

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

As a human being, we use both spoken and written language everyday in daily activities. Language allows us to share, describe, express, and show our ideas, feeling, desire, need, and everything. Language is a fundamental instrument for communication in order to live as a person or as a member of society even the person is deaf and mute. The person still has his own language such as body language. A country may have more than one language for spoken language, such as Indonesia. Considered as a part of Indonesian people, we know that Indonesia has a lot of ethnic groups. Languages which are used in that group also different, but it still has one mother tongue that is Bahasa Indonesia, to speak between different groups.

Javanese language is one of languages in Indonesia which is used in East Java, Central Java, and Yogyakarta. The people of East Java, Central Java, and Yogyakarta use this language in social communication. This language has degree of language which differ from with whom the person use the language. According to Kontjaraningrat (2002) in *Manusia dan Kebudayaan di Indonesia*, basically there are two types of Javanese based on the degree of language; *Ngoko* and *Krama*. *Ngoko* is used to show closeness and there is no reluctance between speaker and the addressee. This degree of language is also used to talk with

younger addressee or person who has lower social status. There are two kinds of *Ngoko*; *Ngoko Lugu* and *Ngoko Andap*. While *Krama* is the highest degree which is used to show politeness and reluctance to the addressee who is older or has higher social status than the speaker. It may use to talk to the same age and social status of addressee, but we do not have close relationship with the addressee. There are also the other level of language such as *Madya*, *Kedaton*, *Krama Desa*, and *Kasar*. *Madya*, is the degree of language which stands between *Krama* and *Ngoko* which is used to show medium politeness and reluctance. There are three kinds of *Madya*; *Madya ngoko*, *Madyaantara*, and *Madya Krama*. *Kedaton* is used in palace circumstance only. *Krama Desa* is used by villager only. While *Kasar* is used by speakers when they are angry or curse someone. We have to pay attention and differentiate the situation of the addressee or person who we are talking to. We also have to use the right degree of language based on age and the social status. We use higher level of Javanese language in having conversation with the person who is older or have a higher social class than us and vice versa.

Language and society could be learned as a study. According to Holmes (2001), sociolinguistics is a study which is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used. The social context can influence the way people talk to each other. The language that is used also based on social factors (such as the participants, setting or social context, topic, and function), social dimension (such as social distance scale, status scale, formality scale, and functional scale), and explanation.

In the society, there is also bad language which is also avoided to use by the people, beside swear words. According to McEnery (2006) the word such as *shit* and all other words may be labeled as bad language. He stated that most speakers of British English have agreed that the word such as *shit* is a word to be used with caution. The potent effect of using bad language is changing through the ages. He stated that it is in the development of these attitudes that we see taboo language begin to gain its power through a process of stigmatization. This kind of word is also used by Javanese people to show their emotion even it is a foreign language.

The term of swear words and taboo words have closed meaning. To compare those two things, the writer took the definition of swear word by Dewaele (2004) and taboo word by Wardaugh (2002). Both of swear words and taboo words are talking about bad language, but Dewaele stated that swear word used when there are emotions in using this language while Wardaugh stated that it is only about meaning of a word in a culture.

Jay (2009) also stated that taboo words are defined and sanctioned by institutions of power (e. g. religion and media), and prohibitions are reiterated in child-rearing practices. It depends on the context of its use; the addressee, the time, place, etc. As the basic meaning of taboo words, it means that the words are taboo to speak, especially in children's utterances.

People may find no meaning at all in swearing (Crystal, 2003). It is also happened to the children nowadays. They are swearing without knowing the

meaning of the words. They only imitate the people older than them or their friends to use the words which are commonly use in expressing emotion or something that they do not like. Crystal also stated that there are two usages of taboo words, positive and negative. In this study the words that occurred is negative taboo words which classified as swear word because there is no meaning in using the words.

Dewaele (2004) stated that there are two sociolinguists, Rayson et al and Stenstrom, who have talked about the use of taboo words based on gender and the generation. Rayson et al (1997) found that males used more taboo words than females and people before age of 35 used it more than the older. While Stenstrom (1995), confirmed that there are generational qualitative difference of using taboo words, teenagers are primarily using it related to sex and drinking, and adults taboo words derived from religious subjects. She also found that adult women use “weaker” taboo words than adult men. It is related to the Pilotti’s study that stated men have been found to know more about taboo words, they were courageous in using swear words more in public, and in a “stronger” terms than women. Men have also been reported to recall, between taboo and neutral words, more taboo words.

The writer wanted to observe the use of negative taboo words which is classified as swear word by 6th grade of elementary school in a non-formal situation such as in a non-formal course. The writer thought that swear words are not appropriate to be spoken by children in that age of elementary school. In a non-formal course, they can study in a more relaxed atmosphere than in a school.

Therefore, they may use swear words when they are having conversation with others. The writer chose elementary school students in Surabaya because culturally, Surabaya is one of big cities in Indonesia who has high frequency of using swear words in their daily conversation. The writer chose the grade of 6 because it is the last grade of elementary school. It is time when they have to concern and study hard for the graduation of elementary school. They do not only need to study hard but also keep in prayer to their God. Thus we know that all of religions prohibit using swear words. When they use swear words, it means that they break the rule.

Concerning the issues of using swear words, the writer found three studies that have already been conducted before. The study which the writer found was conducted in 2000. In this study, Wahyuni talked about the use of taboo words by the male students of English Department UNAIR. Another taboo words study is conducted by Janschewitz in 2008. This study compared taboo, emotionally valence, and emotionally neutral word norms on the same scales. The data is taken from 78 native-English-speaking college students from a large metropolitan university. While the last study which also related to swear word, is conducted by English Department Student of Airlangga University too in 2012. In this study, Putri talks about the functions of swear words by Teenage Bonek Community in Surabaya.

As far as the writer knows, there are few studies about taboo words which are classified as swear words that focused on 6th grade of Elementary School Student in Indonesia. In this study, the writer described the use of swear words by

children especially in the 6th grade of Elementary School. It is included the context of swear words occurred in student's conversations, reason in using swear words and the addressee. Those three studies that found by the writer above are talking about the using of taboo and swear words by teenagers or adult. The writer chose children because the writer thinks that it is uncommon thing to discuss when children in the age of 12-13 produce swear words. The writer thinks that it is a taboo thing when children know and use this kind of words in their daily activities.

1.2.Statement of The Problem

According to the background of the study that the writer has stated above, the research problems are stated as follow:

1. What swear words are used by boys and girls of 6th grade of Elementary School's students?
2. Why do the boys and girls of 6th grade of Elementary School's students use swear words?
3. What is the difference in the use of swear words between boys and girls students?

1.3.Objective of The Study

According to the statement of the problems that the writer has stated above, the objective of the study as follows:

1. To know the swear words used by boys and girls of 6th grade of Elementary School students.
2. To know the reasons of using swear words by boys and girls of 6th grade of Elementary School students.
3. To know the difference in the use of swear words between boy and girl students.

1.4. Significance of the Study

By conducting this research, the writer expects that it can provide a meaningful contribution to the linguistics study, especially Sociolinguistics. Therefore, this research might be a way out for the parents or everyone who is interested in children and swear words to avoid the child's conversation in using swear words. Hopefully by reading this research, the writer can help the parents to pay more attention to their children's conversations in their daily conversation. Therefore, their children do not use swear words in their conversation. The writer also hopes that this study will become reference to linguists or everyone who is interested in children and swear words.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope in relation to the problem of the writer's study is wide. Because of the reason, the writer tries to make limitation of the writer's study. This study only refers to the use of swear words by children when they are studying in a class

room of a non-formal course. This study is limited on only 6th grade of Elementary School students in the age of 12-13.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid some misinterpretation in understanding this study, here are some key terms that will give information required:

- **Bad Language** : language that the word in it is to be used with caution (McEnery, 2006).
- **Gender** : the social elaboration of biological sex which builds on biological sex. It is something we do and something we perform, not something we are born with and something we have (Eckert and Ginnet, 2003)
- **Taboo Word** : Words which people avoid to use in society, either because they believe them harmful or feel them embarrassing or offensive (Crystal, 1995: 172).
- **Swear Word** : Words which are used to the strongly emotive use of a taboo word or phrases and there is no meaning at all in it (Crystal, 2003)