

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 The Background of the Study

As social beings, we should be able to talk ourselves out and to express ourselves to other people. In other words, we are indeed in need of expressing our feelings of love, anger, hope, grief and anxiety, for instance, to ourselves and to other people around us. To do this, we need a language. Chaika (1982:2) states that a language is used to divulge or to cloak a man's personal identity, background and also character.

Language is often associated with society. To this point, Sapir (1921:4) says:

"Speech is a human activity that varies without assignable limit as we pass from social group to social group, because it is a purely historical heritage of the group, the product of long-continued social usage."

Language and society are so intertwined that there is a combination between the study of language and the study of society namely sociolinguistics, the study of language in relation to society (Hudson 1980:1).

There are two reasons why the writer of this thesis decided to make a study on sociolinguistics. First, by studying sociolinguistics, she will become more conscious of her own utterances and their impacts on her listeners. Second, learning sociolinguistics does not only make her aware of her utterances, but also of the

responses (utterances) of those whom she communicates with. In line with this, Chaika (1982:2) claims that what many people find most exciting about sociolinguistics is the heightening of their sensitivity to their own speech behavior as well as to the speech of others. She adds (1982:2) that students of sociolinguistics gain new respect for all peoples.

Eventhough there are many topic areas of sociolinguistics, here, the writer prefers to delve into code-switching. There are some reasons which underlie her preference. First of all, code-switching commonly takes place in society; this is when one switches from one language to another language in the process of a speech event. According to Fishman (1972:40-1), people have frequently been immersed in a veritable ocean of crosscurrents of talk; therefore, no one always speaks in the same way. Bell (1976:116-7) also supports the fact that code-switching does happen in society. He claims that the extensive use of more than one language is common and items which are surely possessed by another language could be accomodated, within this view, in terms of having been borrowed or having just slipped in, through intervention.

In July 1995, the writer had a chance to visit the Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta together with some students from Asia. There was a guide who told them in English about the history of the Sultan's Palace. When

he was talking, some of the students did not quite follow his explanations. One of the apparent reasons was that the guide was code-switching quite a lot: from English to Dutch, from English to German, from English to Indonesian, and so on. This fact made the writer interested in trying to find out why the guide used many languages while explaining about the history of the Sultan's Palace.

Besides, so far there has been no thesis on code-switching by tour guides written by the English Department students of Widya Mandala Catholic University. It is because of all those reasons, the writer decided to study code-switching which is done by the tour guides at the Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta and write a thesis entitled "A Study on the Code-Switching as Demonstrated by the Tour Guides at the Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta."

1.2 The Statements of the Problem

With reference to the background of the study, the writer looked into the following questions regarding the problems of the study under report:

1. What languages are mostly switched by the tour guides at the Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta while explaining things to their tourists?

2. Why do the tour guides at the Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta switch from one code to another code while explaining things to their tourists?
3. What are the effects of code-switching done by the tour guides to their listeners?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

In line with the statements of the problem (section 1.2), this study intended to:

1. describe the languages which are mostly switched by the tour guides at the Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta while explaining things to their tourists.
2. describe the reasons why the tour guides at the Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta switch from one code to another code while explaining things to their tourists.
3. describe the effects of code-switching done by the tour guides to their listeners.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study should give a good input to the field of sociolinguistics that is to enrich the varieties of sociolinguistic studies. Besides, the findings of this study should propose an input to the field of learning and teaching of English specially at the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University that is to give a better understanding of

code-switching (the existence of code-switching, the reasons of people do code-switching, and the effects of code-switching to listeners).

1.5 The Scope and Limitation of the Study

According to the tour guides who happen to be the writer's subjects, there are more or less seventy tour guides at the Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta, and they are divided into two groups. The first group is the tour guides who are special for Indonesian tourists and who use Indonesian while explaining things to the tourists. The second group is the tour guides who are special for the tourists who do not speak Indonesian. They use the same languages as that of the tourists. Accordingly, they will speak English if the tourists are from America, or Dutch if the tourists are from Holland.

Due to the limited time, the writer of this thesis chose the second group of the tour guides as the subjects. Besides, at the time of doing this study, she was still studying English. Moreover, she wants to know if the tour guides do code-switching when speaking in English.

There were three guides who were observed by the writer. One of them is a female senior guide, and the others are one male senior and one junior guide. They

were chosen under the assumption that each of them can speak more than two languages apart from Indonesian and English.

The area of analysis was concentrated on the guides' explanations on the history of the Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta.

1.6 The Theoretical Framework

This study was based on the theories of sociolinguistics which includes code-switching, multilingualism, and attitudes to a language. Besides, it was also based on the theories of discourse.

Sociolinguistics, according to Chaika (1982:2), is the study of the ways people use language in social interaction. It has something to do with how we talk to our parents, or to our friends, or even to people whom we do not really know. In addition, sociolinguistics also concerns with the reasons of why we talk as we do and other people talk as they do. Therefore, this theory was used to understand code-switching better.

Marasigan (1983:7) claims that code-switching refers to the use of two languages in the same sentence or discourse. This theory of code-switching was used to grasp and analyze the data in this thesis.

Fishman (Holmes 1979:15) states that multilingualism is related to a single population which uses two or more languages or varieties of the same

language for internal communicative purposes. This theory was used to bolster up the theory of code-switching to note the influence of the multilingualism towards the tour guides at the Sultan of Yogyakarta's Palace.

Attitudes to a language, according to Holmes (1992:344-57), are very important to sociolinguistics. Those attitudes are of two kinds, namely positive attitudes and negative attitudes. Positive attitudes are usually very respectful as well as admiring. Conversely, negative attitudes refer to ignorance and prejudice. The writer of this thesis used this theory of attitudes to a language as an attempt to understand the reasons of why the tour guides at the Sultan of Yogyakarta's Palace use certain languages.

Cook (1989:156) defines discourse as kinds of languages which are meaningful, unified, and purposive. He also gives another definition of discourse which is language in use for communication, while discourse analysis is the search for what gives or makes discourse coherence (1989:6). This theory was used to lay stress on the fact that the data analyzed in this thesis were in terms of oral discourse.

1.7 The Definition of Key Terms

Before proceeding to further discussion, it is advisable for the writer to clarify some key terms applied in this thesis in order to avoid misinterpretation.

1. Code

Code is "the particular dialect or language one chooses to use on any occasion or a system used for communication between two or more parties" (Wardhaugh 1986:99).

2. Switch

Quoting Stein, Lyons (1981:861) states that switch is to shift or change. The word "switch" in this study means changing from one code to another.

3. Sultan

The word "Sultan" refers to the King who rules the Special Region of Yogyakarta. From 1755 up to now, the Sultan has been changed over ten times. At present, the Palace in Yogyakarta is ruled by Sultan Hamengku Buwono X (the tenth Sultan). The name of the Sultan holds a special meaning or significance for all people in Yogyakarta, evoking the traditional Javanese aristocrat and the progressive founder of the Indonesian Republic (Titaley 1).

1.8 The Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction which includes the background of the study, the statements of the problem, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, the theoretical framework, the definition of key terms and the organization of the thesis. Chapter II concerns with the review of the related literature which consists of the related theories and the related study. The methodology used in the writer's study is treated of in Chapter III. Chapter IV contains the source of data, the data, the analysis of the data, the findings as well as the discussion of the findings. The last chapter proposes the conclusion and some suggestions relating the topic under study.