

CHAPTER I

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1.1. Background of the Study.

Human behavior is so constantly and thoroughly accompanied by talking. Most people rarely stop thinking about their speech activity, or to speculate about the nature and origin of the communication system they use.

A communication situation is one in which a sender has “something” (a message) he wants to convey to a receiver. Speech is one of the most important ways in which one presents a personal image for others to evaluate, both through what one says and the way one says it (Brown and Levinson, 1978). That is why, language is the key in the society. Without language, people could hardly have created the human word they know.

Language also exhibits more specific and localized varieties called jargons. Jargons differ from dimensions in terms of their specific subject matter often associated with people having particular skills. They are varieties used by particular in-groups, with variations for different kinds of social situations. Jargons are sometimes great barriers to communication and to exclude the non-member.

In the transsexuals' area like Jalan Irian Barat well-known as “IRBA”, there are many transsexuals who make a transaction with their customers only at night. While waiting for their customers, they talk and make a joke by using their

own language, '*bahasa gaul*', or it is called slang, so that other people outside the group do not understand what they are talking about.

Due to the fact that (a) slang has been focused mostly on register, jargons, and secret language, (b) the writer's observations in hearing secret language, the writer decided to do a research on slang among transsexual to write a thesis entitled : *The Slang by Transsexuals on Jalan Irian Barat Surabaya*, of which the research questions are presented in the following section.

1.2. Statement of the Problem.

With reference to the background of the study, the problems in this study are formulated as follows :

- (1) What are the nature form of the slang of the transsexuals on Jalan Irian Barat Surabaya?
- (2) What are the transsexuals' reasons to utter the slang language?

1.3. Objective of the Study.

In line with the background and the research questions stated above, this study intends to find out and describe:

- (1) the nature form of the slang uttered by the transsexuals on Jalan Irian Barat Surabaya.
- (2) the transsexuals' reasons to utter the slang language.

1.4. Significance of the Study.

The findings of this study should give a contribution to the field of sociolinguistics studies, since this slang study can be a good input in teaching-learning. And therefore, hopefully, these findings could enrich the knowledge about kinds of languages and help people outside the group to understand better the slang spoken by transsexuals.

1.5.Scope and Limitation of the Study.

Concerning the limited energy and funds available, this study is limited several in ways :

1. The subject under the study are 19 transsexuals that consist of 9 transsexuals whom the writer met on Jalan Irian Barat Surabaya and 10 transsexuals who stay at their boarding house on Jalan Pacar Kembang Surabaya.
2. The subjects under study are about 20 to 35 years old and some of them have been living in Surabaya for about 4 years.
3. The area of analysis is focused on the conversations which are actual, real, and in natural informal settings.
4. The area of the analysis is also focused on the interview.

1.6.Theoretical Framework

This study is based on the theory of sociolinguistics which covers theory of (a) historical background of transsexuals, (b) register, (c) language variation, (d) jargon. Moreover, the study is based on the theory of slang.

As quoted by Fransisca Hardianto, Hudson defines sociolinguistics as the study of language in relation to society (1980:4). It explains why we speak differently in different social contexts, and it is concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the way that language is used to convey social meanings (Holmes,1992:1). Holmes divides the social factors into (a) participants, (b) topic, (c) setting, and (d) function (Holmes, 1992:11)

In general , slang is an informal language variety or sub-code regarded as below standard, which is used by certain groups of society to serve the inter group communication goals (Sumanandar, 1976:3). In Indonesia this kind of slang is called '*bahasa prokem*'. Slang which describes an occupational style or profession is called jargon. Some linguistics describe this kind of language variation as 'register' variation. The term 'register' here describes the language of groups of people with common interests or jobs, or the language used in situations associated with such groups.

The writer uses all of these important theories to help her find out the reason underlying her subjects under study to use slang. These theories are used as guidance to analyze the data. Particularly, in the case of the theories of slang, the

writer also uses it as the sources for comparison and guidance to find the rules of the slang formations.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms.

These are some terms to be further explained in order to avoid misunderstanding, on the part of the readers. The terms to be defined are slang, jargon, register, transsexual and secret language.

(1) Slang

Slang, in this particular study, is an informal language variety or sub-code, regarded as below standard, which is used by certain group members to serve inter-group communication goals (Cowie, 1989:1196).

(2) Jargon

Jargon is a kind of slang (Sahertian, 2000:v) that is used by or associated with a particular trade, profession or field of activity (Widarso, 1989 :63) ; it is also called register — the language of group or people with common interests or jobs, or the language used in situation associated with such groups (Holmes, 1992:276).

(3) Transsexual.

Transsexual is a man who is addicted to wearing garments of other sex and has a typical sexuality characterized by manifestation of sexual desire toward a member of one's own sex (Cowie, 1989:1364). Here the writer writes "*she*" to refer to the transsexual.

(4) Secret language

Secret language is an invisible systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, or marks having understood meanings (Merriam-Webster INC, 1986: 1270, 2052).

(5) Language Variation

Language which encompasses a variety of ways of speaking it, so any one society encompasses a variety of ways living within it (Montgomery, 1995:64).

1.8.Organization of the Thesis.

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one contains the idea why the writer is interested in studying this matter, the questions to be answered, the objectives and significance of the study, definitions of the key terms, supporting theories, and organization of the paper. Chapter two presents the basic theories of the study elaborated from the theoretical framework. Chapter three talks about the research methodology, how the study is carried out until the data collection is done. Chapter four is about the data analysis, and the interpretation of the findings. Finally in chapter five, the writer concludes the whole thesis.