CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses some related literatures for this thesis. It discusses the study of sociolinguistics, language and register.

2.1.   The Study of Sociolinguistics

The way people talk is influenced by the social context in which they are talking (Holmes, *op. cit.,* 1). More, Holmes says we use language to ask for and give people information. We use it to express indignation and annoyance, as well as admiration and respect. …we also indicate aspects of our social identity through the way we talk. Our speech provides clues to others about who we are, where we come from, and perhaps what kind of social experiences we have had (*ibid.,* 2).

Languages provide a variety of ways of saying the same thing-addressing and greeting others, describing things, paying compliments. ... useful clue to non-linguistic information. Linguistic variation can provide social information (*ibid.,* 3).

The term dialect can also be used to describe differences in speech associated with various social groups or classes. There are social dialects as well as regional ones. An immediate problem is that of defining social group (see chapter 5) or social class (see chapter 6), giving proper weight to the various factors that can be used to determine social position, e.g., occupation, place of residence, education, 'new' versus 'old' money, income, racial or ethnic origin,

cultural background, caste, religion, and so on. Such factors as these do appear to be related fairly directly to how people speak. …whereas regional dialects are geographically based, social dialects originate among social groups and are related to a variety of factors, the principal ones apparently being social class, religion, and ethnicity (Wardhaugh, o*p. cit.*, 49).

2.2 Language

Bell in Wardhaugh has listed seven criteria that may be useful in discussing different kinds of languages. According to Bell, these criteria (standardization, vitality, historicity, autonomy, reduction, mixture, and de facto norms) may be used to distinguish certain languages from others (*ibid.*, 33).

One of those criteria, historicity, refers to the fact that a particular group of people finds a sense of identity through using a particular language: it belongs to them. Social, political, religious, or ethnic ties may also be important for the group, but the bond provided by a common language may prove to be the strongest tie of all (*ibid.*, 38).

The variation you are permitted has limits and these limits can be described with considerable accuracy. Individuals know the various limits (or norms), and that knowledge is both very precise and at the same time almost entirely unconscious (*ibid.*, 5).

Selection of the norm may prove difficult because choosing one vernacular as a norm means favoring those who speak that variety. It also diminishes all the other varieties and possible competing norms, and those who use those varieties. The chosen norm inevitably becomes associated with power and the rejected alternatives with lack of power. Not surprisingly, it usually happens that a variety associated with an elite is chosen. Attitudes are all-important, however. A group that feels intense solidarity may be willing to overcome great linguistic differences in establishing a norm, whereas one that does not have this feeling may be unable to overcome relatively small differences and be unable to agree on a single variety and norm (*ibid.,* 34).

Meaning is not 'transmitted' to us - we actively create it according to a complex interplay of codes or conventions of which we are normally unaware. Becoming aware of such codes is both inherently fascinating and intellectually empowering. We learn from semiotics that we live in a world of signs and we have no way of understanding anything except through signs and the codes into which they are organized (Chandler, 1994; 15).

2.3   Register

Registers are sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social groups. Surgeons, airline pilots, bank managers, sales clerks, jazz fans, and pimps employ different registers (Wardhaugh, *loc. cit.*).

While describing the action they are observing, sport announcer often omit the subject noun or pronoun (Holmes, *op. cit*., 260).

People rather than action are the focus of interest at certain points during the sports announcer's spiel. When this is the case, the subject nouns which are the focus of interest are heavily modified both after the noun and before the noun (*ibid.,* 261).

The specialized registers of occupational groups develop initially from the desire for quick, efficient, and precise communication between people who share experience, knowledge and skills (*ibid*., 264).

Vocabulary or word choice is one area of linguistic variation. But, linguistic variation occurs at others levels of linguistic analysis too: sounds, word-structure (or morphology), and grammar (or syntax) as well as vocabulary. Within each of these linguistic levels there is variation which offers the speaker a choice of ways of expression. They provide us with different linguistic styles for use in different social context. Choices may even involve different dialects, or quite different languages (*ibid*., 4).