

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

Bible as sacred writings must be read and understood by Christians. Bible is described as a sword. This statement is stated in Jew 4:12 "For the Lord is leaving and powerful and sharper than any two edged swords, piercing even two divisions of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a dischermer of the thoughts and intents of the hearth". It can be said that Bible is the most important guidance for Christians to lead their life to the right ways according to God's words. Unfortunately, more and more people in the globalization era ignore their spiritual life. They are too busy with their own business. Therefore, they do not have time to read the Bible regularly. Especially for young people who like something practical and popular, of course Bible does not interest them. In fact some young people whom the writer have had a discussion about the Bible stated that the Bible was difficult to understand because of the content and the language. Bible uses biblical language which is not used in daily communication.

Young people usually like something which is colloquial -everyday language- suitable for normal conversation. Television, radio, magazines affect them to use informal language in their daily communication. The writer rarely hears them using

formal language in their daily communication to express their ideas or feelings to friends.

An example of an expression used in daily communication found by the writer when she was in the library was " Aku tak maen internet sek ya!" This expression shows that in daily communication they do not use formal language. They tend to use certain variation which is convenient to them.

To attract young people's attention to read, many juvenile magazines use the variation articles which is colloquial. One example of the expressions used in an article of a popular magazine " Kawanku" is "Halo everybody! Akhirnya pada ngumpul juga". A character in the story boy named Didan, used this expression to his friends when he visited his best friend, Tony in hospital.

Kawanku magazine is one of the magazines which is quite popular among the teenagers especially the girls. The contents are appropriate for teenage girls such as about make-up, girls' stuffs, fashions, beauty consultation, the celebrities' new gossips and many more. Realizing this fact, the publishers of devotional books try to make the articles more interesting to attract young people to understand the content or verses in the Bible and to help them to read it. In line with this fact, nowadays, there are many such devotional books which contain daily guides for reading Bible like Renungan Harian, Air hidup, Habakuk, and many more which can be found in many Christian bookstores. The books are published monthly. It means that each book has 30 or 31 articles according to the days in a month.

There are also verses which are related to the articles. Every page of the book presents different article for each day of the month.

Although there are some devotional books as mentioned above but the young people still are not interested in reading the bible. when the writer observed some devotional books such as *Renungan Harian*, *Air Hidup*, and *Habakuk*, the writer finally found that the language used in those books are too formal for them. The fact above shows the reasons why young people do not like to read those devotional books which uses formal language in the article therefore it is difficult for them to read. However among those devotional books, the writer observes that Christian young people like to read *Rajawali*- a daily guide journal to understand the bible. When the writer asked some young people why they like to read *Renungan Rajawali* they said that the articles in *Rajawali* were interesting because the topics are the real experiences of young people. Besides, they liked the language that is easy for them to understand.

This is an interesting phenomena concerning the effort to attract young people to understand the verses of the Bible so that they will conduct their daily activities based on the teaching of the verses of the bible. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing the language variation used in the articles of *Renungan Rajawali*

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, this study is conducted to find the answers to the following question:

What language variation is used in the articles of Renungan Rajawali?

This question is in line with the fact that people may communicate both standard language and non-standard language depending on the readers. The question above is subdivided into two questions:

- a. Do the articles use standard Indonesian language?
- b. Do the articles use non-standard Indonesian language?

1.3 The Objective of this Study

Derived from the above statement of the problem, this study tries to find out whether the articles of Renungan Rajawali use standard Indonesian language or non-standard Indonesian language.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are most likely to enrich the varieties of Sociolinguistics studies because this study can be a good input for the students of Widya Mandala University in learning Sociolinguistics. Besides, this study can give a knowledge about language variation and also a good idea or inspiration to the other editors of devotional books to make other daily guidebooks for young people.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Among many devotional books, the writer chose *Renungan Rajawali* because the writer sees that *Renungan Rajawali* is appropriate for young people. Concerning the limited time, the area of analysis is only focused on the April 2001 edition and its 3 articles. They are the 5th, 19th, and 29th. The writer chooses those articles because they represent the other articles in *Renungan Rajawali*.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is based on the theories of Sociolinguistics which cover: Social variation, language variation, standard and non-standard language.

Janet Holmes describes social variation in earlier centuries in England where an English lord or lady came from by their regional form of English. She says that in the early twentieth century, a person who spoke with a regional accent in England was most unlikely to belong to the upper class. (1992:84)

Language varies according to its uses as well as its users, according to where it is used and to whom as well as according to who is using it the addresses. The context affect our choice of code or variety whether language dialect or style.

Standard language according to Hudson (1988:32-33) is probably fair to say that it's the only kind of variety which would count as "proper language".

Holmes (1992:84) says that standard English is a "social dialect". It is the dialect used by well educated English speakers throughout the world. Another

opinion comes from Indonesian who is an expert in language names Dendy Sugono in his book “ Berbahasa Indonesia dengan Benar” states that using standard and non standard language are related to formal and non-formal situation (1997:9).

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, it is necessary to explain briefly the following key terms used in this study namely: language variation, standard and non-standard languages, standard Indonesian language, non-standard Indonesian language, devotional book, Renungan Rajawali, and colloquial words.

- **Language Variation**

Language varies according to its uses as well as its users, and according to who uses it. The addresses and the context affect our choice of code or variety, whether language, dialect or style (Holmes;1992, p.245)

- **Standard and non-standard languages**

Hudson states that a standard language is the only kind of variety, which would count a “proper language” while a non-standard language refers to the language below standard (1980:32)

- **Standard Indonesian Language**

It is a variety of Indonesian language which is spoken in the formal situation such as at school, in the office, or in the formal meetings. This variety uses correct sentence

which stresses the completeness of the elements. A complete sentence at least has 2 elements, subject and predicate. (Mustakim, 1994:p68)

- Non-standard Indonesian Language

Dendy Sugono (1997:18) says that non-standard language is related to informal situation. The close relationship between the speakers and the hearers will cause the use of non-standard languages.

- Devotional book

It is a daily guide journal for reading the bible which has 30 or 31 articles according to the days of the month.

- Renungan Rajawali

Renungan Rajawali is one of the devotional books for Christian young people. It is published monthly.

- Colloquial words

It is “everyday language”. Colloquial speech refers to the total set of utterances in a familiar, informal context such as at home or at the work place. (Routledge Dictionary and Linguistics, 1996)

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 this study, the significance of the study, the limitation of the study, theoretical frameworks and definition of key terms.

The second chapter is the review of related structure. It explains about theories of Sociolinguistics, Language Variation, standard and non-standard language, standard and non-standard Indonesian language, word formation, and diction.

The third chapter is the research methodology. It covers the nature of the study and its design, data source, procedures of collecting the data and techniques of data analysis.

The fourth chapter is about the analysis, findings and interpretation. The last chapter of this study presents the conclusion and some suggestions concerning the topic under study.