

# **CHAPTER I**

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### 1.1 Background of The Study

Language takes important roles in human life. Almost all activities, such as conversations, interviews, seductions, teasings, express emotions, establish or reinforce social relations, and a host of others need language (Hudson, 1980:106). Yet, people have to be careful in using language. It can cause people to fight or to quarrell (Pateda, 1994:4). It is also true to the swear words or *kata Pisuhan*. When a person is scolded with *diancuk, gendeng, or jangkrik*, he will directly be angry and beat the one has scolded him like that. As it is known that swear words or *Kata Pisuhan* are generally offensive and cannot be considered appropriate for any occasion.

Ironically there are still a lot of people using swear words nowadays even students. The writer often finds her brother and his friends who study at Petra University utter swear words when they are talking to each other. The first thing coming up in her mind is "why " they like to utter swear words when they are talking one another.

Due to the fact that swear words are often uttered

by the writer's brother and his friends as the students of Petra Christian University in natural verbal communication, the writer decided to do a research on swear words as uttered by the writer's brother and his friends and to write a thesis entitled: "Swear Words as Shown by the Writer's Brother and His Friends.

### **1.2 The Problem Statements**

With reference to the background of the study, this research is intended to answer the following questions:

1.2.1 What swear words are mostly uttered by the writer's brother and his friends in having a conversation?

1.2.2 What factors influence the writer's brother and his friends to utter certain swear words during their conversation?

### **1.3 The Objectives of The Study**

The objectives of the study are formulated as follows:

1.3.1 to find out the swear words are mostly uttered by the writer's brother and his friends in having a conversation

1.3.2 to find out the factors that influence the writer's brother and his friends to utter swear words during their conversation

#### **1.4 Significance of The Study**

The writer hopes that the result of this study will be able to enrich the reference studies of Sociolinguistics especially the use of swear words. In addition, the result of this study is also expected to arouse greater interest for the readers in studying Sociolinguistics.

#### **1.5 The Theoretical Framework**

This study is based on the theories of Sociolinguistics which covers speech acts, style of speech, power and solidarity, taboo words, and swear words. They will be used as underlying aspects to answer the problem statements.

##### **1.5.1 Speech Acts**

Utari and Nababan (1992:35) states that the effect of the utterances to the addressee are the most important things in communication. Therefore, when people communicate to each other, they have to pay attention to the participants, the time, the topic, the way they do the conversation, and the intonation.

##### **1.5.2 Style of Speech**

People do not always speak exactly the same way. Different situations need different style of speech. Style of speech tells whether something which is being

said is formal, serious, ironic, or humorous (Chaika, 1982:29).

### **1.5.3 Power and Solidarity**

Speech may also reflect the social relations between the speaker and the addressee, most particularly the power and solidarity manifested in that relationship (Hudson, 1980:122). According to Holmes (1992:13), power and solidarity are useful in assessing the influence of the social setting or type of interaction on language choice.

### **1.5.4 Taboo Words**

Trudgill (1974:29) says that taboo words are associated with things which are not said, and in particular with words and expressions which are only used in a restricted set of situations. According to him (1974:30), these taboo words are frequently used as swear words. It is because taboo words can be used to release one's emotion since taboo words are created as a medium to release one's emotion (Estrick and Sperber, 1952:39).

### **1.5.5 Swear Words**

Swear words are words or expressions that reflect someone's feeling (Carner, Wallace, and Cameron, 1974:176). These swear words are influenced by affective or emotive words (Sudaryanto, 1994:83-85). It means that

swear words appear because of affective touchness that arouse so strongly. For example, when someone is surprised, annoyed, regrets, etc. According to Holmes (1992:297), swear words are also similarly as an expression of positive politeness. Positive politeness is solidarity oriented. It means that swear words are also used to express solidarity.

### 1.6 The Scope and Limitation of The study

In this thesis, the writer is only concerned with the swear words used by the writer's brother and his friends on Jalan Ngagel Timur Surabaya. Here she does not analyze The English Swear Words like "fuck", "shit", "son of bitch" and others but she only analyze The Indonesian Swear Words such as *diancuk, gendeng, jangkrik* and others.

### 1.7 The Definition of the Key Terms

There are some terms that need further explanation in order to enable the readers to understand them when they are reading this research. The terms to be defined are taboo words, swear words, brother and friend.

#### 1.7.1 Taboo words

The words that cannot be used in polite discourse (Hayakawa, 1939:29). These words are often used as swear words to release one's emotion (Estrick and Sperber, 1952:39).

### **1.7.2 Swear Words**

Swear words are a part of taboo language (Hudson, 1980:53). While swear words are words that are used for uttering profane, oaths, or curses (Encyclopedia Britannica, 1768:volume 21). These swear words are uttered as the reactions of the realities that happen beyond people's expectations such as being annoyed, surprised and angry.

### **1.7.3 Brother**

The term "brother" refers to a son of the same parents or parent (The lexicon Webster Dictionary, 1977:volume 1). The writer's brother in this study is the writer's younger brother who studies at Tourism Department of Petra Christian University.

### **1.7.4 Friend**

A member of the society of friends (The lexicon Webster Dictionary, 1977:volume 1). There are 7 of the writer's brother's good friends and they have become friends since the first semester.

## **1.8 The Organization of The Study**

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one presents the introduction: the background of the study, the problem statements, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the theoretical framework, the scope and limitation of the study, the definition of the

key terms, and the organization of the study. Chapter two presents the review of the related literature which are relevant to this study. Chapter three deals with the research methodology which consists of the research design, the subjects, the research instruments, the procedures of collecting the data and analysing the data. Chapter four is about the data analysis, the findings and the discussions. The final chapter of the thesis presents the conclusion and some suggestions concerning the topic under study.