of Means | | | | | | |
		F	Sig.	t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
TOTAL R	Equal variances assumed	.048	.828	.132	78	.895	.125	.945	-1.757	2.007
	Equal variances not assumed			.132	77.866	.895	.125	.945	-1.757	2.007

Source: primary data

Figure 2. Gender differences in language choice based on the speaker's role.

Table 3. Language Choice Based on Topic of Conversation

Code	Topic of Conversation	Language Choice (%)							
		Female				Male			
		BI	B	K	M	BI	B	K	M
T1	Religion	15	7.5	70	7.5	20	2.5	75	2.5
T2	Education	22.5	5	70	2.5	22.5	0	75	2.5
T3	Daily needs	7.5	5	85	2.5	10	2.5	87.5	0
T4	Job	10	7.5	82,5	0	17.5	2.5	80	0
T5	Finance	5	7.5	80	7.5	17.5	2.5	80	0
T6	Health	25	5	70	0	17.5	2.5	80	0
T7.	Politic	20	5	67.5	7.5	25	2.5	70	2.5
Mean Score		15	6.1	75	3.9	18.7	2.1	78.2	1.1

Source: primary data

These findings provide valuable insights into the gendered language choices within the Coastal Konjo community family members and highlight the significance of cultural context and relationships in shaping the language maintenance of Konjo. It showcases the dynamic nature of language use and emphasized the need for a nuanced understanding of sociolinguistic patterns within this community. Thus, the characteristics of the Coastal Konjo community in the family can be drawn based on gender differences as in the following picture.

Language Choice Based on the Topic of Conversation

Language choices are influenced by various factors, including the topic of conversation. Within the Coastal Konjo community of Bulukumba district, the selection of language based on the topic of discussion provides valuable insights into the sociolinguistic dynamics of this distinct cultural group. In this section, we present the language choices of the Coastal Konjo community based on the topic of conversation, shedding light on the patterns and dynamics that shape their linguistic practices. The following table presents a comprehensive breakdown of language choices based on specific topics, allowing us to delve into the intricacies of language selection within this community.

Table 3 displays the percentage distribution of language choices among females and males in various conversational topics. The languages considered in the table include Bahasa Indonesia (BI), Buginese (B), and Konjo (K), while "M" represents mixed use of languages.

In the first topic, "Religion," it can be observed that 70% of females and 75% of males choose to use the Konjo language when discussing religious matters. Bahasa Indonesia is also commonly used by both genders, with 15% of females and 20% of males selecting it for this topic. In contrast, females use Buginese 7.5% more frequently than males 2.5%. Tondo (2019)

also found the use of local language occurs along liturgy aiming to make the community understandthe message from the preacher.

In subsequent topics, such as "Education," "Daily needs," and "Job," the predominant language choice is Konjo for both genders, indicating its significance in these domains. However, Bahasa Indonesia also holds a notable presence, particularly among males 18.7%. In contrast, Buginese shows relatively lower usage across all topics and is more frequently used by females 6.1%.

Overall language choice is based on the topic of conversation showing the Konjo language is the most favorable by the females and males communication across various topics. However, in terms of the maintenance of the Konjo language, the data show gender differences in some topics of conversation. Firstly, in the context of health-related discussions, there is a 10% difference where males prefer to use the Konjo language. Consequently, Konjo females tend to choose the Indonesian language more frequently (with a 7% preference) when engaging in health-related conversations. The last topic pertains to religion and education, in which males exhibit a 5% higher preference for using the Konjo language compared to other languages.

Understanding these patterns is crucial for appreciating the complex sociolinguistic dynamics within the Coastal Konjo community and provides insights into how language interacts with various aspects of their daily lives. It emphasizes the need to consider topic-based language preferences when exploring language maintenance and revitalization efforts within the community.

These findings shed light on the language choices influenced by different conversational topics within the Coastal Konjo community. The observed patterns reflect the significance of context and domain-specific linguistic conventions. The use of specific languages for certain topics may stem from cultural practices, community norms, or specific vocabulary associated with those domains.

Table 4 presents the results of an independent sample test conducted to examine the equality of variances and means between two groups in the study. The purpose of the test is to determine if there are significant differences in language choice based on the topic of conversation. The t-test compares the means of the female and male groups to determine if there are significant differences. The results show an F-value of .477 and a significance value of .635 when assuming equal variances. When equal variances are not assumed, the t-value remains the same, but the degrees of freedom (df) decrease to 77.282. In both cases, the significance value exceeds the threshold of .05, indicating that there is no significant difference in the means of the two groups. It shows that H0 is accepted and H1 is rejected. This indicates that the topic of conversation may not have a significant impact on the language choice observed in the Coastal Konjo community. Other factors not captured in this analysis may play a more prominent role in determining language choice.

**Table 4.** Inferential Statistical T-Test of Topic of Conversation

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means							
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		
									Lower	Upper	
TOTAL T	Equal variances assumed	.671	.415	.477	78	.635	.450	.943	-1.428	2.328	
	Equal variances not assumed			.477	77.282	.635	.450	.943	-1.428	2.328	

Source: primary data

Table 5. Language Choice Based on Topic of Conversation

Code	Situation of Conversation	Language Choice (%)							
		Female				Male			
		BI	B	K	M	BI	B	K	M
S1	Joking with husband/wife	17.5	2.5	80	0	17.5	0	82.5	0
S2	Joking with parents/children	7.5	2.5	85	5	27.5	0	70	2.5
S3	Joking with grandfather/grandson	12.5	10	75	2.5	27.5	5	65	2.5
S4	Having a relaxed talk with the husband/wife	12.5	7.5	77.5	2.5	15	0	82.5	2.5
S5	Having a relaxed talk with parents/children	17.5	10	72.5	0	12.5	2.5	85	0
S6	Having a relaxed talk with grandson/grand-father	17.5	7.5	72.5	2.5	32.5	0	67.5	0
S7	Having a relaxed talk with other family members	12.5	7.5	77.5	2.5	10	2.5	87.5	0
S8	Having a relaxed talk with a Konjonese friend	5	7.5	85	2.5	7.5	0	92.5	0
S9	Having a relaxed talk with Buginese friends	55	12.5	30	2.5	37.5	5	42.5	15
S10	Angry with husband/wife	17.5	7.5	72.5	2.5	5	0	90	5
S11	Angry with children	7.5	10	82.5	0	15	2.5	77.5	5
S12	Angry with brothers/sisters	7.5	10	82.5	0	17.5	2,5	75	5
S13	Angry with other family members	10	2.5	82.5	5	22.5	2.5	75	0
S14	Angry with Konjonese friends	7.5	7.5	80	5	5	2.5	90	2.5
S15	Angry with Buginese friends	15	7.5	75	2.5	30	7.5	50	12.5
S16	Discussing with husband/wife	7.5	2.5	85	5	17.5	7.5	75	0
S17	Discussing with children	17.5	5	75	2.5	32.5	2.5	65	0
S18	Discussing with friends	15	7.5	75	2.5	32.5	2.5	65	0
S19	Chatting with family through WhatsApp/Facebook	57.5	2.5	37.5	2.5	50	2.5	45	2.5
S20	The closest language in your experience	12.5	7.5	80	0	15	2.5	80	2.5
S21	The most comfortable language	17.5	5	75	2.5	20	5	72.5	2.5
Means Score		16.7	6.8	74.2	2.4	21.4	2.6	73.1	2.9

Source: primary data
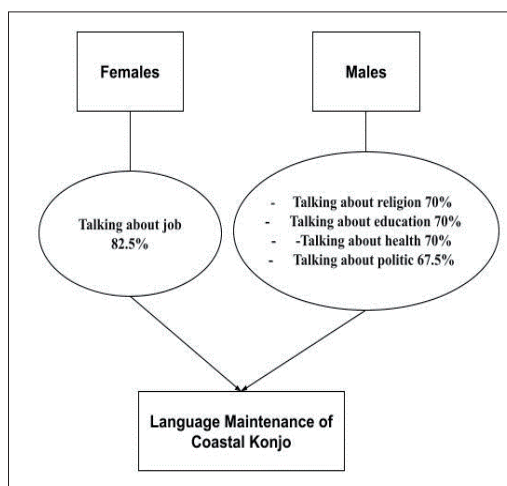
Figure 3. Gender differences in language choice based on the topic of conversation

This is supported by the survey results on the choice of languages based on the topic of conversation. Females and males are generally the same, but when talking about health problems males prefer to use the Konjo and females choose the Indonesian language when speaking about health. Lawless et al. (2019) stated that men's decision-making ability is viewed as superiorin the eyes of living and strategic life decisions in general. However, at the time of talking about

jobs, females more frequently use the Konjo language. It is supported by Mangubhai & Lawless (2021) that the connection between gender and language preferences in coastal communities extends beyond the workplace and encompasses various social aspects. Moreover, when talking about finance both females and males have in common. In terms of language maintenance of Konjo, the pattern of gender difference in language choice based on the topic of conversation of the Coastal Konjo community can be drawn as in the following picture.

Language Choice Based on the Situation of Conversation

Language serves as a medium through which the community expresses its emotions conveys local knowledge, and maintains a strong sense of cultural belonging. It is not only a means of communication but also plays a vital role in preserving their traditions, values, and historical narratives. In this study, the dynamics of language choice are not only influenced by the speaker's role but also by the specific situation of the conversation. The linguistic practices of females and males in different situations shed light on the gender differences in language choice and provide insights into the community's sociolinguistic landscape.

Table 5 presents the language choices based on the situation of conversation within the family domain of the Coastal Konjo community. The table displays the percentage distribution of language choices among females and males in various conversational situations. The languages considered in the table include Bahasa Indonesia (BI), Buginese (B), and Konjo (K), while "M" represents mixed use of languages. Overall, females and males choose to use the Konjo language in this situation. Bahasa Indonesia is also commonly used by both genders, while Buginese shows minimal usage. The following situation exhibits similar patterns, where the Konjo language is predominantly chosen for joking, relaxed talk, discussions, and expressing anger among both females and males. Bahasa Indonesia also has a notable presence in these situations, while Buginese usage remains limited.

However, table 5 shows the most extreme gender difference observed in the data, which pertains to the situation of anger. There is a higher usage of the Konjo language by Konjo females compared to males when expressing anger. Konjo women exhibit a 20% higher preference for using the Konjo language when expressing anger towards their Buginese friends and a 12.5% higher preference when expressing anger towards their Konjo family members. However, this trend is reversed in casual conversations. Konjo females display a 12.5% lower preference for using the Konjo language when engaging in casual conversations with their Buginese friends and a 10% lower preference when conversing casually with their Konjo family members.

Secondly, substantial differences are also observed in the context of anger within marital relationships. Konjo males use the Konjo language 17.5% more frequently when expressing anger towards their wives compared to when females express anger towards their husbands. Instead of using the Konjo language when angry, females prefer to utilize the Indonesian language when expressing anger toward their husbands. In other cases, (Jupriono, 2010) also identified women found more passive than men in the Indonesian grammar structure.

Thirdly, fundamental differences reoccur in conversations between grandparents and grandchildren. When conversing with their grandchildren, Konjo grandfathers show a 12% higher preference for using the Konjo language compared to grandmothers. However, the situation is reversed when grandfathers converse with their grandchildren who use the Konjo language, as their usage of the Konjo language is 10% lower compared to grandmothers conversing with their grandchildren. Konjo grandfathers prefer to use the Indonesian language (with a higher preference of 17.5%) when engaging in casual conversations with their grandchildren.

Notably, when it comes to chatting with family through WhatsApp/Facebook, a significant majority of both females (37.5%) and males (45%) prefer to use Bahasa Indonesia. This suggests a preference for national language when engaging in digital communication with family members.

This proves that the Konjo language serves more as a spoken language than a written language. On the other hand, the language policy for educational institutions in Indonesia requires its students to learn the written language in Indonesian so that Konjo speakers feel more comfortable choosing to use Indonesia when writing. In addition, the Konjo community members commonly find it more difficult to write the spelling of the Konjo language several phonetics are different from the Indonesian language and are not fully supported yet on digital media-based communication devices.

These findings provide insights into the language choices influenced by specific conversational situations within the Coastal Konjo community. The observed patterns highlight the significance of cultural and social context in shaping language preferences. The use of specific languages in different situations may stem from familiarity, comfort, or linguistic norms associated with those specific interactions. Understanding these patterns contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of the sociolinguistic dynamics within the Coastal Konjo community. It underscores the need to consider situational language preferences when examining language maintenance and language use patterns within the community.

Table 6 provides the results of the independent samples test conducted to examine the equality of variances and means between the two groups in the study. The test is used to determine if there are significant differences in language choice based on the situation of the conversation. The T-test for Equality of Means compares the means of the two groups to determine if there are significant differences. The results indicate a t-value of 1.200 and a significance value of .507 when assuming equal variances. When equal variances are not assumed, the t-value remains the same, but the degrees of freedom (df) decrease to 77.251. In both cases, the significance value exceeds the threshold of .05, indicating that there is no significant difference in the means of the two groups. It shows that H0 is accepted and H1 is rejected. The results imply that the participants, regardless of the situation, tend to employ similar language choices.

This is supported by the language choice based on the situation of conversation reveals that the Konjo language maintains a strong presence in various conversational situations both females and males, including joking, relaxed talk, discussions, and expressing anger. This indicates the prominence of the Konjo language in both informal and more emotionally charged interactions. The consistent use of Bahasa Indonesia across situations suggests its role in facilitating communication beyond the immediate community. Notably, the preference for Bahasa Indonesia during digital communication with family members highlights the community's language shift in modern communication platforms. However, in terms of language maintenance of Konjo, the pattern of gender difference in language choice based on the situation of conversation of the Coastal Konjo community can be drawn as in Figure 4.

Table 6. Inferential Statistical T-Test of the Situation of Conversation

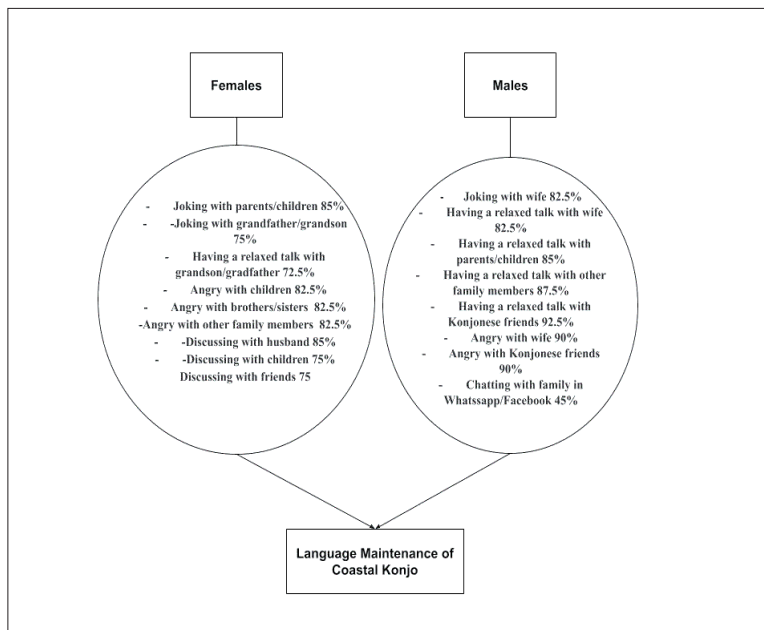| | | Levene's Test for Equality of Variances | | t-test for Equality of Means | | | | | | | |
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
TOTAL S	Equal variances assumed	.038	.845	.667	78	.507	1.200	1.800	-2.384	4.784
	Equal variances not assumed			.667	77.251	.507	1.200	1.800	-2.384	4.784

Source: primary data

Figure 4. Gender differences in language choice

Collectively, these results reflect the multifaceted language dynamics within the Coastal Konjo community. They highlight the significance of the Konjo language as the primary mode of communication in various domains. This is influenced by the loyalty of the Coastal Konjo to their heritage language (Ningsih et al., 2021). The coexistence of Bahasa Indonesia and Buginese demonstrates the community's multilingualism and engagement with broader linguistic contexts. This pattern of local language choice is similar to the Buginese community who stay in Donggala, the Center of Sulawesi, which confirmed that the Buginese dominantly choose their local language at home due to their pride in being identified as Buginese (Tamrin, 2017). In this study, the gender differences observed in language choice emphasize the need to consider the social roles and relationships that influence local language use patterns. Additionally, the specific variations in language choices based on topics and situations indicate the influence of cultural context and the dynamics of intergroup and intragroup interactions.

These findings have implications for the maintenance and transmission of the Konjo language. The strong presence of the Konjo language within the family domain suggests that familial relationships play a crucial role in language preservation. However, the increased usage of Bahasa Indonesia and the influence of Buginese highlight the need for efforts to sustain and revitalize the Konjo language, particularly in interactions beyond the immediate family. Understanding these language dynamics can inform language planning and revitalization initiatives, focusing on promoting the Konjo language and reinforcing its cultural significance.

In conclusion, the findings provide a comprehensive view of the gender differences in language choice within the Coastal Konjo community. They underscore the importance of the Konjo language in family communication, while also recognizing the impact of other languages such as Bahasa Indonesia and Buginese. It is consistent with what Sugianto (2018) found that in bilingual families, it would be very easy to adapt to different cultures within each family. These findings contribute to our understanding of language maintenance and transmission practices within the community and emphasize the need for targeted efforts to preserve and promote the Konjo language in diverse linguistic contexts.

CONCLUSION

This study provides valuable insights into the gender differences in language choice within the Coastal Konjo community and their implications for the maintenance of the Konjo language. The

findings reveal that the Konjo language remains the dominant language of choice among both men and women in the family domain. This suggests a strong commitment to preserving their linguistic heritage within the community. The analysis also highlights the influence of external factors on language use, particularly the use of Buginese and mixed use of languages (Bahasa Indonesia-Konjo). Women in the Coastal Konjo community exhibit a higher usage of Buginese, indicating greater language contact and interaction with the Buginese community residing alongside them. This finding underscores the importance of considering not only gender but also intercultural dynamics in understanding language choices and transmission practices. Furthermore, the results indicate that males play a significant role in maintaining the Konjo language. Their active participation in language preservation efforts reflects a sense of responsibility and pride in their cultural identity. However, H0 is accepted and H1 is rejected due to the inferential statistical t-test for each factor of language choice showing that there is no significant difference in language use between females and males in the family domain of the Coastal Konjo community ($P>0.005$). Moreover, it is essential to recognize the valuable contributions of males in sustaining the Konjo language through their engagement in familial and community contexts.

These findings contribute to the broader discourse on language maintenance and preservation, shedding light on the intricate relationship between gender and language use. They have implications for language revitalization initiatives, highlighting the need to engage both females and males in fostering the vitality of the Konjo language. Overall, this study emphasizes the importance of recognizing gender differences in language choice within the Coastal Konjo community and underscores the need for inclusive and culturally sensitive language policies that promote the preservation and vitality of the Konjo language for future generations. Moving forward, further research could explore the intergenerational transmission of the Konjo language and the influence of education on language preferences. Additionally, understanding the motivations and attitudes towards language use among different age groups and social contexts would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in maintaining the Konjo language.

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