

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some aspect that become foundation in analyzing problem in the research. It gives description about what the background of the research, the problem that will be analyzed, purposes, significance, and a number of terms regarding the topic.

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is a set of symbols that expresses ideas and enables people to think and communicate with one another (Kendall, 2002:46). Since language is a social tool, there are certain rules which apply in the application of language. In many societies of the world, there are certain words or expressions which are considered odd, bad or profane when used because they constitute insult, assault or desecration of social mores. In Fagerstens' view, swearing refers to the use of words which have the potential to be offensive, inappropriate, objectionable, or unacceptable in any given social context (2012:3). Based on Fagerstens' view above, it can be conclude that people always associate swear word with a bad or inappropriate word, which is not allowed to be used in conversation. So, they tend to avoid saying that word.

Besides, there are some group considered that swear words are not only used in negative meaning such as insult people, to hurt someone, or to put someone's down. They consider that swear words are the appropriate media to express strong

emotion and attitudes. Just like Jay and Janschewitz state, “The main purpose of swearing is to express emotions, especially anger and frustration” (2008:267). Jay and Janschewitz revealed that swearing episodes exist on a continuum from thoughtful and purposeful (e. g., one chooses a particular swear word for a joke) to automatic and uncontrollable (2008:271). Not every use of a swear word is an instance of swearing or showing emotions, people also use swear words when they have joke or humor with their friends and also to emphasize how great they feel something is, a swear words emphasizes the positive feelings you have for that object, situation, person or event. Therefore, Swearing has become so common and usual, that it is not a big deal when they are used.

Swearing is an appropriate and not impolite among peers in casual setting, generally people swearing among their friends to show their familiarity, friendliness or identity among some communities. For instance, Surabaya has special swear words such as “cuk” from the word “Jancuk”, they sometime use it just to show their friendliness. Jay and Janschewitz (2008:273) state that people are more likely to swear in relaxed environments than in formal environments. It means that swear words are sometimes occur when people speak in informal language, and it is most happened in college student because according to Jays in Fagersten’ view, swear words as well as the most frequently word that occur in the spontaneous speech of university student populations (2012:18). Almost similarly, Ben in Hoo’s view, that it seems almost impossible not to find those words in students’ conversations

(2006:2). Based on above two views, the researchers interested in researching swear words that used by college student in their conversations and the reason they used such swear word.

The researcher is interested in researching swearword that used by undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya because there are many students who came from different area outside of Surabaya (different ethnic and different linguistic background) such as from Jakarta, Bali and so on. Each of them has their own native swear words which can be heard a lot in their conversation. Jay states that different cultures and different language, of course, present different sets of linguistic and semantic constraints on dirty word use (2000:20). Jay further states that individual speakers in one society might use of swear word is determined by his or her psychological development within a cultural environment. Based on the phenomena above, this researcher is intended to find what are the choice of swear words that are used by undergraduate students in their conversation.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher wants to find the answer of the problem. In which this research is for finding the answer of the question below:

- 1.2.1 What are some swear words used by undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya?

1.2.2 What are the types of swear words that used by undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya?

1.2.3 Why do undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya use such swear words?

1.3 Purpose of the Research

This research is expected to find out some information and enrich our view of sociolinguistics about some swear words that are used by undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya. In relating to the statement of the problem above, this research is intended to:

1.3.1 Find out the swear words used by undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya.

1.3.2 Categorize the swear words that are used by undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya.

1.3.3 Explain the intention and the reason why undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya use such swear words.

1.6 Significance of the Research

This research is expected to contribute some information on sociolinguistics studies and in order to help the readers understand more about the categories of swear words. Thus, this thesis can be one of the references in reading on studying

about sociolinguistics, especially about the swear words used by undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya. By understanding the type of swear words and the reason why undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya use such swear words in their conversation, hopefully it can reduce misunderstanding and make communication run well between each other.

1.5 Limitation of the Research

This research is limited to sociolinguistic study and concentrates only on the swear words produce by undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya. The subject of the research is also limited to undergraduate students of Engineering College in Surabaya.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Some important terms relating to this research needs to be limited in definition. By this definition, it is expected to be able to explain clearly what it is used in this research. The following are some terms on definition.

1.6.1 *Swear words* are categorized as deriving one of three taboo areas such as excretory which related to bodily functions and associated body part; sexual which related to sexual acts or to genitalia; and profanity which refer to religious issues (Stapleton, 2010:290).

1.6.2 *Taboo* is defined by the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary as: "a cultural or religious custom that does not allow people to do, use or talk about a particular thing as people finds it offensive or embarrassing" (2005:1560).

1.7 Organization of the Research

This paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter one is introduction which consists of background of the research, statement of the problem, purpose of the research, significance of the research, limitation of the research, definition of the key terms, and organization of the research. Chapter two is review of related literature. Chapter three consists of research method which explains about the methodology, approach, data collection, and data analysis. Chapter four is finding and analysis and chapter five is suggestion and conclusion of this thesis.