

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1. Background of the Study

The place of language in society is crucial for without language society would not exist. Therefore language is connected not only to the real world in its ability to symbolize but also to social world of speakers. The choice of a specific item from the linguistic repertoire may express the attitudes and beliefs of a speaker or a group of speakers, of the persons being spoken to and perhaps where there are intra-group differences, the entire social context.

Kess (1976:105) says that in general, certain groups speaking different dialects may find themselves in particularly advantageous or disadvantageous position by virtue of the social connotations attached to their particular form of speech. However, societies are not composed of uniform individuals who speak some varieties of the same language. Most societies are composed of a number of groups, some larger, some smaller, some in the majority, some in the minority.

Taking Indonesia as an example, we would find that almost all the inhabitants of Java speak Indonesian and

Javanese and there are still dialect variations. Some speech varieties come to be considered as having prestigious qualities, while others do not. They consider their variety of language as the prestigious one and ostracize anyone deviating from it.

Indonesia is a multilingual community and since then the mastery of more than one language is normal and the ability to use two or more languages freely and fluently is a common phenomenon. Wallwork (1957:53) says that in a multilingual community, there is a choice of a number of different languages. Savile (1976:42) claims that no speaker of any language is limited to a single linguistic code although monolingual is limited to switching varieties or registers within a single language.

In line with Savile, Roger T. Bell (1976:110) also says that there is no individual who speaks only one code. In other words, there is no one who uses only one language in communicating with another. As a result, code switching is most likely to happen in any speech community.

Elgin (1979:109) says that code switching is the linguistic competence of speakers of moving back and forth among languages, dialects and registers with ease as demanded by the social situation or their own inner necessities and it is obviously a survival skill.

Dell Hymess (1962:351) states that code switching is a common term for alternate use of two or more languages or varieties of a language and studies of code-switching are among the most important development in sociolinguistics. If a given speaker is observed during his daily round, all the features of his speech may show code switching. The total repertoire of some speakers is far greater than others. Some are bilinguals and some are community leaders with a wide range of styles reflecting their varying relationships and activities.

In Indonesia, one of the leaders is President Soeharto. He is a Javanese and he has got a good wide range of styles reflecting his bilingualism. He as the President of Republic of Indonesia, may switch codes during his daily routine. On October 28, 1995 he went to Suriname to meet some Javanese there and officially he delivered a speech to them. The people have been detached from Indonesia quite along time, so they do not follow the development of Indonesian language. As a result, they could not communicate well in Indonesian. It made President Soeharto give a speech in Javanese language. What makes it more interesting to the writer is that he occasionally switched the code into Indonesian language. President Soeharto possesses a wide range of

code resources or speech repertoire. To Indonesian people, the Indonesian language is an almost universally known code among the educated. It is the national language. This is due to many factors. Malay, the language from which Indonesian developed, was used as an auxiliary language at lower government levels by the Dutch colonial Government, Indonesian then was adopted as one of the symbols of the early nationalist movement (one people, one homeland and one language) on October 28, 1928 and given exclusive official status and strong encouragement during the Japanese occupation during the second world war. That policy was continued by the Indonesian government after independence on August 17, 1945.

It is the fact that Indonesian never had a serious competition for its place as the national language especially from Javanese, the language of Indonesia's dominant ethnic group. Therefore Indonesian language is not the vernacular of anyone prominent Indonesian ethnic group. It is acceptable to all Indonesians whatever their vernacular is. There are two kinds of Indonesian language namely Daily or Ordinary Indonesian and standard Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia sehari-hari dan bahasa Indonesia resmi). In this speech, President Soeharto switched into Daily Indonesian language when

speaking in Javanese.

Javanese numerically dominates the nation and it is the most commonly spoken ethnic language. Javanese language has its own characteristics. In particular, variety differences are for more strongly marked in Javanese than in Indonesian. Geertz (1966:246-260) says that the variates of Javanese language are ordered in a series of some three to six levels from very low to very high and it is the configuration or combinations of levels used in an interaction that is important. The many possible combinations provide a wide range for the indication of status and social distance. Age and degree of friendship become the major determinants of social distance when speaking Javanese, so the case of the Javanese language is unique because of its particularly marked levels and the elaborate etiquette governing their use.

Tanner (1967:137) says that Javanese is the vehicle of the traditional culture and social life of an ethnic group but not of the activities of a modern nation. She (1967:140) says that since Indonesian can not be used to indicate extremely fine distinctions of the rank as can Javanese, it is regarded as a more suitable linguistic vehicle for the newer, more democratic national ideology.

Indonesian is not only a convenient way for Indonesians of different ethnic backgrounds to talk with each other but it also symbolized their common group membership and nationality.

At that time, President Soeharto may wish to use a certain code as an expression of solidarity and perhaps familiarity with the addressee. He may also wish to affirm his status by his choice of certain code. On the other hand, his choice of certain code may be the result of pressure from the addressee or the situation. Thus for political, social or business reasons, he may find it expedient or even necessary to speak a particular language or code in a specific interaction. Hoffman (1991:110) states that code switching involves the alternate use of two languages or linguistic varieties within the same utterances.

While Holmes (1992:50) says that one of the reasons of code switching is probably the lack of vocabulary and he also affirms that when speaking people will often use a term from their mother tongue or first language because they do not know how to say it in their second language.

Di Pierto (1977:4) says that code switching often goes unnoticed by the speakers themselves. In fact, on that occasion, President Soeharto may have code switched

without realizing what he was doing. At other times, he found himself deliberately switching from one language to another in order to achieve some desired goal or effect.

In this study, the writer tried to analyze the reasons of code switching from President Soeharto's speech during his official visit to Suriname on October 28, 1995 and for this purpose, the writer writes a thesis entitled : "A Study of Code-Switching of President Soeharto's Speech on His Official Visit to Suriname in 1995."

1.2. The Statement of the Problem

In line with the background of the study, the question investigated is formulated as follows :

For what reasons did President Soeharto code-switched from Javanese to Indonesian ?

1.3. The Objective of the Study

This study is intended to answer the above research question. The objective then is formed as follows :

To find the reasons why President Soeharto code-switched from Javanese to Indonesian.

1.4. The Significance of the Study

This study hopefully can be a good input to enrich the

sociolinguistic studies. Besides, the findings are most likely to be considered as input in the field of second language teaching-learning.

1.5. The Limitation of the Study

This study is limited in the following ways: the subject under study is the speech by President Soeharto addressed to Surinamese during his official visit in 1995.

Because the writer would like to analyze the code switching displayed in the speech, the writer tried to limit this study by making a list of probable causes of the code switching that will be elaborated in chapter two. Those probable causes of code-switching are taken from many experts' views such as Dell Hymes, Janet Holmes, Charlotte Hoffman, Scotton, etc.

1.6. Theoretical Framework

This thesis is based on the theories of sociolinguistics that cover bilingualism, code switching and discourse analysis. Hudson (1980:1) defines sociolinguistics as the study of language in relation to society. Furthermore, he also says that like other subjects, sociolinguistics is partly empirical and partly

theoretical, partly a matter of going out and amassing bodies of fact and partly of sitting back and thinking. While about bilingualism, Weinreich (1953:3) defines it as "the practice of alternately using two languages". The alternate use of more than two languages is correctly called multilingualism but for convenience it will be here treated as bilingualism. Hoffman (1991:110) states that code switching involves the alternate use of two languages or linguistic varieties within the same utterance or during the same conversation.

Discourse analysis, is according to Kenworthy (1991:111) concerned with studying how people use language in a variety of discourse-conversation, interviews, spoken commentaries, political speeches, teaching, etc. Furthermore, he says that the analysis of spoken language involves the investigation of what people are trying to accomplish with their words and with the overall patterns that can be found in conversation. Thus it is very clear that the above theories are related to one another and it is very crucial to understand them first before analyzing the data. In this study, the focus is the President Soeharto's speech that also be can called spoken discourse. In a spoken discourse, speakers also have choices how to convey their meaning and intentions

and how to accomplish their goals. In theory, anyone can say anything, but in practice, speakers are constrained by social convention. Therefore in a sense, it can be said that there are "rules" for speaking just as there are rules of grammar in a language.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

The title of this thesis is "A Study of Code-Switching of President Soeharto's Speech on His Official Visit to Suriname in 1995." The prime terms defined in this section are code switching and speech.

Code switching is the mix up of varieties in the same stretch of speech in which the speaker uses different varieties at different time (Hudson, 1980:56). Speech, according to Hudson (1980:2) is actual utterances.

1.8. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction. It consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, the Objective of the Study, the Limitation of the Study, Theoretical Framework, Definition of the Key Terms and Organization of the Thesis.

The second chapter reviews some literature related to

the study under report. It discusses the theories and some opinions that support this study namely sociolinguistics, bilingualism, code switching and previous related studies.

The third is concerned with the research methodology. It discusses the nature of the study, the subject, the data, the procedures for collecting and analyzing the data.

The fourth chapter deals with the Data Analysis, the Findings and the Discussion. The last chapter presents the Conclusion and the Suggestions concerning the topic under study.