CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. RELATED THEORIES

2.1.1 Language choice

Language choice of different people is different and it is influenced by some factors. In this study, the participants are members of West Java Student Community in Surabaya. Most of them are Sundanese, so they able to speak Sundanese language. They can also speak Javanese language, because they have already lived in Surabaya more than one year. They always contact with some speech communities in Surabaya. Thus, they will not use the same language to different people in different situation. They have to choose an appropriate language to make a communication with other people goes well.

Language choice refers to an incident where a person who speaks two or more languages has to choose one language to use (Fasold, 1984: 184). The use of a particular language may have purposes, since people who can speak two or more languages will never use the same language to different people in different situation. Thus, they decide to choose an appropriate language to communicate with others.

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2.1.2. Social Factors

According to Holmes (2008: 12), there are four social factors affecting language choice: (1) participant; (2) setting; (3) topic; and (4) function. Participant is the person involved in the conversation, for example friend, lecturer, parent, sibling, and other people. Setting is a place or situation where we have a conversation with others, for example campus, home, cafeteria, meeting, ceremony, and other places. Topic is the subject we talk about, for example lecture, religious, relationship, friendship, etc. then function is the purpose of our conversation, for example to give information, to share something, to persuade someone, etc. Those factors give a significant influence to us in communication. Thus, we have to consider those factors if we want to communicate with other people, so we can decide an appropriate language that will be use in a conversation. Holmes (2008: 12) also explained that those components are useful to take account of four different dimensions for analysis which relate to the factors above. Those four social dimensions are social distance, social relationship, formality scale, and functional scale.

2.1.3. Domains of language

Domain of language is a general concept which is also important factor related to social factors in language choice. Holmes (2008: 12) stated that domains of language are number of typical interactions have been identified as relevant in describing patterns of code choice in many

speech communities. For example family, education, neighborhood, friendship, acquaintance, trade, and so forth.

Domain can influence people in choosing a language because we communicate with many people in different domains. A domain involves typical interactions between typical participants in typical settings. Thus, domain is important factor in choosing an appropriate language in communication. For example, as Sundanese, members of West Java Student Community may talk to the members of their family using Sundanese language. It happens because they are in family domain which is all members of the family using Sundanese language. So, they use sundanese language among members of the family in order to make the communication easier. While, when they are in other domains, such as in friendship domain, they may not use Sundanese language, because some of their friends are not Sundanese and even do not understand Sundanese language as well.

2.1.4. Social Dimensions

2.1.4.1. Social Distance

Social distance dimension is relevant in choosing appropriate language. Social distance represents how well the participants know each other, whether they are strangers, friends, brothers, and so forth (Holmes, 2008: 29). This social distance will affect the participants in choosing a language, because they will not use the same language to communicate with

different participants. So, they will use different language to different participants. For example, members of West Java Student Community may talk to other members using Sundanese language because they know each other that they are Sundanese and understand Sundanese language. But, when they meet new people, they may not use Sundanese language because they do not know about those people, whether they are Sundanese or not. So, the possibility is they will use Indonesian language to talk with those new people, because Indonesian language is national language.

2.1.4.2. Status Relationship

Status relationship between people may also be relevant in choosing the appropriate language. For instance, low status people will use different language if they talk with high status people. They may use Javanese language to communicate among low status people. But, if they meet high status people they may use Indonesian language in order to respect them. Furthermore, Holmes (2008: 29) stated that social role is also important and it is often as one of factors contributing to status differences between people, such as, lecturer-student, doctor-patient, official-citizen, employer-employee and so forth. For example, an employee will use Indonesian language to talk with his or her employer in the office in order to respect his or her employer. But, the employer can use Javanese, Madurese or Sundanese language to talk with his or her employee, because he or she has a higher status than the employee in the office.

2.1.4.3. Formality

This scale is useful in assessing the influence of the social setting or type of interaction on language choice. In a formal conversation, such as in a meting, forum discussion or ritual ceremony, the language used will be influenced by the formality of the setting (Holmes, 2008: 14). While in daily conversation people will use colloquial language. For instance in this case, if we communicate with the lecturer or with our friends in a class or in a meeting, we will not use Javanese language or Sundanese language, because it is a formal occasion. So, we choose to use Indonesian language instead of Javanese language, Sundanese language or other local languages. Another example is when members of West Java Student Community talk to other people in a seminar, they will not use Sundanese language, because it is in formal situation which is the participants are not only Sundanese but also from other regions. But, if they are in a meeting or in a forum discussion which is all the participants are Sundanese, they can use Sundanese language, because all of them are understand Sundanese language. However, Degrees of formality are not always determined by solidarity and status relationship. A formal setting will also influence language choice regardless of the personal relationship between the participants, such as in a law court.

2.1.4.4. Function of the Communication

Another relevant factor is the function or the goal of the communication. Holmes (2008: 13) explained that there are two functions of

language use in communication, first, language can convey objective information of a referential kind. Second, it can also express how someone's feeling. But in general, the more referentially oriented a communication is, the less it tends to express the feeling of the speakers and communications which are more concerned with expressing feelings often have little in the way of new information to communicate. For example, if people want to express their feeling by say something, may they choose to use their mother tongue or their native language, because they feel freely to express their feelings.

2.1.5. Speech Community

Speech community is a real group of people who share something about the way in which they use language (Duranti, 1997: 72). There are many speech communities in Surabaya. Each of speech community has their own local languages, for example Javanese language, Sundanese language, Madurese language, Batak language and other local language. They use their local language to communicate among the members in order to maintain their local language and to strengthen the unity of the members, because they come from the same region.

2.1.6. West Java Student Community

West Java Student Community is one of the speech community in Surabaya. Members of this community are West Java people and mostly are Sundanese, so most of them share the same language which is Sundanes language. Some of them who come from Bekasi or Jakarta are not Sundanese and do not

understand Sundanese language. But here they try to learn Sundanese language in order they want to be accepted in this community. The chief of West Java Student Community in Surabaya is Alfred. He is civil engineering student of Tenth of November Institute (ITS).

Here, West Java Student Community established to strengthen the unity of West Java Students who live in Surabaya, to maintain their local language which is Sundanese language and also as a community to share information related to their study in Surabaya. This community has some events, such as weekly gathering, forum discussion, sport activities, cultural events, and other regular events.

Weekly gathering is held to accommodate members' opinion and as a means if they have problem or something to share. Then, forum discussion is similar with weekly gathering, but it is not held regularly. It is only held if they prepare for events, so they discuss the preparation in this forum. Sport activities are not regular event. It is held once a week or once a month, because the members have their own activities. The last is cultural events. This community always joins if there is cultural event especially if it held by the university. Its purpose is not only to participate in the event, but also to maintain their local culture which is West Java culture and to show to the people that there is a student community in Surabaya which the members come from West Java.

2.2.   RELATED STUDIES

There are some related studies about language choice. First, a study about *Language choice among Students of SMA 1 Ponorogo by Wati (1993)*, an English Department student of Airlangga University. In this study, she observed Student of SMA 1 Ponorogo. To conduct this study she collected the data by distributed questionnaires, conducted some observations, and interviewed some respondents to get more valid data. Result of this study shows that language choice made by Student of SMA 1 Ponorogo influenced by some factors, which is relationship to the addressee, setting, and sex. Then, topics and social status of the Student are not dominant factors for their language choice.

Second, a study about *Language choice between Mandarin and Hokkian used by Chinese vendor in Pasar Atom Shopping Center Surabaya* by Mahrita (1995). In this study she identified the situations of the language choice in which Chinese vendors usually used Mandarin and Hokkian with their interlocutors. Beside, she wants to find out the reasons in choosing a certain language. To collect the data, she conducted some observations and interviews with the participants in Pasar Atom Surabaya. The result of this study shows that at particular speech context, most of the participants used Mandarin. The factors which influenced them in choosing a language are setting, interlocutors, and topic.

Third, a study about *Language choice among the Javanese people who live in Bandung*, by Widjajanti (2005), an English Department student of Airlangga University. In this study, she discussed language choice made by Javanese people who live in Bandung. Her respondents are people who live at Blok W Margahayu

Raya Bandung. For this purpose, she uses a Fishman's theory called domain. To conduct this study, she distributed questionnaires, conducted several observations, and interviewed some respondents to get more information and data. The result of this study shows that Javanese language is dominant in family domain. Indonesian language is dominant in friendship, neighborhood, transaction, education, and employment domains, while Sundanese language is also dominant in friendship, neighborhood, and transaction domains.

Those three related studies are similar with study the writer conducted, because those studies relate to Sociolinguistics and the topic is language choice. But there are some differences between my study and those three related studies. In the first related studies conducted by Wati (1993), as the writer she only focuses on Javanese language (ngoko, krama madya, krama inggil). However, in this study the writer does not only focus on my participants' local language which is Sundanese language, but also Javanese language and Indonesian language, which are dominant language in Surabaya.

In the second related studies by Mahrita (1995), the participants and the focus discussion is completely different with my study even though the topic is the same which is language choice. In her study she focuses on the situations of the language choice in which Chinese vendors usually used Mandarin and Hokkian with their interlocutors. Beside, she wants to find out the reasons in choosing a certain language.

Then, in the third related studies which conducted by Widjajanti (2005), she focuses on the term domains which influence people in choosing a particular

language and it is the same with my study, but the participants are different. Her participants are Javanese people who live in Bandung, whereas the participants of my study are university Students from West Java who live in Surabaya. In the second related studies, the participant is also different with my study.