

CHAPTER I

I N T R O D U C T I O N

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is man's nature as social being. It is a part of his everyday life, one of his basic needs. To fulfill his need of communicating and interacting with other people, man makes use of languages because, as what Winfred P. Lehmann says (1983:1), languages are the means which enables human beings to play their roles in society, to express their needs, to give and get informations and to learn about the people and their surroundings. In short, through languages, human beings are able to live effectively, to expand their horizon and to know about the world.

In many parts of the world, people speak several languages when they communicate with others. This is because the ability of using several languages or codes is just a normal requirement of daily living in order to interact freely with other people (Ronald Wardhaugh, 1986:94,95). It has become an important skill for members of communities to be mastered.

Supporting Wardhaugh's opinion, Bell concludes

that no person is monolingual, person who speaks only a single code because of the fact that there are many different roles played by an individual in the society, different social relationships in which he engages, and different groups to which he belongs. As the consequence of those factors, code switching is likely to happen in any speech community.

At Gereja Kristen Indonesia Pregolan Bunder Surabaya where I become a member of the youth commission, code switching frequently takes place during the youth's conversations. I myself often code switch when talking to the priests or to other youth. For example, when I am talking to one of my good friends, I usually use Javanese or daily Indonesian. However, when one of the priests or someone I do not know very well join in the conversation, I usually code switch to a more formal language, i.e. standard Indonesian.

Due to the facts that (1) code switching is likely to occur in any speech community, (2) the youth in Gereja Kristen Indonesia Pregolan Bunder Surabaya often code switch during their conversations, and (3) code switching itself is interesting to be analysed, the writer decides to do the research on code switching among the youth in Gereja Kristen Indonesia Pregolan Bunder Surabaya and write a thesis entitled : " Code Switching as

Displayed in Informal Situations by the Youth in Gereja Kristen Indonesia Pregolan Bunder Surabaya "

1.2 Statement of the Problems

In line with the background of the study, the questions investigated were formulated as follows :

1. What language or code is mainly used by the youths in Gereja Kristen Indonesia Pregolan Bunder Surabaya in communicating with each other ?
2. What languages or codes are mainly code switched by the youths in Gereja Kristen Indonesia Pregolan Bunder Surabaya during their conversations ?
3. Why do the youths switch from one code to another during their conversations ?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

This study is intended to answer the above research questions. As such, the objectives are :

1. To mention the language which is mainly used by the youths in delivering their messages.
2. To mention the existence of code switching, especially the languages or codes used by the subjects being observed in switching from one code to another.
3. To mention the reasons of the existence of code switching.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are most likely to confirm the varieties of sociolinguistics study because this code switching study can be a good input in learning sociolinguistics.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

Realizing how broad the discussion of code switching could be, this study is limited in several ways:

1. The subjects under study are seven youths who are active in joining the youth activities held in Gereja Kristen Indonesia Pregolan Bunder Surabaya.
2. The seven youths are chosen under the assumption that all of them belong to the third generations of Chinese families.
3. The area of analysis is focussed on conversations which take place in the church, except for the sport activities. The settings of all conversations are the informal one.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is based on theories of sociolinguistics, code switching and bilingualism.

Janet Holmes states (1992:1-2) that

sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society. In other words, sociolinguistics is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used.

While for code switching, Roger T. Bell asserts (1976:110) that code switching is the consequence of role switching because in the society, an individual plays more than one roles, participates in many social relationships or belongs to many groups. The existence of code switching is marked by the selection of styles, dialects, or languages to be used in a certain social context.

Bilingualism, according to Teodoro A. Liamzon and Koh Beng Lee, as quoted from Macnamara (1979:186), is the condition in which an individual possesses at least one of the language skills even to a minimal degree in his second language.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

The title of this thesis is Code Switching as Displayed in Informal Situations by the Youth in Gereja Kristen Indonesia Peregolan Bunder Surabaya.

As such, the major terms defined in this section are :

1. Code

According to Ronald Wardhaugh (1986:86), code is any

kind of system that two or more people employ for communication.

2. Switch

✓ According to Jess Stein, as quoted by John Lyons (1981:861), switch is to shift or change. In this thesis it means to change a code into another one.

3. Informal Situations

In this thesis, the term refers to the situations in which the youths have the chance to communicate freely with their priests or friends, such as after attending the fellowship or Sunday service, during sports activities, etc.

4. Youths

In Gereja Kristen Indonesia Peregolan Bunder Surabaya, the youth commission is divided into three sub-commissions namely : junior youth, youth, and senior youth. In this thesis, the term " youth " refers to the youth sub-commission that consists of persons whose ages are between 17 and 25.

5. Gereja Kristen Indonesia Peregolan Bunder Surabaya

It is the church which is located at jalan Peregolan Bunder 36, Surabaya. It is a Protestant Church with ± 2000 people registered as the members. However, among those members, only 500-600 people can be said to actively attend the activities held by the church.

6. Third Generation of Chinese Family

All of the youths taken as the subjects under study belong to the third generation of Chinese family. This means that both of their parents were already born in Indonesia.

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. It gives the readers some explanations about the background, statement of the problems, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the limitation of the study, the research methodology, theoretical frameworks, and definition of the key terms. The second chapter reviews some literature related to the study under report. It discusses the theories used in the study, namely sociolinguistics, bilingualism, and code switching. The third chapter is about the research methodology. It discusses the nature and design of the study, the subjects, instruments, and procedures of collecting and analysing the data. The fourth chapter is about the data analysis, the findings, and the discussions. The final chapter of this thesis presents the conclusion and some suggestions concerning the topic under study.