

BAB II

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS OF THE STUDY

Children are equipped with an innate knowledge about the language they are exposed to. Precisely, because they are human, they come into the world knowing, quite unconsciously, what to look for in a language. They are able to recognize the elementary transformations used in their language.

All languages contain transformations which transform deep structures into surface structures. Transformations of all languages seem to involve basically the same kinds of operations on constituent structures, that are, elementary transformations. There seems to be at least three different kinds of elementary transformations (Jacobs and Rosenbaum, 1968:26): deletion is the process by which we remove something from the structure, substitution is the process by which we replace an element of the deep structure with another element, and adjunction is the process which adjuncts in the tree diagram that was not in the deep structure. Another elementary transformation is permutation which is proposed by Katz and Postal (in Parera 1988:82). It is the process by which we move the constituents to other positions in a structure.

II.1. The Level of Indonesian Language of the Respondents

As stated in the previous chapter, children language is different from adult language in perfection and completeness. Their sentences are less complete and perfect than the adult's ones. It is due to the fact that children linguistic knowledge develops by stages.

From the observation of sentences made by the children of four, five, and six years old, the writer comes to know that most of them are simple and verbal. Moreover, they are able to use compound, complex, positive, negative, interrogative, and imperative sentences.

Since the situation of the observation is informal, the sentences children produced are informal ones. However, most of their sentences are communicable and understandable. Only few of them are not understandable, such as, 'Terus kalau sudah nanti' and 'Dibuat sudah'.

Most of sentences the writer got from the observation are grammatical but the writer also found some sentences that are ungrammatical sentences. For example: 'Bagaimana kalau untuk memasang?' There are no object and subject in this sentence. In addition, the use of the word 'kalau' as a conjunction is improper. This ungrammatical sentence is perhaps 'mistake' for the adult, but it is not 'mistake' in the child's language. It reflects the grammar at a certain stage of development (Fromkin and Rodman, 1988:379). They sometimes made sentences that are not appropriate to 'Ejaan Bahasa Indonesia Yang Disempurnakan'. They used 'cidhuk' instead of 'gayung' in the sentence 'Pakai cidhuk!'.

The sentences made by the respondents were different from one respondent to another because each child had different topic of conversation although all of them were observed in the same types of situation: responses to a projective test, conversation with adult(s), and conversation with peers.

From the observation the writer found 24 grammatical sentences and 4 ungrammatical sentences made by the child of four years old, 33 grammatical

sentences and 4 ungrammatical sentences made by the child of five years old, and 28 grammatical sentences and 5 ungrammatical sentences made by the child of six years old.

II.2. Background of the Respondents

This study concerns the elementary transformations of Indonesian sentences used by children of different ages: four, five, and six years old that use Indonesian as their first language. All of the respondents of this study are healthy physically and psychologically. They are able to communicate and express their ideas in Indonesian relatively well. In other words, they are able to speak Indonesian relatively well.

II.2.1. Background of the Respondent A

The name of the respondent A is Maulana Syaiful Rahman. He is 4,5 years old. He was born in Surabaya on March 13, 1994. Now, he is in the first year of a kindergarten.

He is the second child of his family. His sister, Hanif, is 7 years old. His father, Ivan, is 38 years old and works as a consultant and his mother, Sri Sundari is a teacher.

The language used in his family is Indonesian. He uses Indonesian language at home and at school but he sometimes speaks Indonesian mixed with Javanese when he speaks with his friends.

The recordings that are transcribed are those that took place in an hour materials (see Apendix A). Each situation needed only twenty minutes. The first situation occurred while the respondent A was watching TV. In the second situation, he had conversation with his mother and aunt in the living room while they were

watching TV. The third situation was recorded while the respondent A and his sister were studying together in the living room. The writer joined them in all situations but didn't get involved with the conversations.

II.2.2. Background of the Respondent B

The name of the respondent B is Anugerah Ganda Kirana. His nick name is Ganda. He was born in Surabaya on August 16, 1993. So he was 5,1 years old when the observation was held. He is in the second year of kindergarden now.

Ganda is the second son of a Javanese family living in Surabaya. His sister, Sita, is 7 years old and is in the third year of an elementary school. His father, Agus, is 39 years old. He is running his own business. His mother, Hamidah is 33 years old and is a lecturer at Airlangga University.

The parents use Indonesian language at home. Ganda always speaks Indonesian when he communicates with other people either at home or at school.

Three recordings of an hour material are transcribed (see Apendix B). Each recording represents each situation for twenty minutes. The first situation occurred while the resspndent B was playing house and plane game alone. The second situation took place while the respondent B and the writer were playing a game of marketing. He pretended that he was a baker, whereas the writer pretended to be a buyer. The third situation was the conversation between the respondent B and his sister while they were playing HT (Handy Talking) game.

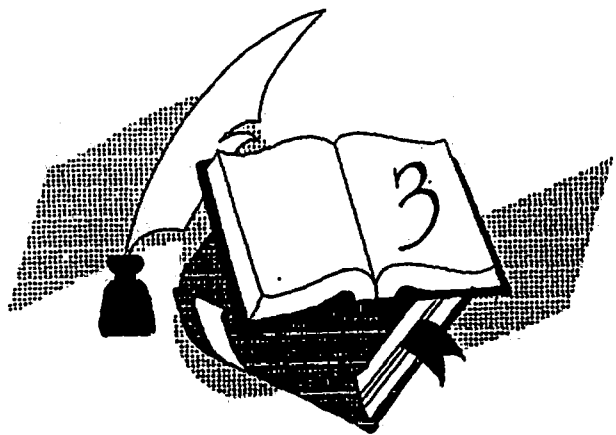
II.2.3. Background of the Respondent C

The name of the respondent C is Agus Budi Prakoso. He was born in Surabaya, on July 2, 1992. He is good in speaking Indonesian as well as writing. He is in the first year of an elementary school in Surabaya.

Agus is the only child in his family living in Surabaya. His father is Djaelani. He is 41 years old and now, he is running his own business. His mother, Suharmi, is 34 years old and she is a housewife.

Agus family always uses Indonesian language at home. He also speaks Indonesian when he is communicating with his friends and other people at home or school.

The recordings that are transcribed were taken from an hour material (see Appendix C). In the first situation, the respondent C was watching TV whose program was Robocop. The second situation occurred while the respondent C, his mother, and aunt were sitting relaxedly on a carpet in the living room. The third situation was recorded when he had a conversation with his friends. They were sitting and watching TV in the living room. The writer observed whatever the respondent C said without getting involved directly with him.



CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE DATA