

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In the society, people speak differently in different social contexts because there are many social factors that come into play in controlling which variety is to be used on particular occasions. For example, if a speaker is talking to the people he works with about their work, his language is likely to be rather different from that he will use at home with his family. According to Bell (1976:110) there is no individual who speaks only one code. In other words, there is practically no monolingual, a person who uses only one language in communicating with others, in this world.

Likewise, no one speaks the same way all the time because people constantly exploit the languages they speak for a wide variety of purposes. One of the studies that deals with this problem is Sociolinguistics. According to Wardhaugh (1986:12) sociolinguistics is a study that is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the goal of better understanding of the structure of language and of how languages function in communication. In brief, one can say that sociolinguistics is a study which has something to do with language and society.

A language is a particular means of communication of a particular society. There are as many societies as there are languages; and as many languages as there are societies. Language is used in a total communication situation. The ideal relation of a language to the society of the people speaking it would be that of one to one:

each society has its own language, and only one language; each language is spoken by one society, and only that society (Trager 1972:321).

In reality, languages contain a great deal of varieties. This happens because every person doesn't speak the same language variety all the time. He should adjust the language variety with the environment or with whom he speaks.

Fillmore, as quoted by Pride (1972:5-10) argues that a model of communication must specify the various possible components of a communication event and must provide a typology of the settings in which communication takes place in the community, the participant roles which these settings create, and the functions which individual communications can have in these settings. He also says that the connection between appropriate language choices and the social settings in which the speakers use their speech is governed by different sorts of social occasions. Fasold and Schriffrin (1989:1) add that according to Labov language is an instrument of communication that depends jointly on an underlying physiological system and a system of social control.

Trager (1972:321) states that in a unilingual society, any differences in language usage among members are in terms either of personal differences in experience, education, intelligence, and personality; or are structured in terms of social and or geographical dialect. For instance, a chief speaks differently from his weapon bearer, a professor from his students, the city people and the country folk talk differently.

In line with the statement above, Hornby (1977:1) adds that most of the nations are bilinguals or multilinguals. In the bilingual/ multilingual condition, Nababan (1984:31) states that people will often change their language varieties (codes), and

this depends on the situation and the needs of the language users. Hudson (1980:56) defines code switching as a condition in which a single speaker uses different varieties at different times.

The explanation above shows that people use language varieties based on the situation and social occasion. They use the language in a verbal way and in real society. However, language is not only used in a verbal way but also in a non-verbal way. The non-verbal way is usually found in literary works such as: poems, plays, short stories, and novels. The language used in literary works plays an important role because the coloration of a character's words also shows the character's relationship or the character's social background. Besides, the kinds of language variations are also found from the language used.

In brief, language is an important factor to create a characters' characterization such as, his manner, social background, or relationship with other characters. Blair and Gerber (1959:75) state that language used in imaginative works bodies forth the action, the setting, and the characters.

For the purpose of writing this thesis, the writer has chosen novel as the subject of her research because a novel gives readers a clear picture of the condition of life in a society. Little (1966:102) states that a novel presents us with a clear picture of its times, and leads us to feel that we know its setting as if we live in it ourselves. Hawthorn (1980:32) adds that a novel depicts imaginary characters and situations. However, eventhough the characters and their actions are imaginary they are in some sense 'representatives of real life'.

In this study Mark Twain was the chosen writer because his writing is basically realistic and humorous. He writes in simple, clear, and beautiful English sentences

and describes clearly the situation. Carlsen, et al (1979:305) say that Twain is a natural story teller, a performer who genuinely enjoyed entertaining an audience with tall tales and whimsical anecdotes. The writer likes to read his novels because the sentences and diction are simple and easily understandable. 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' and 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' are some of his works that are based on his own experience. Both novels tell about a boy growing up in a small Mississippi river town before the civil war. Besides being a realistic writer, he is also the first writer who used the American vernacular in his works. Bernard De Voto (1963:76) says that "Mark Twain wrote one of the great styles of American literature, he helped develop the modern American style, he was the first writer who ever used the American vernacular at the level of art."

The writer is interested in Mark Twain's novel 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' because the utterances of in this novel show varieties of language. According to Carlsen, et al (1979:333) 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' is one of Twain's works that shows the varieties of speech in Pike County, Mississippi. Through the utterances the writer of this thesis tried to identify the kinds of language variety in this novel along with the relationship between the characters seen from their utterances.

'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' is a novel about the relationship between Huckleberry Finn and Jim, the runaway slave. Huck Finn, a white boy, comes from white people background and Jim, a black man, a slave who runs away from his owner, Miss Watson. Eventhough they come from different social backgrounds and cultures, they could become good friends. Being together for several times, Huck Finn also learns to understand what friendship is. From this novel the writer learns

that the Negro slave, though brutalized, is as human and as lovable and as admirable as any white man is.

It is mostly find out that researchers analyse a novel from the the literary point of view such as, the characters' mental qualities, physical appearance, and relationship between other characters. However, not only the characters' mental quality, physical appearance, and relationship between other characters can be analyzed but also the characters' utterances. The writer has analysed the characters's utterances because she still has not found any analysis of 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' using a sociolinguistic point of view at Widya Mandala University.

## **1. 2 Statements of the Problem**

In line with the background of this study, the research questions that guided this study were formulated as follows:

1. What language variations does Huckleberry Finn use in talking with other characters?
2. What non-standard English patterns does Huckleberry Finn use in talking with other characters?
3. In what contexts does he use each variation in talking with other characters?

## **1. 3 Objectives of the Study**

This study intended to identify and describe:

1. the language variations that are used by Huckleberry Finn in talking with other characters?

2. the non-standard English patterns that are used by Huckleberry Finn in talking with other characters?
3. the types of contexts in which he uses each of the language variations in talking with other characters?

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

The writer hopes that the findings of this study may arouse the interest of the students of the English Department of Widya Mandala University to study literature, especially the language variations used by the characters in a novel. It is expected that it will give a clear picture on how to analyze novel from the sociolinguistic point of view in terms of the language variations which are used by the main character towards other characters. In reading this research report, readers are expected to know more about the relationships between language variations and the social contexts.

#### **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

The central attention of this study under report is on the analysis on the language variations found in the dialogues spoken only by the main character. The writer chooses the utterances spoken only by the main character because in this novel the main character has the chance to talk to most of the other characters who have different social backgrounds.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation, the writer needs to define some key terms used in this thesis. The terms defined are as follows:

### 1. Utterance

The particular speech-sounds which people utter under particular stimuli (Bloomfield 1964:29).

### 2. A variety of a language

A set of 'linguistic items' or 'human speech patterns' (sounds, words, grammatical features) which we can uniquely associate with some external factor (a geographical area or a social group) (Wardhaugh 1986:22).

### 3. Standard and Non-standard language

A standard language, according to Hudson (1980:32), is the only kind of variety which would count as a 'proper language' while a non-standard language refers to the language below standard.

### 4. Character

According to Robert (1977:10-11) the word 'character' refers to a person, human being and literary figure related to an individual's personal qualities and characteristics. He claims that character in literature is the author's creation through the medium of words, of a personality who takes on action, thought, expression and attitude.

## 1.7 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study,

limitation of the study, definition of key terms and organization of the thesis. Chapter II presents the review of the related literature and studies which are relevant to the study. Chapter III presents the methodology of the study which consists of research design and procedure of collecting the data. Chapter IV consists of the data analysis and findings. Chapter V is the conclusion which present the results of the study.