

CHAPTER I

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1.1. Background of the Study

Basically, language is a means of communication to express ideas, opinions and feelings. Hoffman (1991:93) says that from the age of a year or so people have communicated with others largely through language. He further claims that language does not exist apart from a social group since language provides the means for people to take their place in society, to express their wants and convey information, to learn about other people and the world around them.

Language in this world is used both in written and spoken forms. People may have different speech styles in producing language when they are speaking or writing. Novel, as one of literary works, also consists of many language styles used by different characters in the novel.

Novel is not easy to be studied and analyzed by the students including those of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University. This might be caused by the literary work's language that is not easy to understand and the students' incapability to combine the elements necessary to analyze the literary work. The writer then attempts to seek into the description of speech variations used in the novel. In this study, the writer tries to find out the variations between the speeches of three ethnic groups presented in this novel.

Since speech variations among three ethnic groups are the focus of this study, sociolinguistics takes an important part in this present study. The thesis writer is interested in the phenomenon of dialect differences of the three ethnic groups. She wants to find out that language, as Hudson (1980) says, differs according to people who use the language and to the social context. The writer has perceived that there are variations in the language produced by different ethnics in Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective*. The speeches are indeed included in informal speeches between friends.

The literary work under analysis is one of Mark Twain's best and famous novels entitled *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective*. This novel was selected to be analyzed because it involves three different ethnic groups in America - the Black, the White and the Native American who speak different language varieties. These three ethnics are the main characters who have the same native language that is English, but they also have varieties of English when they speak to each other. At that time, the Blacks were considered as the second-class people in American society while the Whites are the first-class people. In line with the reason of choosing this novel, the writer finds out that the raw material of *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective* came from Twain's own boyhood experiences and his classmates.

Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective, a nineteenth-century pop novel written by Mark Twain, is the story of the adventures of the boys from different ethnics. It is actually a story mostly about Tom Sawyer, who is a good

boy, together with his partner, Huckleberry Finn, who is really a bad boy. In this novel, Mark Twain tries to picture the adventures of the boys in an American small town. It is Twain's ability, as the most fascinating writer, to capture idealized past and present it naturally in the writing of *Tom Sawyer Abroad* and *Tom Sawyer Detective*. Twain presented his ability to create great, memorable scenes, and described the three different ethnic groups' languages.

The three different ethnics represent certain level of society with their different variations of speech. In this case, they may have different ways of speaking or expressing themselves. The theory of the use of certain speech by each ethnic is supported by Holmes (1992:123), stating that " People often use language to signal their membership of particular groups; social status, sex, age, ethnicity and the kind of social networks people belong to turn out to be important dimensions of identity in many communities. "

Holmes' statement shows that the use of language shows not only who the speaker is but also other signals about him such as his status, age, occupation, sex, and religious or cultural background. These signals show the presence of someone in a society and the use of language in the society. Talking about the relationship between society and language leads to the concept of sociolinguistics. According to Pride (1972:ix), " Sociolinguistics is the study of nature language in all its various social conditions that are concerned with the study of who speaks to whom, when, where, how, and why. "

The statement above implies that language varies because of its context of use and the speaker who uses it. This is in line with Trudgill's opinion (1984:103) that "Language varies not only according to the social characteristics of the speaker, but also to the social context in which he finds himself." More specifically, Holmes (1992:6) claims that the social influences such as sex, age, religion, and status can determine the types of linguistic variation which is used to express and reflect social factors. The linguistic variation includes vocabularies, sounds, word-structures (morphology), and grammar (syntax).

As the language varies in nature, the writer is interested in discussing speech variations of different ethnics in terms of dictions, pronunciation and structures. The speech variations under investigation are those used by the main characters in Mark Twain's novel *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective*. The writer chooses this novel to analyze the speeches used by people of different backgrounds living in a small town in America as presented in a literary work. The novel consists of the description of three characters from different social backgrounds.

The differences in social background affect someone to use a certain dialect in communicating with others. Not only ethnic group has its own variety of language, but also the social group. Social group is usually determined by a range of features, such as education, occupation, residential area, and income level. People who come from different social groups speak different social dialects. One's language in a society or public always reflects one's social background and

education. A language can be thought of as a collection of dialects that are usually linguistically similar, used by different social groups who choose to say that they are speakers of one language that functions to unite and represent them to other groups.

It is crucial for someone to know not only the dialect of the ethnic he belongs to but also the dialects of groups he might be involved in later on. It is assumed that by knowing a certain dialect and having certain knowledge, someone can be easily accepted in a social group. For political reason, for example, it is also very easy for someone to obtain some information about the social group if he knows the dialect of the social group.

According to Holmes (1992:9), the reasons for someone to choose one dialect are because of same kind of social considerations such as the participants, the social setting, and the topic or purpose of the interaction. Further, he illustrates as follows:

1. The participants : who is speaking and who are they speaking to ?
2. The setting or social context of the interaction : where are they speaking ?
3. The topic : what is being talked about ?
4. The function : why are they speaking ?

1.2. Statements of the Problems

In line with the background of the study, two research questions are raised in this study and formulated as follows:

1. What dialect do the White, the Black, and the Native American in Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective* use frequently when talking to each other?
2. What factors influence the White, the Black, and the Native American to use the dialect?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

Referring to the research questions above, this study is intended to determine and describe :

1. The dialect frequently used by the White, the Black, and the Native American people in Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective*.
2. The factors that influence the three ethnics in Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective* to use the dialect.

1.4. The Significance of the Study

Through the analysis of structures, dictions, and pronunciation used in Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective*, this study gives the general insight of the different dialects carried out by different ethnic groups. Since this is a sociolinguistic study, it is expected that this study can give a contribution concerning the perception of dialect differences among people of different ethnic groups in America ; the Whites, Blacks, and the Native Americans. Thus, it enables the readers not only to see the different dialects based

on the different levels of social stratification but also gives the perception that no two speakers have the same experiences of language. Such a phenomenon also happens to the Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer*'s ethnic groups, who have different language experiences. The readers, then, can know which speech variations are usually employed by the Blacks, Whites, and the Native Americans.

1.5. The Scope and Limitation of the Study

Being aware of how broad and complex the discussion of language varieties in a novel, the writer thinks it is necessary to limit the scope of the study. This study is limited in the following areas :

1. The data source under study is Mark Twain's novel, *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective*. This novel consists of two parts; *Tom Sawyer Abroad* and *Tom Sawyer Detective*. Since the writer only wants to analyze language variety, she only takes the language of the first part of the story to represent the language variety used in Mark Twain's novel, that is *Tom Sawyer Abroad* and she leaves the second part of the novel unanalyzed.
2. The dialects under analysis are those spoken out by the main characters in the novel when speaking to each other : the Whites, the Blacks and the Native Americans, according to the aspects of pronunciation, dictions, and structures.
3. The feature of pronunciation analyzed in this study is the way words of a language are spoken out differently from the standard pronunciation by the

writer of the novel. This is not a phonemic transcription since it cannot be found in a novel.

1.6. Theoretical Framework

The underlying concepts - dialects, novel, and sociolinguistics, which support this study, are brought into discussion. The elaboration of each of these concepts are presented in chapter II.

A novel, according to Little (1996:101), is greatly concerned with character. Because of its length, the novel is particularly suited, as the short story is not, to deal with the effect on character of the passage of time (Simon and Schuster, 1966:105). It is clear then that the novel with its length is the best form of writing in analyzing character. It is only in the novel that character has possibility to be fully developed. Each character in the novel may have his or her own variations in producing language.

In the novel of Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective*, there are three different ethnics with their own dialects. Dialects, as defined by Holmes (1992:142), refer to linguistic varieties which are distinguishable in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.

Since this study is concerned with the variety of language of three different ethnic groups, the theory of sociolinguistics also takes an important place. Hudson (1980) states that sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society of which no two speakers have the same language since no two

speakers have the same experiences of languages. It is obvious that language differs according to people who use the language. In this case, a different ethnic group speaks different language that means they have their own styles in producing language.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation of the key words used in this study, the writer thinks it necessary to define some key terms used in this study. They are:

Dialect

Dialect, as defined by Wolfram (1991:2), is a neutral label which refers to any variety of a language which is shared by a group of speakers. Holmes (1992:142) states that a *Dialect* is non-standard variety of language that is distinguishable in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.

Pronunciation

Pronunciation is the way of speaking words of a language. In this study, it refers to the way the writer of the novel speaks the English words.

Language Variety

Holmes (1992: 9), in “ An Introduction to Sociolinguistics “, states that Language variety which includes different accents, different linguistic styles, different dialects, and even different languages which contrast with each other for social reasons refers to any set of linguistic forms of which the patterns are constructed

according to social factors. It means that the linguistic forms are used under specific social circumstances, i.e. with a distinctive social distribution.

Ethnic Group

According to the Encyclopedia Britanica (1947), *Ethnic group* is a social group that comes from different racial regions with specific physical characters and social conditions. In this study, the ethnic groups are the White, the Native American, and the Black. According to the novel, the White is the American social group from White race. The Native American is the Indian society inhabiting in America. The Black is the Negroid people in reference to the slavery in America.

Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is a study that takes speech variation as its focus, viewing variation or its social context. (Hickerson ,1980 in Pateda, 1994 :3)

1.8. Research Method

This study is a qualitative study which uses a descriptive method of which the purpose is to gain a systematic, factual, and accurate description of feature of the facts and the relationship of the phenomena being studied. In this study, she tries to find out the variety of language between three ethnics in Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer Detective*. The words, phrases, and sentences which are expressed by using different speeches are going to be analyzed in terms of pronunciations, dictions and structures.

1.9. Organization of the Thesis

The writer divides the thesis into five chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction which consists of Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Objective of the Study, the Limitation of the Study, the Significance of the Study, Theoretical Framework, Definition of Key Terms, Research Method, and Organization of the Study. Chapter II deals with the Review of Related Literature which discusses the theories concerning novel, language variations, sociolinguistics, and language and ethnic groups. The third chapter is the Research Method. It is divided into the Research Design, Data Source, Research Instrument, and Data Collection, and Data Analysis Procedure. Chapter IV describes the Findings and Discussion of the Findings. The last chapter is Conclusion containing the conclusion of the study and suggestion for future research.