

Chapter I

Introduction

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Human basic needs are not only food, shelter and clothes but they need other people as well. They need to communicate with others. The ability of human being to talk, to use language in order to communicate with others, is universal and seems so natural that most people never bother to think much about it. They take it for granted that every normal human being can talk, as well can eat, sleep, or walk. This common attitude toward language is in part entirely correct that every normal human being beyond infancy can use language to communicate with his fellow human beings. It is precisely this ability that distinguishes man as “talking animal” most sharply from all other beings. Man’s ability to use language far surpasses that of any other living being.

Though it is true that every human being is able to use language, it is misleading to compare this ability to eat, sleep or walk. All of these abilities are passed on to us genetically from our parents. In this case, language or languages, that we speak, are passed on to us not genetically from our parents but by cultural transmission.

Indonesia consists of many kinds of ethnics with many kinds of languages, so it can be concluded that Indonesia is a bilingual country. Several languages are spoken by Indonesian; almost all people speak at least two or more languages, their vernacular or other languages such as English or Mandarin. This

idea is supported by Bell (1976:110) that claims that there is no individual who speaks only one code while communicating with others because there are many different roles played in the society, social relationship in which he engages, and groups to which he belongs.

Indonesian, especially the youngsters often switch their languages while communicating. The language itself is not only Indonesian, or their vernacular only, but they often create their own language, which is called *Bahasa gaul*. *Bahasa gaul* is a language that is used by youngsters to express their closeness, for example *makran* for eating, *sutera* for already or *endang* means delicious.

The writer stays in a boarding house along with her friends who mostly come from different places. They often switch their languages into others. It touches the writer's curiosity to investigate further about this matter.

Based on the explanation above, this study entitled "**A Study of Code Switching in the Informal Situation among Friends in a Boarding House in Surabaya**" is conducted. This study is to find out what languages are mainly switched and the main reasons why the subjects do it.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

This study is intended to answer of the following questions:

1. What language is mainly code switched in the conversation among friends in boarding house?
2. What are the main reasons for them to switch their codes?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of this study are answering the questions above. The objectives are to find out:

1. The language which is mainly code switched in the conversation among friends in boarding house.
2. The main reasons for them to switch their code.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The finding of this study is expected to enrich the varieties of sociolinguistic study and to find out whether or not education influence people to switch their code, especially for them who are in the same level.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

This thesis **“A Study of the Code Switching in the Informal Situation among Friends in a Boarding House in Surabaya”** is limited only on the spoken code switching because code switching mostly occurs in oral languages. The conversations are in the informal situation and they take place in the boarding house, in this case, in the writer’s boarding house on jalan Bronggalan II-H Surabaya. The subjects are the writer’s friends in her boarding house who are also the students of the English Department of Widya Mandala-Surabaya. The data of this study were collected on May 2001.

1.6 Theoretical Frame Work

This study is based on the theory of sociolinguistics that covers bilingualism and code switching.

Holmes (1992:1-2) states that sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society. It means that by examining the relationship, people will know the language and the social relationships that exist in community.

Nababan (1991:27-29) says that bilingualism is the habit of using two languages in interacting with other people. It means that when people talk to other people and they speak in more than one language, we can say that this person is a bilingual.

Nababan also argues that code switching is a process of changing code from one to other code. Moreover, it depends on the condition or the need of the communication.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

These are the key terms that need to be explained in order to avoid misunderstanding. There are:

Code

According to Holmes (1992:42-45), code is the language which is used in a conversations.

Switch

According to Holmes (1992:42-45), switch is a change preposition one language to another language that reflects ethnic identity, relationship between participants, social status, formality and its function.

Code switching

According to Hudson (1980:56) Code switching is the use of different varieties at different time by a single speaker.

Informal Situation

In this thesis, this means situation where the subjects of this study communicate with other friends, for example in the bedroom, living room etc.

Boarding house

From Oxford Dictionary (p. 120), a boarding house means a house whose owner provides people with meals and accommodation in return for payment.

While in this thesis, it means a place where the subjects live and stay temporarily.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is Introduction and it covers Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problems, Objectives of the Study, Significance of the Study, the Scope and Limitation, Theoretical Framework, Definition of Key Terms, and Organization of the Study. The second

chapter is the Review of the Related Literature of the study under report. It discusses some theories of Sociolinguistics, Bilingualism and Code Switching. The third chapter is Research Method. It covers the Nature of the Study, Subjects, Instruments and Procedure for Data Collection and Data Analysis. The fourth chapter is about Findings and Discussion of Findings. Then the last chapter of this thesis is the conclusion and suggestion.