

CHAPTER I

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1.1 Background of the study

Language is a universal human activity. It is needed in the most casual to the most formal situations. People use language in order to be able to communicate with one to another in everyday life. Therefore language is said to be means of communication. People can express their feelings, emotions and thought to others by using language. To fulfill their needs to communicate and interact with other people, man makes use of language because, as what Lehman says (1983: 1), language is the means which enables human beings to play their roles in society, to express their needs, to give and get informations and to learn about the people and their surroundings. In short, through languages, human beings are able to live effectively, to expand their horizon and to know about the world.

Talking about language, moreover, T.G. William (1951: 3) claims that :
“Language may act upon thought and feelings in such a way that the mind is made more perceptive and the imaginative experience than it would be by one that was real.”

When people come to think about language, they should remember as soon as they realize that sociolinguistic focuses on the study of the relationship

between language and society. Society itself reflects the language use in social life; if the social life change, it will also affect the change of language use. This is why, sociolinguistic also tries to find out the correlation between social factors and language factors and to observe any changes that occur in using language in a society. (Trudgill, 1984: 28)

Therefore, when people want to reach a better understanding about the relationship between language and society, first of all they should know what sociolinguistic actually is.

According to Pride (1972:ix) sociolinguistic is "The name most commonly given to the study of who speaks to whom, when, where, how and why. In other words it is the study of nature language in all its various social conditions."

Sociolinguistic is also defined as a study that is very much concerned in investigating that there is a close connection between language and society where a certain person lives in which the goal of better understanding the structure of language and how language function in communication. (Trudgill, 1984: 13)

The writer of this thesis likes to discuss about sociolinguistic, simply because she wants to investigate the relationship between language and social factors. From the language that is used by the main character, she will be able to know how social factor may influence the main character's language, because as what Trudgil (1984: 28) says: "Language has the function as a

clue-bearing. This means that a certain person will speak according to the social background he has." In short, there is a relationship between language a person speaks and the person himself. Therefore, through sociolinguistic study, the writer would like to examine the relationship between the main character's language and his social background in order to know how they influence one to another.

Yet, this subject matter of this study is concerned with one of the literary work, that is a play. The main reason for choosing a play is that, analyzing a play is different from analyzing other literary work. When she begins to analyze a play, she gets many challenging experience of it. That challenges are: first, in reading a play, the writer has to be a creative reader to understand the dialogue between the characters. By being creative, she will be able to dig up the content of the play to get as much information as she can. The second is, it is not enough to read a play as simply a sequence of statements made by news paper in the hot-line or statements in the cover of magazines. She has to imagine what the dialogue between the character looks like on the stage.

Scheinder (1967:416) states that play, different from short story and novel, primarily in that it is written to be seen, not read. This means that its words and ideas are here one moment and gone to the next. The listener, therefore, has no chance to go back and review what has just been said. In a play, the events are brought to life by presenting them on stage. The dramatist

sets the characters in motion through dialogues, gestures, and actions, instead of describing them as a writer of other fiction does. Characters, in short, are brought to life through everything they say and do.

In addition, Dietrich (1969: 3) claims that a play exists, even in the written form, in the present tense. The action is always happening “now”, no matter how well a person knows a play, no matter how many times it is seen or read it before, its action always pulls us forward, commanding his attention. This leads to the addition that he experiences play by seeing a number of character react to a problem in different ways, each illuminating one aspect of the problem rather than having the author tell him “the whole truth”. Therefore, he shares the lives of those people, and as he becomes involved with them, the play becomes a real, exciting experience. (Picozzi, 1970: 1)

And play that is to be chosen by the writer is one of O’Neill’s play, The Hairly Ape. Everyone knows that Eugene O’Neill is one of the American greatest playwright who takes care much about human being problems. Because of his unhappiness during his childhood made him write and formulate a lot of ideas about his suffer into his play. One of them is The Hairly Ape. In this play, O’Neill wants to show how hard someone working on a steamer, struggling in order to survive himself with the situation and condition surrounding him.

“Through his expressionistic setting, O’Neill is really successful in bringing his readers into the imagination.” (High, 1986: 224)

Another reason why the writer of this thesis is interested in one of O'Neill's play is that, she would like to know more about his ideas, opinions and thoughts that usually reflected into the main character to send some messages to the readers.

“O'Neill is clearly the leader insisting on his work be considered as an art”. By his imagination and boldness and by his uncompromising sense of the value of his writing, he plays a major role in bringing that theater into existence. (Bogard, 1972: xiv)

After reading The Hairly Ape the writer finds out that this story is about humanity which is full of social criticism and struggling of a man to find his identity, where society he belongs to. This story also gives the writer of this thesis a strong and clear picture of destructive effects on man when his sense of belonging is totally ruined. That is why The Hairly Ape is very interesting story to be chosen and analyzed deeper.

The Hairly Ape in the more detailed sense tells about an isolated fireman, named Yank who wants to be a member of society. Unfortunately, he is always rejected either by his human or animal society, because he uses a language which is similar to Black Vernacular English. Besides, he uses a lot of taboo words when talking, commanding or scolding to other people. At the beginning of the play Yank is described as the man who is full of self confidence. Because of having physical strength, he considers himself as the most powerful man on the ship; everybody seems to be afraid of him. But after

a woman despises him by calling “filthy beast”, he gradually loses his self confidence. Then, he tries to find a certain place where he can identify himself with others. However, due to his primitive thinking and his language , he is always rejected by the human society. Finally Yank tries to join with the animal society in the zoo because everyone calls him “filthy beast” Yet, he is not accepted by the Gorillas ; moreover he is killed by those animals before he finds a place to identify himself.

The character of Yank makes the writer analyze him deeper. In this case, the writer wants to focus her research to his language used in relating with the four components of S-P-E-A-K-I-N-G theory, namely S (Setting), P (Participant), E (Ends) and K (Keys). From both language that is used by main character and those four components of S, P, E, and K the writer wants to find out the relationship between them.

1.2 Statement of the problems

The writer determines and focuses her analysis on the questions :

1. What is language used by Yank and how is the style ?
2. What factors cause Yank to use his language ?
3. How do Setting, Participant, Ends and Key influence Yank’s language ?

1.3 The Objective Of the Study

The main point why the writer of this thesis does her research in O'Neill's main character, are :

- (1) To find out what language is used by the main character and how the style
- (2) To find out the factors causing the main character to use his language.
- (3) To know how Setting, Participant, Ends and Key influence the main character's language.

1.4 The Significance Of The Study

The writer of this thesis hopes that the results of her study may give a contribution to the students who are interested in sociolinguistic research. She wants to let others know that in analyzing a piece of literary work, people can use not only literary approach but they can also use sociolinguistic approach. Above all the writer also hopes that after reading this thesis , the readers will find that this thesis is helpful for further observation especially for the sociolinguistic research.

Finally, The writer wishes that her result of this research will encourage other students of Widya Mandala University especially for the English Department's students to read literary work, especially plays.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Realizing that O'Neill's play, The hairy Ape is very broad, the writer intends to limit her discussion of the main character, Yank and she will examine him through the language he uses. Due to the limited time she will use only four of Hymne's ethnography of S-P-E-A-K-I-N-G , namely Setting (S), Participant (P), Ends (E), keys (K).

1.6 The definition of key terms

Before starting to the further discussion about this study, it would be better if the writer presents the words that may give the readers a misunderstanding

(a) A play is a special fiction which has a plot, character, and dialogue and it uses words to create action through the dialogues of the characters.

(Scholes, 1978: 731)

(b) A main character is a person who control or dominates others.

(Webster Dictionary, 1986)

(c) Black Vernacular English is such kind of dialect that is usually used by Black people in Northern of USA. (Trudgill, 1984: 25)

(d) Taboo is a way in which a society express its disapproval of certain kinds of behavior believed to be harmful to its member, either for supernatural reasons or because such behaviour is held to violate a moral code. (Wardough, 1986)

(e) Primitive thinking is the way of thinking in a manner not just quantitatively but qualitatively different from the thinking of individual in civilized societies. (Lucien Levy-Bruhl, 1984: 70)

1.7 Theoretical Framework

The writer uses the theories especially those dealing with Sociolinguistic, Language and Dialect, Black Vernacular English , and the previous studies related to the topic of the study under report. To be more precise, those theories will be discussed in Chapter II.

1.8 The Organization of The Study

This thesis consist of five chapters. In Chapter I the writer wants to discuss about the introduction containing the background of the study. statement of the problem, the significant of the study, the objective of the study, the definition of key term, the theoretical framework and scope and limitation of the study. Chapter II is about review of related literature. In this chapter, the writer presents all of the theories she will use to support her arguments. Methodology of the study will be on chapter III. The next chapter is chapter IV. Here the writer will discuss about her analysis of this thesis and the closing chapter is chapter V. It is about the conclusion.