

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Language is one of the characteristics of human beings which differentiates human beings from other creatures. In society, people may speak different languages to express their ideas depending on the contexts in which they are involved. A speaker will not use a home language when he speaks to a person from a different social group although they are friends (Nababan: 1991-1).

Languages as a means which enables human being to play their roles in society, to express their needs, to give and to get information and to learn about the people and their surrounding (Lehmann: 1983-1).

Bell claims there is no individual who speaks only one code. In other words, there is no monolingual who uses one language in communicating with others. Consequently, code-switching is most likely to take place in any speech community.

Code switching occurs since there are difficulties in finding the right words at the time of speaking and the speakers can agree on interpretations of switching (Marasigan: 1983-90).

The writer is interested in this topic because she found that mostly the Chinese families in Indonesia are multilinguals. It means that they use three languages or more and the families use Mandarin, Indonesian, and Javanese for communication. They usually switch from one language to another. People are often unaware of the fact that they code-switch with different languages in order to maintain the smoothness of the conversation, make a topic clear, and give information.

Janet Holmes (1992: 50) asserts that people will often use a term from their mother tongue or the first language because they do not know how to say in their second language. These switches are triggered by lack of knowledge of the vocabulary. She also adds that people may borrow words from another language to express a concept or to describe an object for which there are no obvious words available in the language they are using.

A speaker will switch code when he meets diverse social situations where many people are not from the same social group. They will easily become bilingual. Code-switching does not always indicate that the speaker should master the second language as well as the first one.

She also claims that a speaker may not be very proficient in a second language but he still switches to the language. The switching is done by using brief phrases and words. The switches are often very short

and they are made primarily for social reasons; to signal the speaker's ethnic identity and solidarity with the addressee. Code-switching is done by perfect bilingual and non-perfect bilingual. People use code-switching to give emphasis, to show affection, and to accurate quotation.

Holmes claims further that the code-switch correspond to exactly to the proverb being recited. The similarity of quotation and proverb being recited is very clear. Both are referentially motivated switches in that speaker wishes to be accurate; the exact words are important. But, switches often serve several function at once. The code-switch not only emphasize the precise message content but also signals ethnic identity. In other words, they have an effective as well as referential function.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Based on the background of the study, the statement of the problems are as follows :

- 1) In what occasion do the writer's Chinese families and relatives code-switch?
- 2) What kinds of code-switching do the most frequently occur in these families (Indonesian into Mandarin or Javanese into Mandarin)?
- 3) What are the main reasons underlying the writer's Chinese families and relatives code-switch?

1.3 The Objective of The Study

In line with the statement of the problems, the objectives of this study are as follows :

- 1) To describe in what occasion the families often use code-switching.
- 2) To mention the kinds of code-switching mostly occur in the families.
- 3) To describe the main reasons underlying the families code-switch.

1.4 The Significance of The Study

The findings of this study are most likely to enrich the varieties of sociolinguistic studies since code-switching study can be a good input in learning sociolinguistics.

Here, the writer wants to know how code-switching is used by parents and children in the family and she also wants to arouse the readers especially for the students of the English Department of Widya Mandala University to conduct this study further.

1.5 Scope and limitation of The Study

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

- 1) The subjects under the study were the writer's families and her relatives.

2) The area of analysis was focussed on

(a) informal oral conversation.

(b) conversations which are actual, real, and natural that took place at the writer's house.

1.6 The Theoretical Framework

This study was based on the theories of sociolinguistics which cover code-switching and bilingualism. The study of code-switching and bilingualism are the parts of the field of sociolinguistics, the study of language in relation to society. Further, it implies that sociolinguistics is the part of the study of language. Therefore, it is used as a view point to observe the relationship between bilinguals who switched their codes.

Hudson (1980: 4) asserts that sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to the society. A language should be used appropriately to the contexts. While concerning code-switching, he asserts that code-switching is one of the varieties of language in which a single speaker uses different varieties at different times.

Bell (1976: 110) states that Bilingualism is the individual which able to switch from one language to another language. This theory was used to support the theory of code-switching to observe the influence of the bilingualism towards the subjects under the study.

1.7 The Definition of Key Terms

The title of this thesis is "A Study on Code-switching between Indonesian Chinese Parents and Children".

The major terms in this thesis are :

- 1) Code, according to John Lyons (1981: 17-18), is the connection between the form of the signal and its meaning.
- 2) The first generations are those who were born in Indonesia. They are the children of the elders. The first generations get education in Indonesia and they still joined in Chinese school in Indonesia, but they also got Indonesian subject in the school.
- 3) The second generations are those who were born in Indonesia and get Indonesian Education. They are the grand child of the elders. They speak Indonesian and Javanese in the daily communication and master a little bit of Chinese language.
- 4) Mandarin is one of thousand languages in the world and it is used by Chinese people for communication.

1.8 The Organization of The Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction. It gives the readers some explanation about the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study,

the significance of the study, the limitation of the study, the theoretical frame-work, the definition of key terms, the organization of thesis. The second chapter reviews some literature related to the study under report. It discusses the theories used in this study, namely: sociolinguistics, code-switching, and bilingualism. The third chapter is about the research methodology. It discusses the research design, the subjects, the research instruments, the procedure of collecting the data, and the procedure of analysing the data. The fourth chapter is about the data analysis, the findings and the discussion. The last chapter of this thesis presents the conclusion and a suggestion concerning the topic under the study.