

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Referring to the story of Babel Tower from the book of Genesis chapter eleven, the story of different kind of languages was known. It was stated that, in the beginning, the whole world had one language. People tried to maintain this language by building a city with a tower that reached to the heaven and made a name for it. Their primary aim of building the tower was to prevent them from scattering over the entire world. Yet, during the implementation, God did not agree at all with their plan. He confused their language, so that they could not understand each other. Lord scattered them from there to over all the earth and stop building the city. That is why it was called Babel because the Lord confused the languages of the whole word. From there, the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Nowadays, the writer sees the fact that there are many different languages in this world and people speak different languages among one another. Every nation has its own language. It means if someone moves from one country to another one he should use the other language. It is called foreign language because that language is from outside one's own country (Webster, 1986).

Based on the reality, the writer observes that it is such a marvelous thing to see people who can speak more than one foreign language. It would become a challenging experience for her to search and find out how they master those foreign languages. There must be some factors behind it. That is the reason that she wants to discuss it in her thesis.

Human being, especially children has a remarkable ability to learn a language. Those who are neurological intact and who grow up in a given language community learn the language without unusual effort. It is so because human have special inborn capacity to acquire language, special part of the brain is devoted to this capacity, language learning under normal condition is practically impossible to suppress (Gleason, 1988:1). In other words, it can be said that besides the first foreign language, there is a big tendency for them to master some other foreign languages.

In our society, there are a number of people who speaks some foreign languages. According to Bell (1976:86), there is no individual who speaks only one code. In other words, there is no one who uses only one language in communicating with others. While conversation occurs, some of the member's society uses a language choice. They choose a certain language to communicate. The language choice used is influenced by a number of factors. They are participants, situation, contents and function of interaction.

People speak different languages for many kind of reasons. Smith (1987:1) says that mastering a new language is helpful in effective cross culture communication. It means that if someone can speak a certain language, he will also learn its culture. He should do that in order to be able to socialize and integrate with the society. Pei asserts that learning the customs and thoughts of other people will help someone to speak a new language easily and naturally. It means if people want to learn a new language, they could merely notice what other people speak and imitate just the way they are. That is the beginning of learning a new learning process.

However, learning a culture and thought of other people are very crucial. People will respect those who know how to speak politely and how to behave properly. While Nababan (1991:1) claims that people may speak different languages to express their ideas depending on the contexts in which they are involved. A speaker will not use a home language when he speaks to a person from a different social group although they are friends. In this case, the writer realizes that people will speak different language if they are in a social setting which is totally different from their own, and then they try to adapt with the society by using its language.

Basically, language itself has two functions. Trudgill (1974:14) says that there are two important aspects of language behavior from a social point of view. First is the function of language in establishing social relationship. Second is the role-played by language in conveying in

formation about the speaker. Holmes (1992:287) states that in everyday interactions there are referential (informative) functions, and affective (social) functions; these establish contact between two participants. Participants exchange information at first, then move on to become more informative oriented or referential in function. In addition, it is also emphasized that a social factor should be considered for the user of language because it refers to the participants, the social setting and the function of the interaction in term of who is talking to whom (e.g. husband-wife, boss-worker). The setting or social context (e.g. homework, school) is generally a relevant factor too. The aim or the purpose of the interaction (informative, social) may be important. All of these factors have an influence on language choice.

From that point of view, the writer can conclude that people have personal reasons to use some foreign languages for communication. Moreover there must be a factor that enables them to speak more than one foreign language. Based on the reason above, the writer intends to write her thesis entitle “Study on the tendency of people to speak more that one foreign languages.”

1.2. Statement of the Problem

In line with the background above, the research questions guiding the writer in this study are formulated as follows:

1. What are the factors that influence people to speak more than one foreign Language?
2. When do they use that foreign language?

1.3. Objective of the Study

This study is intended to find out the factors that influence people to speak some foreign languages and the writer wants to identify the occasion when the people apply the language they mastered

1.4. The Significance of the Study

The result of this study which is expected to give some contributions to the field of Sociolinguistics, especially about the tendency of people to speak some foreign languages with others.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

Considering the limited time and the large topic that can be discussed in this section, the writer decided to limit her writing on identifying the factors that influence people to speak some foreign languages and analyzing the circumstances when people apply the foreign languages they have mastered.

1.6. Theoretical Framework

This study is on the basis of component of social factors and motivations for multilingualism in community. Holmes (1992:12) explains that people do not all speak in the same way all the time because there are some factors behind. Those factors are participants, setting, topic and the function of interaction. Meanwhile, there are also eight factors contribute someone to speak some foreign languages. They are link languages, national identity, socio cultural custom, political domination, language policies in educational system, religious context, large-scale migration and prestige.

1.7. Definition of the Key Term

To avoid misunderstandings, the writer thinks that it is useful to define several key terms used in this study. Hopefully, the reader will easily understand what this study tries to present.

1. Tendency

Tendency is movement in particular direction or of particular character or the direction character of such movement. Tendency usually implies an inherent or acquired inclination to move in a given direction literally or figuratively sometimes suggesting something opposable and alterable with great difficulty in the long run Webster (1986)

2. Speaking

A.S Hornby (1981) defines speaking as making use of words in an ordinary voice (not singing) or utter words.

3. Foreign language

According to Webster (1986), foreign language is a mean of communication that is used outside one's own country.

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. It discusses the theories and some opinions that support this study namely components of the social factors and motivation for multilingualism. The third is concerned with the Research Methodology. It discusses the Nature of the Study, the Subject, the Data, and the Procedures for collecting and analyzing the data. The fourth chapter deals with Finding and the Discussion. And the last chapter presents the Conclusion and the Suggestions concerning the topic under study.