CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In a bilingual or multilingual society, there must be more than one language spoken by the people, and there must be one language which is used dominantly. According to some researchers' opinion, the dominant language usually is the language of official business and related to the social and economic progress achieved in the community. The people gradually abandon their native tongue or the regional language, and shift completely to the one that is dominantly used in the area. This phenomenon has been happening in Indonesia, especially in Java. Javanese is the regional language of people in East and Central Java. Krama, one of the speech levels, is the formal type which nowadays people in Surabaya tend to give up and use Indonesian, the official and the national language. In the past, people still had the willingness to use the different types of Javanese based on the addressees' social position. This situation represents Hymes' opinion in Powesland's book about the dynamic of speech style (1975:113). Hymes stated that a community, wherever it is, or however the condition is, is not limited to a single way of speaking. It must have another variation of speech which is used based on the social condition in each situation.

Susan Gal (1979:19), after observing the same case in Oberwart, found out that the process of language shift depends on the people's social networks or who they interact with. Based on her findings, she claimed that the interaction between older people from the high status group and the people from the low status one is still in their native language, while the younger speakers tend to use the official language with their friends and and with those whose jobs in the new industries. The native language communication is done only to God, or in prayers, and to older generation. Trudgill (1994:47) identifies that the ultimate end point of language shift is language death. It is according to Mc Mahon (1994:285), a uselessness of a minority language over several generation.

However, factors that lead the speaker of a native language to shift to another form are worth to be observed and discussed further. There might be some other other factors that make the people in general gradually leave their regional language unspoken. That is what the writer would like to find out through this study.

In conducting this study, the writer tried to find the way Javanese youngsters in Surabaya talk to their older and respected family members and the factors of the use of certain codes. Beside that, the writer would like to identify the way the youth use Javanese in

bilingual situation, and the older generation attitude toward the younger speakers' code choice. Those problems come up because nowadays there is a tendency that youngsters rarely use the local language when they communicate to their elders. Yet, the language, especialy the honorific variant, is still needed to have a conversation with old and respected people. By using the honorific type of Javanese or Krama, the speaker is expressing politeness and respect to the receiver.

Finally, this study is held to give some additional information about the decreasing use of Javanese Krama by the young speakers in Surabaya. Beside that, it is to enrich the sociolinguistic findings about language shift.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the condition that has been discussed, the problem of this study are formulated as folows:

1. How do Javanese youngsters in Surabaya talk to their respected family members ?

2. Why do they use the code in talking to their respected family members ?

3. How do they use Javanese in bilingual situation ?

4. How do the older generation react to the youngsters' code choice ?

1.3   The Objective of the Study

In order to answer the above research questions, the writer focussed this study to find the way the young people in Surabaya respond to their respected family members' speech, to explain the factors that underlie the code varieties use, and to figure out the way they usse Javanese in bilingual situation. In addition, the writer also tried to find out the older generation reaction toward the youngsters' code choice.

1.4   The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are meant to enrich the varieties of sociolinguistic studies, especially about language use and language shift. Furthermore, the study was held to provide some information about the factors that lead to the decreasing use of Javanese among youngsters in Surabaya. After it is proved that there is a tendency of leaving the formal Javanese, the writer would like to propose one way of maintaining the language.

1.5   Limitation of the Study

Realising how broad the discussion of language shift and language use could be, the writer decided to limit the scope of the study. The object observed was the description Javanese language use among the young speakers in Surabaya. In addition, the writer limited the subjects only to six Javanese youngsters of twenties who live in Surabaya.

This study was held in Surabaya because of the sociocultural change happened in the city. Nowadays, there are so many non-Javanese migrations from other parts of Indonesia, and even immigrants from abroad live temporarily in Surabaya. This situation will not give Javanese Krama an opportunity to survive. As Poedjosoedarmo observed (1982:9), while staying in Surabaya or other Javanese speaking areas, they do not habitually use the local language. Indonesian is the only choice for them to communicate with Javanese people. Furthermore, because of the global era, foreign language speaking is the strongest motivation to leave the regional language.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

The main theory of this study is social factors of language use which gives brief explanation about choosing certain code in different situation. In order to give clearer description about Javanese language, the writer includes a theory of Javanese speech level. In addition, a theory of language shift is briefly reviewed to support the idea about the youngsters language use that tends to shift from Indonesian to Javanese Ngoko.

Sapir (1974:46) claimed that language is mainly for communication. It is the important tool in any social interaction for no group of people can express

their feeling, opinion, or talk to each other without language. Moreover, Sapir pointed out that language has a symbolic system. It expresses the content of culture in the way people speak, so it also acts as a culture preserving instrument for a community. Since this study was observing the decreasing use of Krama, the writer added more explanation about Javanese stylistic level that indicates the social position of the speakers. According to Poedjosoedarmo (1982:131), there are three basic levels of Javanese: Krama, Madya, and Ngoko. These three speech styles seem to prove Powesland's quotation of Ervin-Tripp's statement about the existing speech variation in a community (1975:114). It is said that speakers of any language community must have a repertoire of speech alternatives which are used according to the social situation. The use of those three levels is very much determined by the speakers' status in the neighborhood. As quoted by Hudson (1980:127), Geertz said that the lowest class people or those who are less educated cannot use the formal Javanese or Krama, while the high status people are able to apply the three different levels. However, Geertz point of view is not reliable anymore in the recent situation. In the past, people who did not get chance to have further study could not use the formal variants of Javanese. Now, those who are well educated and socially settled are the people who are incapable

of conversing in the Javanese honorific variants. This situation, according to Ngadiman (1997:37), is caused by modern education that emphasizes Indonesian rather than traditional Javanese values. Beside that, parents and older relatives prefer having closer relationship with the children by using Ngoko or Indonesian instead of Krama.

The phenomenon indicates that the community has undergone language shift. Gal (1979:17) defines language shift as a kind of linguistic change. It is a situation in which people of a certain language shift to another one to communicate. It happens because the other language becomes the official one in the country, and therefore people use it for most purposes. On the other hand, the native language becomes the minor form in the society.

As the comparative research, the writer added some previous studies related the problem of this study. Some of the studies discusses Javanese language and its problems, while the other is about the case of language shift in Oberwart, Germany.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, it would be useful to define several key terms which are used in this study. Hopefully, the readers can have a clear picture about what is presented in this study.

Indonesian : The national and official language in Indonesia. People use it without commiting to any particular ethnic (Wardaugh, 1986:101).

Javanese : One of the regional languages in Indonesia . It is the language of those who live in East and Central Java (Poedjosoedarmo, 1982:12).

Krama : The formal style of Javanese which is used to address a respected person (Poedjosoedarmo, 1982:131).

Madya : The middle style of Javanese which is less formal than Krama.

Language shift : A condition in which a minor language is gradually displaced by a language of majority through the process of bilingualism (Trudgill, 1992:47).

National Language : A language which is used to unite people who have different languages, and to symbolize national identity (Holmes, 1982:105).

Ngoko : The informal style of Javanese used in everyday conversation.

Official language : A language which is used in formal business such as education, mass media, formal gatherings, etc (Holmes, 1982:131).

Speech level : A stage of language style each of which indicates the social position of the speaker and the addressee (Poedjosoedarmo, 1982:131).

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

The thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one presents background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, limitation of the study, theoretical framework, definition of key terms, and organization of the thesis.

Chapter two deals with review of related literature, while chapter three is about research methodology. Chapter four presents findings and interpretation of findings, and the last chapter, chapter five, presents summary, conclusion, and suggestion.