

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

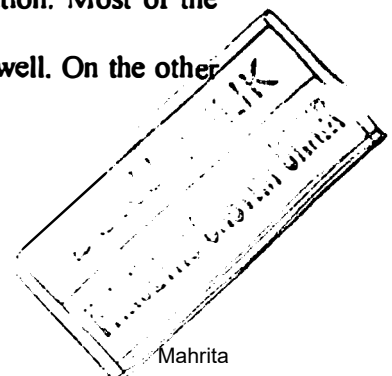
I.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Surabaya is one of the most populous cities in Indonesia. The population is from many tribes such as Javanese, Madurese, Sundanese, etc. Mostly the people of each tribe tend to gather at the same area and unconsciously establish characteristics of the area as a representation of their culture. One of the outstanding areas which brings up their culture to a community identification is China town or popularly known as *pecinan* mostly inhabited by Chinese community in Kembang Jepun area.

Chinese community has its own culture including its own language. They have many languages, such as a national language which is called Mandarin and some regional Chinese: Hakka, Cantonese, Hokkian, etc. This kind of community is called multilingual community.

Generally, Chinese in Indonesia especially in Surabaya, can be divided into two major groups: the “totok” Chinese and the “babah” Chinese. The difference is not just based on the pureness of their Chinese blood, but it is also based on the degree of adaptation and degree of their acculturation to Indonesian culture (Vasanty, 1976: 354).

As a result of the existing two large communities, i.e. “totok” Chinese and “babah” Chinese, the language use has brought into consideration. Most of the “totok” Chinese can speak Mandarin and their regional dialect well. On the other



hand, most of the “babah” Chinese cannot speak Mandarin and the regional dialect, but generally they can count in those languages and know some everyday words.

In this research, the writer notices a phenomenon that Chinese, particularly the “totok” Chinese in Surabaya, tend to use more Chinese rather than Surabayanese as the local language. However, it doesn't mean that they stop using the local language.

Nowadays, if it is compared to the previous era, the existence of Mandarin can be used not only in formal situation, but also in informal situation such as in the market. In daily conversation, Chinese tend to use Indonesian or Surabayanese as the local language when they communicate with Indonesians. On the other hand, when they interact with their own community, they tend to use Mandarin or one of regional dialects. It seems that it is more comfortable and more intimate if they use their own language. According to Hymes, no normal person or community is limited to a single way of speaking, to unchanging monotony that would preclude indication of respect and intimacy by switching from one mode of speech to another (1972: 35).

As a multilingual community, Chinese can speak more than two languages. Hokkians who are able to speak both Mandarin and Hokkian, use one of them in certain context. They use Hokkian if they interact with Hokkians and use Mandarin, as the national and standard language, if they interact with other Chinese who speak different dialect.

This matter leads to the emergence of language choice in certain context. A person who speaks two or more languages has to choose which one to use. Language choice depends largely on the factors dealing with the interlocutors, their roles and status, the situation or the setting of conversation, the topic being discussed, and also the function of interaction. A speaker will consider many factors when he talks to others although it is difficult to determine the most dominant one in choosing the language.

Before trying to determine how Mandarin and Hokkian are used, the writer learns that Mandarin plays a role as a standard language, while Hokkian is acknowledged as a regional dialect. It is necessary to distinguish the social reason that is engaged in this research.

As Mandarin and Hokkian are chosen to be the language that are commonly spoken, the writer, therefore, is interested in investigating how both languages are used in certain context by Chinese inhabitants. Furthermore, the research seeks for the reason for the use of Mandarin and Hokkian in certain context.

I.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

- How are Mandarin and Hokkian used by Chinese vendors in Pasar Atom Surabaya?
- What are the reasons for preferring Mandarin to Hokkian or vice versa?

I.3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To find out how Mandarin and Hokkian are used by Chinese vendors in Pasar Atom Surabaya.
- To find out the reasons for preferring Mandarin to Hokkian or vice versa.

I.4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Hopefully this research will enrich the study about sociolinguistics which concern about language and social aspects. This research will possibly provide some information especially for common people from different ethnic group who want to get closer to Chinese vendors. It can also be used by the government to influence or get closer to Chinese vendors in supporting economic business.

I.5. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Since the research concerns about the relationship between language and society, the writer uses sociolinguistics theory which is proposed for the data analysis.

As the multilingual community and upon various kinds of language that they speak, Chinese need to consider the language that they use in certain context. This phenomenon is called language choice.

In multilingual society, language choice is a phenomenon which occurs when people speak more than one language in the society at the same time. They are expected to select which language they use in certain context.

Language choice cannot be separated from factors which influence speech behaviour. According to Fishman and Hymes, speaking about language choice cannot be separated from types of factors which influence speech behaviour. These lists usually include such factors as interlocutors, topic of conversation, setting or context, channel, message form, mood or tone, and intention and effect. "Code" is generally also listed in theoretical discussion of the components of speech event, but in descriptive and analytical work, it is most often treated as the dependent variable where certain combinations or configurations of the other factors are treated as independent. Of these, the three which have been discussed most widely, and which appear the most powerful in predicting language choice, are those involving interlocutors, setting, and topic of conversation (1974: 10).

In a set of conversation, it is very difficult for people in multilingual community to keep on one variety only. Most speakers command several varieties of any language they speak. And for multilingualism, it is the norm for many people throughout the world rather than unilingualism. People are usually required to select a particular code whenever they choose to speak, and they may also decide to switch from one code to another or to mix codes even within sometimes very short utterances and thereby create a new code in a process known as code switching.

Furthermore, as Gal (cited in Wardhaugh, 1988: 247) says that code switching is a conversational strategy used to establish, cross or destroy group boundaries, to create, evoke or change interpersonal relations with their rights and obligations.

People also consider what language they are used. In multilingual community, there are two kinds of language: the standard language and the regional dialect which is cited as vernacular one. Standard language is a variety which has been codified in some way. It involves the development of such things as grammars, spelling books, dictionaries, and a literature (Wardhaugh, 2002: 33). The standard language requires a measure of agreement be achieved about what is in the language and what is not. There must be clear boundaries between it and all other languages. The standard language becomes possible to teach it in a deliberate manner. It also sometimes deliberately undertaken for political reason (Wardhaugh, 2002: 35).

On the other hand, the regional dialect is used in certain occasion, usually it is informal situation. Haugen as cited by Wardhaugh that as a social norm, a dialect is a language that is excluded from polite society (924-925). It is often equivalent to non-standard or even substandard, when such term are applied to language, and can connote various degrees of inferiority, with that connotation of inferiority carried over to those who speak a dialect (Wardhaugh, 2002: 28).

1.6. METHOD OF THE STUDY

In doing this research the writer uses descriptive qualitative method. A qualitative research refers in broadest sense to research that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words of people or behaviour (Taylor, 1984: 45). It means that the data analysed are in the form of linguistic phenomenon description, not in the form of numeric description (Hasan, 1990: 13). From this

method, the writer needs some data collection to analyse the data in order to get the final purpose.

1.6.1. LOCATION

The location of this research is in Pasar Atom shopping centre Surabaya. The writer chooses this place because most of the vendors in Pasar Atom Surabaya are Chinese who are able to speak both Mandarin and Hokkian. Besides, most of the buyers or consumers are Chinese too. So, they can also speak both Mandarin and Hokkian to communicate with the vendors.

1.6.2 POPULATION AND SAMPLING

The population of the research is Chinese vendors in Pasar Atom Surabaya, who are mostly from the middle class. The reason is that Chinese of the middle class are more complex. They can speak both the national language (Mandarin) and a regional dialect. A lower class of Chinese mostly can speak local language such as Surabayanese and their regional dialects of Chinese while an upper class can speak other languages such as English, Dutch, French, etc, because most of them are western oriented and have left their ancestor culture (Adji, 1992: 15).

Since the member of the population is too large, the writer takes a sample using the purposive sampling method. Hadi states that purposive sampling is to take some groups which have certain characteristics of the requirements that relate to the characteristics of the population (1987: 82).

Ten people will be taken as the respondents. They should be:

1. between 30-50 years of age
2. “totok” Chinese people
3. vendor
4. able to speak both Mandarin and Hokkian

1.6.3 INSTRUMENT

The writer uses a tape recorder as the instrument in doing this research, which is especially used to record the conversation spoken by the respondents.

1.6.4. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

As language choice is influenced by some factors such as interlocutors, topic, setting or context channel, message form, mood or tone, intentions, effects and also code, the writer only wants to discuss the language choice of Chinese vendors based on three factors: interlocutors, topic and setting.

1.6.5. TECHNIQUE OF DATA COLLECTION

The technique of data collection that is used in this research is an interview. A personal interview is conducted to obtain the data and also to find out the reasons of Chinese vendors for using one of the languages.

Next, the writer did an observation by observing the conversation between Chinese vendors and their interlocutors. From this observation, the writer analysed how Mandarin and Hokkian are used by Chinese vendors in Pasar Atom Surabaya. Besides, the writer used a tape recorder to record the conversation and transcribed it into written text. To distinguish between Mandarin and Hokkian, the

writer italicised the use of Hokkian and kept Mandarin in non-italicise one. In short, the procedures in collecting the data are:

- interviewing
- observation
- recording
- transcribing

I.6.6. TECHNIQUE OF DATA ANALYSIS

After selecting the respondents and the data, the writer began to analyse the data. In this analysis, the first step is the data were applied to the important factors that determine one's language choice. The factors are: the various kinds of interlocutors (it includes age and degree of intimacy), the various situations (it includes place and event), the topic of conversation, and the function of interaction. The analysis was done to find out the situation in which the respondents tend to use one of languages.

Secondly, the respondents' opinions were analysed so that the writer could identify the actual reasons for choosing one of the two languages in certain situations. Finally the last step is drawing conclusion of the result of the analysis

I.6.7. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

In order to avoid misunderstanding, it is necessary to define the important terms that are frequently used in writing:

1. *Language choice* : A phenomenon taking place frequently in the multilingual society in which people face more one

language and to communicate with others. They have to change what language they want to choose.

2. *Mandarin* : A national and standard Chinese which is used and understood by all tribes of China. It has its own linguistic rules in order to unify some ethnic groups so they can interact and communicate each other in daily life.
3. *Hokkian* : A regional dialect which is from the southern part of Fukkien in China. It is mostly used by Hokkians.
4. *Totok Chinese* : Chinese who are able to speak Mandarin and their regional dialect well.

1.7. ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is introduction which consists of several sub-chapters, i.e.: background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, theoretical framework, method of the study, and the organization of the paper. The second chapter is literature review. In this chapter, the writer includes some theories used to analyse the data as well as opinions that support the analysis process. Presentation and analysis of the data is in the third chapter. The last chapter is conclusion in which the writer draws the conclusion of the whole study.

CHAPTER II:

LITERATURE REVIEW