CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Language can not be separated from our daily activities. All the daily activities of the people which involve the language as a means of communication among them, give the local language a significant role. This fact becomes more important if a speech community has no contact with others speech communities. Yet, if the speech community in contact with others speech communities, the members of the speech community will not use their local language, but they will use other languages to communicate with other people. Here, speech community is a real group of people who share something about the way in which they use language (Duranti, 1997).

Indonesia is a multilingual speech community with many local languages or ethnic languages. Many local groups use distinctive language associated with their respective local identities (Holmes, 2008: 190). One of Indonesian local language is Sundanese language. Sundanese language is considered as language of communication among Sundanese. Sundanese people live principally in West Java, but their language is not intelligible to Javanese (William and Worden, 1993: 46). Javanese who do not understand Sundanese language mostly are people from Central Java and East Java, because their local language is Javanese language.

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One example of speech community that uses Sundanese language as a means of communication between its members is West Java Student Community in Surabaya. They always communicate with each other in Sundanese language. However, members of this speech community are always in contact with members of other speech communities in Surabaya. Thus, the members of this speech community will not only use Sundanese language, but also Indonesian language and Javanese language to communicate with other people. Javanese language which is used by most people who live in Surabaya is the East Java dialect of Javanese language, because it has some differences between East Java dialect of Javanese language and dialect of Javanese language which is used in other regions in East Java or Central Java (Sugono et al., 2008).

Members of West Java Student Community in Surabaya mostly are Sundanese who speak Sundanese language and Indonesian language, so they use Sundanese language when they communicate among the members of the community and they use Indonesian language to communicate with other people. Yet, the dominant language in Surabaya is Javanese language. Therefore, in order to be able to communicate with the local community in Surabaya, these Sundanese have to know the language used by most of people in Surabaya, which is Javanese language. Thus, the members of West Java Student in Surabaya need to learn Javanese language in order to make the communication among Javanese goes well. Saville-Troike (1982: 52) stated that knowing the alternative and the rules for appropriate choice among them are part of speaker's communicative competence. As a result, they will be able to speak in Sundanese, Indonesian, and

Javanese language. Thus, when they are able to speak those languages, they should be able to choose which language is the most appropriate used in certain circumstances, whether it is Indonesian language as a national language, Javanese language which is dominant language in Surabaya, or Sundanese language which is their native language.

All members of West Java Student Community in Surabaya are university students from West Java who live and study in Surabaya. In the first time they come in Surabaya, the Student only use Indonesian language to communicate with other people. However, after several months they live in Surabaya, some of them switch their language to Javanese language when they communicate with different people in different situations. Thus, it becomes a phenomenon that Sundanese have to choose Sundanese language, Javanese language or Indonesian language in their conversation or they switch their language from Sundanese language to Indonesian language or Javanese language. For example, they prefer to use Javanese language to communicate with the people who speak in Javanese language instead of Indonesian language in informal situation, such as in cafeteria, library, or other public places.

Another example about this phenomenon is when Sundanese who live in Surabaya communicate with other Sundanese, they can use Sundanese language, Indonesian language, or Javanese language. If they use Sundanese language, it is because Sundanese is their native language and all of them speak in Sundanese language and it happens when there is no Javanese or other speech community's members involved in the conversation. If they use Indonesian language, it may

because they are in a formal situation, so they will not use a local language, such as in a university event, with other Student and in other formal situations. Yet, if they use Javanese language, it may happen because they already can speak Javanese language and there are Javanese people involved in the conversation. Moreover in their environment mostly people use Javanese language to communicate with others. So, they feel more comfortable if they use Javanese language as well. Thus, the members of West Java Student Community have to select or choose an appropriate language to communicate with different people in different situations, because they will not use the same language in different situations.

Furthermore, Holmes (2008: 12) explained that there are four social factors which influence people in language choice: (1) participant; (2) setting; (3) topic; and (4) function of the conversation. Another factor which influences people in language choice is social dimensions and domain of language. Domain of language is a number of typical interactions have been identified as relevant in describing patterns of code choice in many speech communities (Romaine, 2000: 44). Thus, in choosing a particular language to be used in a conversation, the people should be consider those factors in order they able to choose the most appropriate language, so the communication can goes well.

Study of language choice is still important regarding the condition of Indonesia which is multilingual, because people can speak more than one language in this country and they have a tendency to do code switching or people will choose a certain language in communication for a particular situation. Here,

West Java Student Community established to strengthen the unity of West Java Student who live in Surabaya and as a community to share information or problems related to their study in Surabaya. Intentionally or not, the use of Sundanese language among them is one way to maintain the Sundanese language, because they live in the region which is the dominant language is not Sundanese language. Yet, the dominant language which is Javanese language requires them to learn Javanese language, so they will able to speak in Sundanese, Javanese, or Indonesian language. Hence, they will choose which language or the most appropriate language they used in a communication in order to make the communication goes well, but they still maintain their native language. Thus, the study about language choice becomes important studies. The purposes of this study are to show what language chosen by the members of West Java Student Community in Surabaya and why or what factors which influence them in choosing among Sundanese, Javanese, and Indonesian language. Therefore, by conducting this study, the writer hopes it can give reference to the members of West Java Student Community about the importance of language choice in a communication in order to make the communication goes well.

1.2.   STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1.   What is the language chosen by members of West Java Student Community in Surabaya at different domains?

2.   Why do they choose to use the language at different domains?

1.3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Based on the statement of the problem above, this study is intended:

1. To find out the language chosen by members of West Java Student Community in Surabaya at different domains.

2. To find out the factors or the reasons they choose to use the language at different domains.

1.4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study theoretically can give reference to the next similar studies and also give information to the readers about language choice among members of West Java Student Community in Surabaya. Practically, it can give a view to the comers, especially members of West Java Student Community in Surabaya about the importance of language choice when they communicate with the people from other regions or when they communicate in different domains and different situations, in order to make the communication goes well. So, they will decide which language is the most appropriate used in particular situation, whether it is Sundanese, Javanese, or Indonesian language.

1.5. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

1. Language choice: an incident where a person who speaks two or more languages has to choose one language to use (Fasold, 1984).

2. Speech community: a real group of people who share something about the way in which they use language (Duranti, 1997).

3. West Java Student Community in Surabaya: a student community in Surabaya which the members consist of Student from West Java.