

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter talks about the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significant of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

The main purpose of language is as a means of communication used everyday in daily life for our interaction. When someone meet with this situation, it is possible that someone may use a new language. That linguistic change occurs in the context of linguistic heterogeneity. Coates (1991:48) explains, “Linguistic change can be said to have taken place when a new linguistic form used by some groups within a speech community is adopted by other member of that community and accepted as the norm”.

In fact, there are so many phenomena of language varieties in society, for example, language used by doctor, *Tukang becak* (Pedicab worker), and young man. Swearword is one of typical language varieties, commonly used by young man. In addition, the swearwords that very typical are variety used by man in Mojokerto such as *Jancok*, *Gatel*, *Matamu Picek*, etc. The youth frequently, gather- together to chitchat using some swearwords for mocking, tempting, persuading, or expressing their feeling, depends on the purposes. For instance, the word “Jancok” used for marveling while there is a pretty girl by uttering “*Jancok ayune arek iku!*”

Sometimes, swearing is expressed by writing it on walls, as car stickers, etc. For example “*Dilarang buang sampah disini Anjing, Goblog/ Setan*” to prohibit people throw garbage promiscuously by using a swearword. Factually, if we discuss about language variation, it cannot obviate with some elements of it, like sex, region, social class, and other factors.

Holmes says,

The linguistic forms used by women and men contrast – to different degrees – in speech communities. The linguistic behavior of women and men differ in other ways. It is claimed women are more linguistically than men (*See*, Janet Holmes 1992: 164).

Seemingly, language of gender (sex) variation is different in patterns of language use between men and women, such as quantity of speech, intonation patterns. In addition, Edwards says,

The fact that more working-class girls were mistaken as boys is interesting, since there is evidence from several sources that female speech is politer and more correct (i.e. more approaches a middle-class standard) than that males (*See*, Edwards, 1979: 288).

Then, such regional variations of languages are subject to linguistic investigations. Regional varieties of language develop as different norms arise in the usage of groups separated by some kinds of geographic boundary (*See*, Seville et al, 1989: 82). Therefore, regional variation of language can give a lot of information about the place the speaker comes from.

Holmes says,

People often use a language to signal their membership of particular groups; social status, sex, ethnicity and the kinds of social networks people belong to turn out to be important dimensions of identity in many communities (*See*, Holmes 1992: 133).

In another statement, Holmes states,

Certain social factors have been relevant in accounting for the particular variety used. Some relate to the users of language – the participants; other relate to its uses – the social setting and function of the interaction (*See*, Holmes 1992: 11)

Therefore, according to Holmes' view above, every place has a typical language according to region, their life, and the use of language. There is a particular goal to employ of language variation, depends on to the social context, sex, social status, and goal interaction. Moreover, the effect of variety words or phrases used by a person to communicate with other depends on the situation and setting of place, not always the youth employ swearwords to the all of people, such as their parent, and teacher.

Holmes' theory above supported by Seville *et al.* (1989: 49),

The means of communication used in a community thus include different languages, different regional and social dialects of one or more of the languages, different registers (generally varying on a formal-informal dimension which cross-cuts dialect dimension), and different channels of communication (e.g. oral, written, manual). The nature and extent of this diversity is related to the social organization of the group, which is likely to include differences age, sex, and social status, as well as differences in the relationship between speakers, their goal interaction, and setting in which communication takes place (*See*, Holmes 1989, 49)

In addition, social class, as quoted from Beare in http://esl.about.com/cs/reference/a/bl_society.html also affects varieties of language. Social class determines language use in many various manners. Probably, the most important factor in the way social class also determines language use is tendency of society attaches social values to different type of language use.

In another view, Anderson & Trudgill state that swearing is generally considered bad use of language, an unnecessary linguistic feature that corrupts our language, sounds unpleasant and uneducated, and could well be disposed of. At the same time, however, most people seem to have difficulties living up to their high linguistic ideals regarding swearwords, and consequently, swearing lives on. Furthermore, Anderson lists three different motives for swearing: psychological motives, social motives and linguistic motives. In addition, Karjalainen says the use of swearword is a natural part of our language, and they are undoubtedly one of the most efficient ways to do away with extra frustration or anger in difficult situations. (*See*, Anderson-Trudgill & Karjalainen in <http://72.14.235.104/search?q=cache:4LMcEbI2eG4J:https://oa.doria.fi/dspace/bitstream/10024/839/3/wherehav.pdf+swearwords+thesis&hl=id&ct=clnk&cd=2&gl=id>). But on the whole, swearwords can be said to be a universal phenomenon. However, the swearwords in different languages and different cultures are not homogeneous, on the contrary, practices can be very varying.

Actually, swearwords in Mojokerto are a part of a dialect used by people who live around Mojokerto, For instance, swearwords: *Jancok*, *Gatel*, *Matamu*, which are also used by the youth of Surabaya, Sidoarjo, Krian, and other places around Mojokerto. Thus, swearwords used by youth of Mojokerto are also taken or adopted from other places around Mojokerto.

However, if we pay more attention to the language, it contains some words or phrases and even expressions that their meanings sometimes have variation purposes, although the words or the phrases are the same. The examples show that the youth of Mojokerto community who has a language variety.

After all, the study of language variety especially at sociolinguistics seems worth conducted at present. Actually, a study of sociolinguistics research on informal style is interesting; it is because there is tendency for speakers to use informal style to create situation sounds more friendship.

Kraut, Lewis, & Swezey state,

Informal communication is truly interactive, with all participants in the communication being able to respond to what they perceive to be the current state of affairs, including the communication up until that point and their perception of the other participants' reactions to it. Through this feedback mechanism, informal communication can be more effective than formal channels, as participants in the conversations elaborate or modify what they have to say in order to deal with someone else's objections or misunderstandings (Kraut, Lewis, & Swezey in [http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~kraut/RKraut.site.files/articles/kraut90-InformalCommInOrgs.pdf](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~kraut/RKraut.site.files/articles/kraut90-<u>InformalCommInOrgs.pdf</u>).)

Based on the reason above, whenever we use language, we are dealing with informal and formal one. In everyday lives, communication among members of society prefers to use informal rather than the formal one. Despite, According to Seville et al (1989: 49), it gives a basic idea of some of the significant ways forms of language can vary. From the reason, the sociolinguistic research will be done to find out a certain language phenomenon. It is aimed at revealing the use of swearwords of Mojokerto youth in communication, which reflects the variety of languages spreading in the speech community.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the problems are formulated as follows:

- 1) What swearwords do the youth of Mojokerto use in their chat?
- 2) In what social contexts do they use the swearwords?
- 3) Why do the youth of Mojokerto use the swearwords?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In accordance with the problem of the study, the objectives are formulated as follows:

- 1) To identify the swearwords used by the youth of Mojokerto in their communication.
- 2) To analyze the social contexts the swearwords usage.
- 3) To reveal the reason why they use the swearwords.

1.4 Significant of the Study

It is conducted and aimed to be able enrich knowledge of linguistics, especially sociolinguistics.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study refers to linguistics variations, which exist in Mojokerto. It is aimed in aspects namely

- 1) Vocabulary items on some swearwords characterized by the youth of Mojokerto.
- 2) The reason of the swearwords use.
- 3) To the social contexts of the swearwords usage.

1.6 Definition of Special Terms

The terms are defined in order to avoid misinterpretation:

- 1) Swearword is a taboo word used (usually with change meaning) to express strong emotion or emphasis in certain situations or by certain people. (*See, Swan, 1996: 550*).
- 2) Swearword is a word, expression, or other usage, which generally considered insulting, rude, or vulgar. The extent to which profanity considered being in some way disagreeable or objectionable depends on context, timing, and various other factors. (www.phrases.org.uk).
- 3) Youth is a phase of transition from childhood to adulthood, may lead to them “identity” to taken into consideration. In this way, modern society sometimes plays a very significant role to the forming of identify for the youth (Dyson, 2001).
- 4) Youth is time when somebody young: the period of human life between childhood and maturity, or a boy or young man in teens or early twenties. (<http://encarta.msn.com/dictionary/youth.html>).