CHAPTER I

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1.1 Background of the study

Every language is unique. People use it to communicate with others. Languages are the means which enable human beings to play their roles in society, to express their needs, to give and get information and to learn about the people and their surroundings (Lehmann, 1983:1).

Nowadays, most countries are multilingual. Several languages are spoken by greater or smaller number of people. In multilingual societies, several languages come into contact, and some individuals will learn to speak two or more languages. Without realizing, they often switch languages.

Bell (1976:110) claims that there is no individual who speaks only one code while communicating with others because there are many different roles played in the society, social relationships in which he engages, and groups to which he belongs. Consequently, code switching is likely to happen in any speech community.

According to Nababan (1984:32), code switching is found mainly in informal interaction. They switch it because there is no exact idiom in

that language or they get difficulties in finding the right words at the time of speaking (Marasigan, 1983:90).

In the boarding house where the writer stays, her friends mostly come from different places. They often switch their vernacular language into Indonesian language while they are having conversations. The writer herself Also often code switches when talking to her friends to maintain the smoothness of communication.

Interested in finding out this fact further, the writer decides to do a research on code switching in a boarding house and write a thesis entitled: "Code Switching as Displayed in Informal Situations among Friends in a boarding house on jalan Dharmahusada Utara".

1.2 Statement of the problems

Before the writer begins her study, she formulated a set of questions to be answered such as:

1. What languages or codes are mainly code-switched among friends in the boarding house?

2. Why do they switch from one code to another during their conversations ?

1.3 Objectives of the study

This study is intended to answer the above research questions. As such, the objectives are:

1. To find out what languages or codes are mainly code switched among friends in the boarding house.

2. To describe the reasons of the existence of code-switching.

1.4 Significance of the study

The findings of this study are most likely to enrich the varieties of sociolinguistic studies because this code-switching study can be a good input in learning sociolinguistics.

The writer hopes the result of this research will give contribution to linguistics in general and sociolinguistics in particular.

1.5 Theoretical framework

This study is based on theories of Sociolinguistics which covers code-switching and bilingualism.

Holmes (1992:1) states that Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society. They are interested in explaining

why we speak differently in different social context, and they are concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning.

Wardhaugh (1986) in his book, Sociolinguistics: Choosing A Code says that "Code-switching is using two languages together to the extent that they change from one language to the other in the course of a single utterance".

Nababan (1991) says that bilingualism is the habit of using two languages in interacting with each other.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the study

Realizing how broad the discussion of code-switching, the writer is going to observe only "spoken code-switching" not the written one because she thinks code-switching is mostly found in spoken rather than in written forms. She focuses her research on her friends in her boarding house. The area of analysis is focused on conversations which take place in informal settings.

1.7 Definition of key terms

To avoid misunderstanding, there are some key terms that need to be explained. Hopefully the readers will have a clear picture of what this study is trying to present.

1. Code, according to Wardhaugh (1986:86), is any kind of system that two or more people employ for communication.

2. Switch, according to Jess Stein, as quoted by John Lyons (1981:861), is to shift or change. In this thesis it means to change a code into another one.

3. Informal situation in this thesis refers to the situations in which the subjects under study communicate freely with other friends, such as in the livingroom, in the bedroom, in the garden, in the kitchen, etc.

4. Friends, according to Oxford English Dictionary, refer to person one knows and likes, but who is not a relation. There are 4 persons who stay in the boarding house. They come from Kraksaan, Blitar, Malang, and Bima.

5. Boarding house in this thesis refers to a place to live temporarily for students. Here, the boarding house is located on jalan Dharmahusada Utara.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction which is divided into 8 sub topics, Background of the study, Statement of the problem, Objective of the study, Significance of the study, Theoretical framework, Scope and limitation of the study, Definition of key terms, and Organization of the study.

The second chapter reviews some literature related to the study under report. It discusses some theories used in the study, namely: Sociolinguistics, Code-Switching, and Bilingualism.

The third chapter is about the Research Methodology. It is divided into five sub topics, The Nature of the Study, Subjects, Instruments, Procedures for the Data Collection, and the Data Analysis.

The fourth chapter is about Findings and Discussion of Findings.

The last chapter presents the Conclusion and some Suggestions.