Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Indonesia is a country which has a variety of ethnicity, culture, and language. According to Nababan (1993: 12), the sociolinguistic situation in Indonesia is quite complex. Most Indonesians learn a vernacular, that is the language of their tribe, as the first language. They study Indonesian as their second language at schools or informally through society. It also frequently happens that Indonesians know one or two vernaculars which are not their first language, that they learn informally through their contact with the speakers of those vernaculars. So it could be understood that it is usual for Indonesians to be bilingualist or even multilingualist.

One phenomenon which is usually found in a bilingual community is code-switching. The most general description of code switching is that it involves the alternate use of two languages or linguistic varieties within the same utterance or during the same conversation

(Hoffman, 1991: 110). This code-switching phenomenon can also be observed in the writer's family.

The writer who has been brought up in a Banjar family, has often heard some of her relatives speaking Banjarese, Indonesian and Javanese alternatively. At first, the writer only took this situation for granted. But later she noticed that there were some reasons which influenced the choice of languages and the code-switching done by her relatives. Fishman (1971: 349) says that the choice of language is a function of the set of values and social situations operating in any given social interaction, such that one language is typically considered more appropriate than the other and vice-versa for certain kinds of behaviour (be it oral or written). According to Gumperz and Hernandez (1071: 329) as quoted by Marasigan (1983: 5), speakers do not merely switch from one language variety to another, but they build on the co-existence of alternate forms to convey information. For that reason, the writer has decided to study code switching as displayed by some of the writer's relatives in their conversations to know whether there are reasons behind their code switching.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

In line with the background of this thesis, this research is intended to answer the following question:

Why do the writer's Banjar relatives in Surabaya switch codes during their conversation?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study is intended to find out the reasons which have led the writer's Banjar relatives to switch their codes during a conversation.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give a contribution to the study of code switching, to confirm or to add to the various of reasons causing code-switching.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Due to the limited time and fund, the writer only studied her Banjar relatives who she often met and talked to, or who lived near her house. They were the writer's grandparents, the brother of her grandma and Christin, the writer herself.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is based on the theories of socio-linguistics which covers bilingualism, code switching and language in use.

1.6.1 Bilingualism

When two languages come into contact, speakers of either language may learn elements of the other language. This acquisition of the nonnative language produce bilingualism. While the resultant convergent change in the language systems is purely linguistic problem, bilingualism itself is essentially sociological (A. Richard Diebold. Jr. in D. Hymes, 1966: 495). Nababan (1993: 27) differentiates between bilingualism and bilinguality. Bilingualism is the habit to use two languages in the interaction with other people whereas biliguality show the ability to speak two languages.

1.6.2 Code-Switching

Code-switching is a discourse which is characterized by a mixture of codes within a single conversation (Milroy, 1987: 184). Hudson (1984: 4) states that code-switching is one of the varieties of language in which a speaker uses different varieties at

different times. According to Marasigan (1983: 90), code-switching occurs since there are difficulties in finding the right words at the time of speaking and the speakers can agree on interpetation of switching.

1.6.2.1 Language in Use

Hoffman (1991: 177) says that the starting point for any study of language choice in multilingual communities is the recognition that, as this choice does not constitute random decisions on the part of the speaker, there must be a certain pattern. Holmes (1992: 6) explains that people use different types of linguistic variation to express and reflect social factors. Savile (1976: 40) claims that language use vary sistematically depending on the social context of the speech act.

1.7 Definiton of the Key Term

In order to avoid misintepretation or misunder-standing, the following definition are given:

1.7.1 Code switching

is the changing of languages in the same discourse (Holmes, 1992: 42) or from one language variety to another variety of the same language (Holmes, 1992: 9). Code switching in this study refers to the

switch from Indonesian or Javanese into Banjarese or vice versa.

1.7.2 The Banjar relatives

are the relatives of the writer who have come from Banjarmasin and has lived in Surabaya more or less for twenty five years.

1.7.3 Banjarese

is a language spoken by Malayans ("orang Melayu") who live in Kalimantan, especially in the South and East area. This term is also used to refer the people who live in those areas. Those people are also known as "orang Banjar" (Banjarese) (Hapip, 1981: 1).

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I deals with the Introduction of this chapter. In this Chapter, the writer states the Background of the Study, Statements of the problems, Objectives of the study, Significance of the study, Scope and limitation of the study, Theoretical framework, Definition of Key terms and Organization of the paper. Chapter II deals with the theories of bilingualism, code switching and language in

use which support this research. Chapter III describes
the Methodology of this study, the Nature and source of
Data and Procedure for the Data Analysis. Chapter IV
deals with Data Anaysis and the last Chapter presents the
Conclusions, The Findings and some suggestions concerning
the topic under study.