CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

I.1. Background of the Study

As human beings and the members of the society who always need others, we can not escape from the use of language because we need to express our emotions and our ideas. A language also serves as a means of information and communication, emotional expression, and social interaction. Its function as a means of information or communication can be achieved if the listeners or the speakers are able to understand the information.

Canale (1983:4) claims that the communication is understood as the exchange and negotiation of information between at least two individuals through the use of verbal and non verbal symbols, oral and written / visual modes and production and comprehension processes. Moreover, Feldman (1985:114) says that verbal language in particular is a feature which differentiates human being from other species.

There is a clear distinction toward the idea of language. It is considered the speech of an individual (the speaker) and one of social phenomena (Graddol and Swann, 1989:4). The first idea

considers language   the vehicle of speaker's internal thought. Language used by communicator could express much about her or his identity, ambition, and attitude. It functions as a piece of human behaviour. The second idea deals with language as a public resource whose function is to serve a speech community and as a tool for individuals to communicate in order to maintain social interaction. Thus the language being communicated is a kind of social activity. A person in a community communicates his or her idea and makes interaction with others by using the language.

Hudson (1980:106) claims that in the face-to-face interaction, there is a wide range of activities such as conversation, quarrels, jokes, committee meeting, chit – chat, and a host of others. He further claims that there are many other uses of speech, such as to obtain information, express emotion for its own sake, and so on. There are six emotions which are consistently identifiable and distinguishable from one another. They are happiness, surprise, fear, sadness, anger and disgust (Feldman,1985:114). In expressing the emotion such as surprise, anger, and disgust; people tend to use taboo words, since taboo words can be used to release one's emotion (Estrick and Sperber, 1991:45).

In the place the writer studies, the writer found a tendency

of using taboo words such as "diancuk", "jangkrik", etc. among the English Department's Students of Airlangga University whether in conversation, quarrel, joke, chit – chat and expressing emotions. The phenomenon aroused the curiousity of the writer to investigate and try to explain the use of taboo words by the male students of the English Departement of Airlangga University, in the hope that the study could enrich scientific writing pertaining to aspect of linguistics, especially sociolinguistics.

I.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the writer will try to figure out the explanation toward the following questions:

1. What are the taboo words used by the male students of the English Department of Airlangga University?

2. What are the specific reasons underlying the use of taboo words by the male students of the English Department of Airlangga University?

I.3. Objective of the Study

Through the study the writer intends to find out the kinds of taboo words used by the male students of the English Department of Airlangga University and to describe the specific reasons of using them as the result of social interaction.

I.4. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give meaningful contribution to linguistic studies, especially for linguistics students or everyone who is interested in linguistics. Hopefully, this paper can give clear description on the use of taboo words by the male students of the English Department of Airlangga University, and the specific reasons of using them.

I. 5. Scope and Limitation

In doing the research, the writer focuses the scope of the study on the Sociolinguistics, to give clear description of the taboo words used by the male students of the English Department of Airlangga University and the specific reasons of using them.

Since the use of taboo words by the male students of the English Department of Airlangga University is not only with other students –sometimes they use them in the conversation with sellers, parking attendants, etc., the writer limits the research on the use of the taboo words among the students of Airlangga University.

I.6. Theoritical Framework

This study is based on the theories of language, psychology, verbal communication, and taboo words.

According to Hudson (1980:1), language is a means of communicating information. For instance, people use language for asking about weather, expressing their sadness, anger, happiness, or any other subjects. Based on this theory, the writer knows that expressing anger is one of the language use forms.

This study is also based on verbal communication. According to Feldman (1985:104), one of the primary characteristics that distinguishes human beings from other species is our use of a spoken language to communicate on a verbal level. Verbal communication is the way of communication with someone in using spoken language.

The nature of linguistic phenomena is dynamic. Many aspects give contribution toward the dynamic of language, for instance the meaning of certain terms in verbal communication is not only determined by its grammatical aspects but is also determined by its context (setting, topic, and purpose of speaking). It means in verbal communication we can not divorce the influence of outside aspects toward language performance (F. Boas in Gumperz & Hymes,1976:23).

Furthermore, speech act does not stand alone. But it is the

result of inner process or the accumulation of psychological process as the response of social phenomena. This psychological process is manifested in the actual context of behaviour and expressed in speech act. The shapes of the response can be classified into several notions, namely:

1. Representative; the function of this speech act is to inform something to someone. It embraces report, statement, and asking

2. Directive; to ask someone to do something such as suggestion and order

3. Expressive; to express feelings such as apologizing, regretting, and thanking

4. Declarative; to describe the shift of condition (Gumperz & Hymes, 1976:24).

Additionally, the actual context of behaviour as the manifestation of psychological condition should conform to social conventions and norms. For example, the status of students will affect our psyche to select apt expression. It is said to be apt and acceptable speech act if it conforms to social conventions and norms (Elgin,1993:51). Choice of speech which is normally accompanied by a certain conduct is constrained by common values and social factors such as age, attainment caucation, intimacy, situation, subject matter, and purpose.

Trudgill (1974: 94) stated that men and women did not speak different languages. Rather, they spoke different varieties of the same language – the differences were lexical only. Linguistic sex varieties arise because language, as a social phenomenon is closely related to social attitudes. Different social roles lay down in their society, which expect different behaviour pattern from them.

A fact which may reflect differences between men's and women's speech is the use of taboo words. Jesperson (Trudgill, 1974:86-87) suggests that sex differentiation, in some cases, maybe the result of the phenomenon of taboo. Taboo may perhaps have a powerful influence on the growth of separate sex vocabularies generally.

As for the nature of anger, Perlman and Cosby (1983:28) state that anger is an emotion that can easily fuel positive action such as exposing the source of injustice and articulating how equity can be restored as it can violent actions that in the end harmful and self – defeating. The studies of verbal communication and the nature of anger are the part of the field of Social Psychology. A.M. Chorus as translated by Joesoef (1981:12) says,"Ilmu jiwa sosial ialah ilmu yang mempelajari tingkah laku individu sebagai anggota masyarakat."

Therefore, they were used to observe the relationship between anger expressions which someone uttered verbally in society and the specific reasons underlying Social Psychology view.

I.7. Methods of The Study

In doing this research, the writer uses qualitative descriptive method. In this paper the writer will desribe the use of taboo words by the male students of the English Department of Airlangga University and the reason of using them.

I.7.1. Definition of Key Terms

❑ Taboo words : words of such strong affective connotation that they can not be used in polite discourse

❑ Affective connotation : the aura of personal feeling

❑ Swear-words : part of the taboo words which are influenced by affective or emotive words and connected with profane or obscene words

❑ Blasphemy and profanity: irreverent and contemptuous talk about God and sacred things

❑ Animal abuse : an animal name which is used in the way as an imprecation and an offensive

❑ Anger : an emotion that can easily fuel positive actions such as exposing the sources of injustice and articulating how equity can be restored as it can violent actions that in the end harmful and self-defeating

❑ Lexical choice : different words used by men and women in their speech which distinguish them socially. Different words, in this case, consist of name of part of the body, obscene words, which are used for swearing and animal abuse.

❑ Euphemism : a word of phrase which replaces a taboo word, or which is used in the attempt to avoid either fearful or unpleasant subjects.

I.7.2. Location and Population

The location of the research is in Airlangga University and the population is the students of the English Department of Airlangga University. The reason of choosing this population is because the students of the English Department of Airlangga University come from various kinds of people with different social backgrounds. The other reason is that they have interacted with

many cultures, languages, and foreign people. Those reasons aroused a tendency of the existence of language varieties (in this case, the use of taboo words) among students of the English Department of Airlangga University.

I.7.3 Sampling

The method of getting the samples in this research is random sampling, which means all members of the population have an equal chance of being included in the samples.

About the number of sample that is taken from population, there is no certain number, as stated by Sutrisno Hadi (1981: 50) : Problem about how many samples that must be taken for a research is a serious problem. Generally, pople take a number of sample with practical consideration. Actually there is no certain rule about how many samples must be taken from the population. Besides, Suharsini Arikunto says that the number of respondents depends on the ability of the research from time, energy, and cost point of view (1983: 107). Because of those reasons, the writer takes 30 respondents that represent the male students of the English Department of Airlangga University.

I.7.4. Techniques of Data Collection

The techniques of data collection that are used in this research are :

□ Questionnaire

This technique was used for getting the data of social resources. The writer distributed 30 questionnaires among the population. The questionnaire contains 9 questions. The respondents wereasked to fill out the questionnaire. The questions concern their experience in using taboo words and their knowledge about it. Their answers are expexted to be accurate data for this research.

□ Recording and interviewing

This technique was used for getting the data of the varieties of language which are used by the population.

□ Observation

This technique was used to compare the data got from the interview with the real fact.

I.7.5. Technique of Data Analysis

After collecting and selecting data, the writer started to analyze the data. The analysis of collected data is a technique of theoretic descriptive analysis without using statistical accounting. Then it was continued with processing the figures. The descriptive tables were used to make the data simple to be percentaged. The last step was making a conclusion.