# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a very important means of establishing and maintaining relationships with other people. Language allows people to say things to each other and express their communicative needs. That is why language takes important roles in human life. Whatever people may do when they come together - whether they play, fight, or ride automobiles - they talk. People live in World of Words. People talk to their friends, their societies, their wives and husbands, their lovers, their teachers, their parents and parent in-laws. And everyone responds with more talk. In the global world, language becomes wider and wider. Among the others, people use a certain language to express their emotion such as fuck, damn, shit, son of a bitch, etc. The people in Indonesia also have those kinds of expression like diancuk, gendheng, edan, asu, jangkrik, etc. The language is called swear words or kata pisuhan. In Indonesia, a lot of teenagers and also children use swear words when they are talking to their friends, this is because they adopt the words from adult people. So, that is why adult people have to be careful in using language, especially swearing words, because it can influence young generation, pollute our culture, damage young psyches and also endanger the society.

The writer is interested in studying swear words because she experienced in using swear words when she was in high school. She often found out that her friends often used swear words when they were talking to each other.

Until now the writer often finds out that SMU students often utter swear words when they are talking to each other, eventhough they are still in junior high school, and elementary school. They utter swear words because according to them the use of profanity is normal and harmless. They even use swear words in telling off-color stories and this can be considered as part of their sex education. The first thing coming up in her mind is "why do they like to utter swear words when they talk to each other"?

Due to the fact that swear words expressions are often used by the SMU students in natural verbal communication, the writer decides to do research on swear words uttered by SMU students and to write a thesis entitled "The Use of Swear Words By The Students of SMUK Ignatius Slamet Riyadi Bojonegoro".

# 1.2 The Problem of Statements

With reference to the background of the study, the major problems of this intends to answer the following questions:

- 1.2.1 What swear words are mostly uttered by SMU students when they are talking?
- 1.2.2 What are the factors influencing the SMU students to utter certain swear words when they are talking to each other?

# 1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study is to find out:

1.3.1 the swear words that are mostly uttered by the SMU students when they are talking

## 1.3.2 the factors that influence the SMU students when they are talking

# 1.4 Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to give some contribution to the study of sociolinguistics, concerning the use of swear words. It is also hoped to arouse greater interest for the readers in studying the topic above.

#### 1.5 Theoretical Framework

The study is based on the theory of sociolinguistics that covers style of speech, power and solidarity, taboo words, and swear words. They will be used as underlying aspects to answer the problem of statement.

# 1.5.1 Styles of Speech

Language varies according to its uses as well as its users, according to where it is used and to whom it is addressed. Different situation needs different style of speech. Style of speech tells whether something that is being said is formally, informally, seriously, ironically, or humorously (Chaika, 1994:81). According to Chaika, style of speech uses all the resources of language: tone of voice, different pronunciations, even the choice between synonymous words and grammar (1994:82).

## 1.5.2 Power and Solidarity

Speech may also reflect the social relations between the speaker and the addressee, most particularly the power and solidarity manifested in that relationship

(Hudson, 1980:122). Both of these are matters of degree and they work together to produce various combinations of distance and intimacy (Chaika, 1994:103)

Trudgil (1974:29) says that taboo words can be characterized as being concerned with behaviour which is believed to be supernaturally forbidden, or regarded as immoral or improper; it deals with behaviour which is prohibited or inhibited in an apparently irrational manner. He says that taboo words are associated with things which are not said, and in particular with words and expressions which are only used in a restricted set of situation. According to him these taboo words are frequently used as swear words. It is taboo words that can be used to release one's emotion since taboo words are created as a medium to release one's emotion (Estrict and Sperber, 1952:39). Hayakawa (1939:66) says that the strongest verbal taboos have, however, a genuine social value. According to him, when we extremely get angry and we feel the need of expressing our anger in violence, uttering these forbidden words provides us with a relatively harmless verbal substitute for going berserk and smashing furniture; that's the words act as a kind of safety valve in our moments of crisis.

#### 1.5.4 Swear Words

Swear words are words or expressions that reflect someone's feeling (Carner, Wallace, and Cameron, 1974:176). These swear words are influenced by affective or emotive words (Sudaryanto, 1994:83-85). It means that swear words appear because

of affective touchness that arouse so strongly. For example, when someone is surprised, annoyed, regreted, etc. According to Holmes (1992:297), swear words are also similarly as an expression of positive politeness. Positive politeness is solidarity oriented. It means that swear words are also used to express solidarity.

# 1.6 The Scope and Limitation

In this thesis, the writer only concerns with the swear words used by the SMU students of Ign. Slamet Riyadi Bojonegoro because the writer found out that her friends often used swear words when she had studied in that high school. Here the writer only analyzes the Indonesian swear words.

## 1.7 The Definition of the Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, the writer needs to give the definitions of key terms. The definitions of key terms consist of taboo words and swear words.

### 1.7.1 Taboo Words

Taboo words are words that cannot be used in polite discourse (Hayakawa, 1939:29). According to him, language is used for the direct expression of the feelings of the speaker. These words are often used as swear words to release one's emotion (Estrict and Sperber, 1952:39). Words relating to sex, sex organs, and natural bodily functions make up a large part of the set of taboo words of many cultures.

#### 1.7.2 Swear Words

Swear words are a part of taboo vocabulary (Hudson, 1980:53). Swear words are words that are used for uttering profane oaths and curses (Encyclopedia Britanica, 1768: volume 21). These swear words are uttered as the reactions of the realities that happen beyond people's expectations such as being annoyed, surprised, and angry.

## 1.8 The Organization of the Study

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction that consists of the background of the study, the problem of statements, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the theoretical framework, the scope and limitation of the study, the definition of the key terms, and the organization of the study. The second chapter presents the review of the related literature, which is relevant to the study. This chapter consists of theoretical framework that is divided into two parts, they are sociolinguistics theories and previous study. The third chapter deals with the research methodology that consists of the nature of the study and its design, the subjects, the research instrument, the procedures of collecting data and data analysis. The fourth chapter is about the data, the data analysis, the findings, and the discussions. The final chapter presents the conclusion that consists of summary and suggestions concerning the topic under study.