

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Holmes (1992:105) states that a national language is the language of political, cultural, and social unit. It is generally developed and used as a symbol of national unity. Its functions are to identify the nation and unite the people of the nation. In order to unite all the people, the Indonesian government suggests its people to use Indonesian in their daily life (Anwar, 1985:1). Eversince 1945, Bahasa Indonesia, officially, has become the national language of the Republic of Indonesia, a country with a multilingual and multicultural population.

Kridalaksana, as quoted by Chaer (1982), claims that Bahasa Indonesia has experienced much changes and improvements because of, among others, the influence of other languages and dialects. One of which is the Jakarta dialect, a dialect that is spoken by the native inhabitants of Jakarta. In connection with this, Ikranegara (1975:3) states that the native inhabitants of Jakarta exist and are formed of some ethnics who have lived in Jakarta since 15<sup>th</sup> century.

As a matter of fact, the relationship between Bahasa Indonesia and the Jakarta dialect is now becoming closer (Muhadjir, 1981:6). Muhadjir

(1981:6) even says that the Jakarta dialect is becoming more important than it was in the past. It is used not only as the language of interaction in the marketplace, among neighbours and in places of work as well as in traditional folk arts such as lenong, mask plays and folk tales but it is also used in the newspaper, film, magazine, radio and television. As a result, young people from other regions especially those who have visited Jakarta use this dialect or elements of it proudly when they return home.

In connection with this statement, Chaer (1975) says that "*Bahasa Indonesia and the Jakarta dialect are related to each other because they have similarities in the vocabulary and the grammar*". The differences are only in the pronunciation and some specific words.

The word "*Jakarta dialect*" is used by Muhadjir (1964) and by Hakim (1969) to refer to one of Malay dialect used by the native Jakarta inhabitants. Ikranegara (1980), on the other hand, names this dialect "*Melayu Betawi*" (Betawi Malay). Chaer (1975) claims that the native Jakarta dialect is a language variety which is spoken by the native Jakarta people and the common Jakarta dialect is spoken by the Jakarta people. The native Jakarta dialect is Betawi Malay or Jakartanese which has typical form based on the language rules of the native Jakarta dialect. The common Jakarta dialect is the Jakarta Malay spoken by the new comer inhabitants in Jakarta mixed with their own dialect.

Some linguists have carried out some analysis to this dialect from some aspects especially its language aspects for example its pronunciation by Wallace (1976), its morphology by Muhadjir (1977), etc. However, the writer thought that it was necessary to make a study to find a new aspect of this dialect that has never been investigated, precisely the social aspect of the Jakarta dialect for the subjects. The social aspects here are that people can have certain status and relationship.

This dialect is, even, used by young people who have never been to Jakarta. They like to insert Jakarta dialect utterances in their conversations, such as *dong*, *ehu*, *sok*, and *gue*. To this point, Kridalaksana, in Chaer (1982) concludes that the life-style of Jakarta people, including its language, has become the major standard for the people outside Jakarta, especially the teenagers.

In Surabaya, the second biggest city in Indonesia, this dialect is also widely used among others by those belonging to the group called ABG (Anak Baru Gedhe or teenagers). To be more specific, they are usually the young girls or boys who come from "the have families" who go to "the favourite high schools". They like to mix Indonesian and the Jakarta dialect when they communicate with their friends. Anyway, this phenomenon, actually, also happen in the conversations of the adult lady but it seems that they do not only mix Indonesian with the Jakarta dialect. They often mix English with Indonesian.

The writer decided to observe the students of SMU. In this case the girl students, because they, the teenagers included in the ABG group, often use this dialect in their conversations especially in informal situations. It seems that it would be a kind of pride for them when they speak Indonesian mixed with the Jakarta dialect. Pear, as quoted by Giles and Powesland (1975), claims that "a person's characteristics affect the way in which he is perceived and evaluated by others".

For the purpose of writing this thesis, the writer has chosen the SMU female students who like very much to mimic Jakarta's people ways of talking. Their speech, fully-loaded with the Jakarta dialect, has never been analysed by any student of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University yet. This fact made me decide to carry out the study under report with special focus on the choice of words and the reasons for doing so.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

The research problems of the study under report were formulated as follows:

1. To whom do they use the Jakarta dialect?
2. Where do they use the Jakarta dialect?
3. What are the reasons of the subjects to use the Jakarta dialect in their daily communication ?

### **1.3 The Objectives of the Study**

In accordance with the research problems stated above, this study was intended to describe:

1. To whom they use the Jakarta dialect;
2. Where they usually use the Jakarta dialect;
3. The reasons of the subjects to use the Jakarta dialect in daily communication.

### **1.4 The Significance of the Study**

The results of the study under report should give some contributions to the field of sociolinguistics especially about the position of the Jakarta dialect for the SMU female students in Surabaya to use it in oral communication. It should also give information to the readers why people of this under study, the SMU female students in Surabaya, like to use this dialect in everyday oral communication.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

Being aware that there are many female students in Surabaya, the writer thought it was necessary to limit the scope of the subject. The writer only observed the SMU female students, more precisely those of SMU 2 Surabaya.

There were ten students altogether that the writer took as the source of the data. The writer just took the Jakarta dialect words, as the point of the study, spoken orally by the subjects when they communicate orally with one another and their reasons for doing so.

## 1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study was carried out on the basis of the *language variety* which studies the language that people use in everyday life is varied based on the variety of purposes and the social factors.

Next, *the language and dialect* is to understand the position of the Jakarta dialect which was the focus of the study under report to locate which utterances belong to the Jakarta dialect and which words don't.

Last, *the Jakarta dialect* that explains about the characteristics of the Jakarta dialect so that it can help the readers to understand what Jakarta dialect looks like is.

## 1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer thought it was useful to define several key terms used in this study.

### 1. Dialect

Dialect is a regionally or socially distinctive variety of language, identified by a particular set of words and grammatical structures.

Spoken dialects are usually associated with a distinctive pronunciation, or accent. Any language with reasonably large number of speakers will develop dialects, especially if there are geographical barriers separating groups of people from each other, or if there are divisions of social class. One dialect may predominate as the official or standard form of the language, and this is the variety which may come to be written down (Crystal, 1997).

## 2. Jakarta Dialect

Chaer (1982:xvii) defines Jakarta dialect as Indonesian which is influenced by Betawi dialect and is used by Jakarta people. The prominent characteristic of Jakarta dialect is its pronunciation. In the Jakarta dialect, the phonemes of /a/ or /ah/ occupying position of any the final word are pronounced /e/. For example: *kenapa* — /kənape/, *siapa* — /siape/, *mana* — /mane/, and so on. Likewise, the phoneme of /a/ in the final closed syllable, mostly, becomes /ə/. For example: *makam* — /maləm/, *padat* — /padət/, *atap* — /atəp/, and so on. However, the phoneme of /a/ in the final closed syllable such as in 'alam', 'malang', 'nakal', and 'pasar' do not make any changes.

### 3. Variety

Variety is a term used in sociolinguistics and stylistic to refer to any system of linguistic expression whose use is governed by situational variables. In some cases, the situational distinctiveness of the language may be easily stated, as in many regional and occupational varieties. In other cases, as in studies of social class, the varieties are more difficult to define involving the intersection of several variables (e.g. : sex, age, occupation). Several classifications of the language varieties have been proposed, involving such terms as Dialect, Register, Medium, and Field. For some sociolinguists, variety is given a restricted definition, as one kind of situational distinctive language – a specialised type of language used within a dialect e.g.: for occupational purposes (Crystal, 1997).

#### 1.8 Organisation of the Thesis

This paper consists of five chapters. Chapter one presents the introduction. Chapter two is about the review of related literature. Chapter three deals with research methodology. Chapter four talks about the data analysis and the interpretation of the findings. Last, chapter five explains the conclusion and suggestion.