

## CHAPTER 2

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS OF THE STUDY

#### 2.1 SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF INDONESIAN MOTHERESE

Indonesian language has different system from English language. Unlike English, Indonesian system does not employ auxiliaries such as to be, modals, and other link verbs. Nonetheless, Indonesian language has inflections. Therefore, it is still possible that Fletcher's finding about the influence of motherese on child's language is found in this study. According to Fletcher, motherese influences the use of non-basic propositions of the language of children.

Motherese does exist in Indonesian culture. We know it since there is a language variety in Indonesian language used by adults, mostly mothers. This variety is intended by the adults to be used in the communication with children. The characteristics of the language variety suit the characteristics of motherese which had been proposed by Taylor.

My initial observation shows that Indonesian motherese has at least three characteristics. First, Indonesian motherese employs proper names in the position of terms of address. Instead of asking "What do you want?", the users use proper names like "*Bella mau apa?*" (Ind., meaning "What do/does Bella want?"). Second, the theory of simplifying is applied in Indonesian motherese, mostly to consonant clusters,

such as in “*Bankut?*” (phonetically transcribed as [bankʉt] with falling intonation, meaning “bankrupt” but the [r] is dropped) or diphthongs, for example the ideal pronunciation “*Siapa?*” (Ind., meaning “who”) turns into “*Sapa?*” (phonetically transcribed as [sʌpʌ]). Third, some of the consonants are transmitted into other consonants, one of the most prominent is the sound [s] turns into [tʃ] such as in the word “*Cayang*” (phonetically transcribed as [tʃʌjʌŋ]), derived from the word *sayang* or “dear”).

Those characteristics are only some of the distinctive characteristics of Indonesian motherese which belong to the simplifying principle. Other characteristics which belong to the clarifying and expressive-identifying principles are also found in the observation and would be broadly explained in the data presentation and analysis.

## 2.2 BACKGROUND OF THE OBJECTS

All of the objects of this study are healthy children whose language development proceed normally. According to their history, only child A speaks earlier than walk. Child B and child C start to speak and walk at the same time. The following subchapters show the description of each child and the mother either socially and linguistically.

### 2.2.1 THE BACKGROUND OF SAMPLE A

The name of sample A is Bella Paramitha. She was 0;11 when the observation was first held. Bella started speaking earlier than walking. Bella is chosen to represent group A (age 1;1-1;4), based on the recording when she was 1;4.

Bella is the first daughter of an Indonesian family living in Surabaya. She does not have any sibling, and her mother babysits Bella by her own. Bella's parents are both university graduates. The father, Lettu Pol. dr. R. Andityo Sumbarwoto, is 30 years old and is a military doctor. The mother, R.A. Dewi Maharani, S.H. is 28 years old and is an S2 student in a notary department.

The parents use Indonesian language at home. However, the language is mixed with Javanese. The use of Javanese dialect is deliberately done by the mother as she believes the child will learn Indonesian as the school-language, but Javanese has to be taught by the family.

During the recordings, there were some people involved: Bella, the mother, the grandmother, I myself as the observer, and Lala (the servant of the family). Only one recording of half an hour materials is transcribed (see Appendix A1). However, a few findings from the other recordings are also included in the analysis.

### **2.2.2 THE BACKGROUND OF SAMPLE B**

The name of sample B is Dyah Ayu Kusumawardhani, but her nick name is I Chen. She is a healthy child. She started speaking and walking in the same period. She is chosen to represent group B (age 1;5-1;8) based on the recording when she was 1;8.

I Chen is the first daughter of an Indonesian family. She has no sibling. Her father, Ir. Adi Widjaja Gunawan, is 29 years old. He is a businessman, working in general trade and supply. Her mother, Stephanie Rosaline Chandra, S.E., is 27 years old. She is a housewife. The house and the office are located in the same building, so the parents can maintain regular contact with I Chen eventhough they work. I Chen's parents use Indonesian and English at home.

During the recordings, there were some people involved: I Chen, the mother, the father, and I myself as the observer. Only one recording of half an hour materials is transcribed (see Apendix A2). However, a few findings from the other recordings are also included in the analysis.

### **2.2.3 THE BACKGROUND OF SAMPLE C**

The name of sample B is Mila Dyah Ulwiyah, and all family members call her Mila. She is a healthy child. As I Chen, she started speaking as early as walking. She is chosen to represent group C (age 1;9-2;0), based on the recording when she was

2;0.

Mila is the second daughter of an Indonesian family. She has one older sister, whose name is Putri. Putri is 3;5. Mila's father, Moh. Uchid, is 32 years old. He was an undergraduate and at this moment he is running his own business. Mila's mother, Imeta Ashanty, is a student of a state university in Surabaya. She is 24 years old. She is a full-time housewife. Except when she has to go to campus, she is almost always at home with her family.

The family uses Indonesian language accompanied by Surabaya dialect. The use of variety is shown in the recordings. During the recordings, there were some people involved: Mila, the mother, Putri, and I myself as the observer. Only one recording of half an hour materials is transcribed (see Appendix A3). However, a few findings from the other recordings are also included in the analysis.

## **CHAPTER III**

# **PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE DATA**