

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

As we know language is very important to us as a means of establishing and maintaining relationship with other people. Language act as an instrument that allows the people to say things to one another and express their communicative needs. Our ability to communicate through language distinguishes us from all other forms of life on earth. It is what determines our humanness. Hudson (1980:32) believed that human beings have adopted an evolutionary approach to the development of language, as the brain develops; we also develop our ability to communicate in a new and sophisticated way.

Holmes (1972: 143) said that there is a hierarchy which is caused by social stratification of people in the society. Those who have good education and high economic status, tend to use language which is prestigious, in this case standard one and almost never use vernacular languages. The question then arises in our mind, what is so special about standard language? Holmes (1972:83) said that standard language is a variety which is generally used in written and spoken form and which has undergone some degrees of regularization or codification for example in grammar and in a dictionary. Standard language is known as a variety or code used by the community which has prestigious status and in order to show it, they use standard language. For those who stand on the lower class which have less education and less economical status, they will directly use less standard languages and prefer to use vernacular languages, regional dialects and even

swear words in order to signal their status. To maintain a good relationship with people from higher class, they decide to use standard language but if they go back to their peer, they prefer vernacular than standard languages. The frequency of using vernacular mixed with their regional dialects is high so it creates unstructured language; slang languages and very often it contains swear words.

.Swearing and cursing are everywhere; on the television and in the movies, from the boardroom to the classroom, from the grocery store to churches. This influence has even worked itself into the consciousness of the youngest and most vulnerable members in our society. For example, based on the writer's experience in Indonesia, people often use "Jancuk" and "cuk" which has the same meaning as a "bastard" when they talk to others. For example the conversation recorded by the writer between students talking about the score of an assignment where they used swear words in order to show intimacy

SB: *Jancuk*, intuk piro nilaimu? Pasti apik lak'an!

AB: Gak *cuk*, entuk elek aku! Lek gak percoyo deloen dhewe *cuk*!

SB: Oo, iyo yo! Jek apiken aku lak'an! (Laughing)

AB: Iyo, yo wes gak usah ngomong, *cuk*! Asu tenan! Kok

In Indonesia especially in Surabaya, it is common that people talk to others whom they know well, by using very informal languages to express solidarity. They even use some swear words in their speech.

Language vary from one community to another community, even though it has the same meaning and it is determined by the culture in which they are found. The swear words such as "Fuck" has been around for a long time in one form of

another, the rock and roll artist; Ozzy Osbourne often talk using swear words with other people and even to his family. For example when he talked to his son about drugs “I may have fuckin’ brain and skin right now because of the fuckin’ drugs and alcohol but I must be a fuckin’ idiot if I let the same fuckin’ thing to you” ([www.osbournefamily.com](http://www.osbournefamily.com)) For some people who hear the utterance above will think that those people like Ozzy Osbourne are very rude because they used swear words in their utterances. But some people do not consider it as a bad language moreover they consider it as a solidarity and empathy between them.

The writer is interested in this topic because he often found that his friends were using swear words when they talked to each other. They utter swear words because according to them it expresses the solidarity between them and express their emotions freely. If someone who is close to them and talk to them without using swear words oftenly, they considers that person as a stranger. They also said that this is a part of their habits and it is hard to be deleted from them.

Due to the facts that swear words are often used by the English Department of Widya Mandala University students to communicate with one another, the writer decides to do research on swear words and find factors that influence the students of English Department of Widya Mandala University students to utter swear words and to write a thesis entitled **“Swear Words Used by the Male Students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University”**

## **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

To make connection with the background of the study, the problems investigated here are formulated as follow:

1. What swear words are mostly uttered by English Department of Widya Mandala University male students?
2. What are the factors that influence English Department of Widya Mandala University male students to utter it?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study.**

Based on the statements above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out what swear words used by English Department of Widya Mandala University students in their daily activities.
2. To find out what factors contribute English Department of Widya Mandala University students to utter swear words.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The writer has great expectation that the result of this study could help the students to reduce their habit in using swear words when they communicating with one another and speak properly without using it. Related to sociolinguistic, the writer hopes that his study give some contribution for the sociolinguistics.

## **1.5 Theoretical Framework**

### **1. Sociolinguistics**

As a branch of linguistics, sociolinguists have different definition for sociolinguistics. But in short, Holmes (1972:1) said that sociolinguistics is a science which studies the relationship between language and society. She also

added that sociolinguistics is interested in explaining why the subjects speak differently in different social contexts and factors that contribute to it. Sociolinguistics also examines the way people use languages and dialects in different social context and provides enough information about the way language works and also about the social relationship in a community.

Language is used to express our feeling about something such as; annoyance, admiration and respect. It is true that two people cannot speak exactly the same. The variation in linguistics may consist of pronunciation, vocabulary, word structure, grammar and even language. There are four scopes that contribute to language varieties; they are participants (age, education, power, solidarity, ethnicity and gender), setting, channel and topic.

## 2. Swear words

Hornby (1948: 95) said that swear words are words or expressions that reflect someone's feeling and they can be negative or positive feelings and swear words are exclamation words which are rude. Trudgil (1974: 29) also said that taboo words can be used to release one's emotion when we feel extremely angry and we need to express our anger, uttering these words is relatively safe than destroying the furniture or hitting someone. Swear words can be used by someone who feels surprised, annoyed, desperation but they are also used to express solidarity. Trudgil (1974: 29) also said that taboo words can be used to release one's emotion when we feel extremely angry and we need to express our anger, uttering these words is relatively safe than destroying the furniture or hitting someone. The example of swear words used in the United States are bastard,

'asshole', 'piss', 'cunt', 'fuck', 'twit', 'dick', 'cock', 'coon', 'nigger' while the swear words used in the Indonesia are 'itil', 'tempik', 'kontol', 'lokong', 'jangkrik', 'asu', 'sapi', 'kirik', 'gatel', 'bangsat', 'keparat', 'jancuk'.

### **1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

Related to the statements of the problem and the objectives of the study, the focus of the study was limited on the conversations made by the writer's friends in English Department of Widya Mandala on 8<sup>th</sup> semester. The writer took and analyzed three conversations and also found Indonesian and Javanese swear words in the conversations and factors that contributed to it.

### **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity, the writer would like to give some definitions of the key terms which are used in this study.

1. Sociolinguistics is a science which studies the relationship between language and society.

2. Linguistic variety is one of the topics in Sociolinguistic which discusses about the variety of language in community.

2. Swear words are words or expressions that reflect someone's feeling. Swear words are not only used by someone who feels surprised, annoyed, desperation but they are also used to express solidarity.