

CHAPTER I

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1.1 Background of the Study

As social being, communication is very important for human in their life, since communication is one of their basic needs. As Windfred (1983:1) says that languages are the means which enables 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, man makes use of languages to fulfil his needs of communicating and interacting with other people. In short, through languages human beings are able to expand their horizon, to live effectively and to know about the world.

In their communication, people often speak more than one language. It is just a normal phenomenon of daily living in order to interact better with others. This seems in line with Bell (1973:110) who concludes that no person is monolingual. This is due to the fact that there are many different roles played by an individual in society, different social relationships in which he engages and different groups to which he belongs. In compliance with these factors, the communicative uses of code switching are more likely to happen in any speech community.

Marasigan (1983:40) in her book talks about formal and informal sorts of relationship in relation to language choice so code switching can happen in informal situation such as at home, in the market or in formal situation such as in a classroom, in church, etc.

In this study, the writer tries to analyze code switching which happened in informal situation, that is at home. She is interested to do so because she often happens to hear her sisters code switch while they are having their conversation.

Finally, being interested to further analyze the code switching done by her sisters during their conversation, the writer decides to write a thesis entitled : "A Preliminary Study on Informal Code Switching As Displayed by Teenagers in the Extended Family of Liong."

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the following questions :

- a) What languages are code switched by the subjects during their conversations ?
- b) Why did the subjects switch from one code (language) to another code (language) during their conversations ?
- c) How did they code switch from one code (language) to another code (language) during their conversations?

1.3 The Objectives

This study is planned to answer the above questions and so the objectives are formulated as follows :

- a) to describe what languages are code switched by the subjects at home during their conversation.

b) to describe the reasons of the existence of code switching. That is to describe the factors that motivate the subjects under the study to switch from one code (language) to another code (language) at home.

c) to describe the ways that the subjects code switch their conversations from one code (language) to another code (language) at home.

1.4 Significance of the Study

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

1.5 Limitation of the Study

Knowing how broad the discussion of code switching is, the study is limited in several ways :

The subjects under the study would be the 14-19 years old teenagers in one house with no background of speaking English fluently.

The area of the analysis would be focussed on :

- a) informal oral conversations which occurred.
- b) the situations which influenced the code switching.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is based on some theories of sociolinguistics which cover code switching and bilingualism.

Elizabeth Marasigan (1983:79) states that code switching is more than simply a way of contrastively emphasizing a part of a message.

To be considered bilingual, Peter A. Hornby (1977:3) says that a person must have the ability to use at least two different languages. According to Janet Holmes (1992:1), sociolinguists study the relationship between language and society, they are interested in explaining why we speak differently in also different social contexts and they are concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

The major terms defined in this section are :

1. *Code* is any set of linguistic forms that is influenced by social factors (Holmes,1992:9).
2. *Switch* is a change from one language to another language which reflects ethnic identity, relationship between participants (socialdistance), social status, formality, and its function (Holmes,1992:42,45).
3. *Code switching* refers to a large device for changing the tone of conversation (Bollinger,1981:149).
4. *Informal situation* refers to the house, in which the subjects have the chance to communicate freely with each other.

5. *Home* in this study is a place in which the subjects live and have their conversations.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. It consists of the background of the study, problem statements, the objectives, the significance of the study, theoretical framework and definition of key terms.

The second chapter is review of related literature and it consists of review of previous related studies and relevant theories.

The third chapter is the research method. It discusses the nature and design of the study, the population (sample), instruments and the procedure of collecting and analyzing the data.

The fourth chapter is about data analysis, findings and discussion of findings. The data analysis is in the form of conversations.

The last chapter or fifth chapter is conclusion. This chapter presents summary and suggestion.