

Chapter I

Introduction

This first chapter presents the introduction to the problem that covers the background of the problem, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, theoretical framework, definition of key terms, and organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the Research Problem

People can never live alone. Wherever they are, they are always with the other creatures. To make life meaningful, people need to socialize and interact with other human beings wherever they are. When they meet each other in a particular place or wherever they are, they usually start greeting and talking to each other. Then, it will come to the speech where conversation takes place. In interacting, people use such a means of communicating called language. By language, one can contact with his surrounding and they can maintain the relationship with others. That is why language is the key to communicate in the society (Lehman, 1983:1).

There are varieties of society in this world, basing on their tribes, nations, and social class. That is why, language varies too. Each tribe, each nation, and each social class has its own language. By language, people can distinguish what tribe, nation, or social class of a man is. There are three kinds of language in relation to language

(Hornby,1971:1). They are monolingual (when there is only one language used), bilingual (when there are two languages used within the society), and multilingual (when there are more than two languages or multi languages used within the society). In reality, people speak more than one language. According to Hornby, for a large percentage of the peoples of the world, speaking more than one language is a natural way of life with a variety of factors determining which language will be spoken on any particular occasion.

In daily speaking, people always change their speech. They always develop their language for certain purposes. It is also said by Hudson (1980:12) that no two speakers have the same language, because no two speakers have the same experience of language. To speak in appropriate language and avoid misunderstanding in communicating, people always consider several aspects. They are sex (wheter it is male or female), age (younger or older than the speaker), occupation (lower or higher position than speaker), and function (to inform, to ask, or to express the speaker's feeling). It is also said by Martin Joos that people always change their language to frozen, formal, consultative, casual, or intimate style.

In one language, there are several dialects. For examples, English as a language has dialects such as Standard English, Yorkshire English, Indian English, Black-American English, British English, etc. Each dialect has its own characteristics that sometimes people find difficulty in distinguishing the dialect itself. People also experience difficulty in deciding whether what they speak should be called a language or a dialect of some language. Haugen (1966a) says that language and dialect are ambiguous terms. Dialect is almost

certainly no more than a local non prestigious (therefore powerless) variety of a real language.

To distinguish the language styles which are used by people who has different background, for example a Chinese and a Black-American, is not easy. The Chinese and the Black-American should be found first. Since it is difficult to find them, the writer chooses movie with a Chinese and a Black-American as the characters in it. The writer thinks that movie can be more expressive. The character's language and expression can be seen as observing the subject directly. The movie which the writer choose is entitled *Rush Hour 3*. It is stared by Jacky Chan, a Chinese, and Chris Tucker, a Black-American. The story in *Rush Hour 3* is still the continuity of the previous movies, *Rush Hour* and *Rush Hour 2*. The writer chooses *Rush Hour 3* because it gives more data that the writer needs in her research than *Rush Hour* and *Rush Hour 2*. In this movie they act as an Inspector and a detective who actually differ in culture and social backgrounds. Although they have different background, they can do things and solve the case together. They are two different people who run their life together. They must have something different that show their identity. That is why, the writer choose this movie in her study.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Basing on the above background, the writer was determined to make a study on the language style used in *Rush Hour 3*.

The questions to be answered in this study are:

- a. What language styles are used by the main characters in *Rush Hour 3*?
- b. What factors that determine the main characters in *Rush Hour 3* to use different language styles when they talk to the other participants?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the research questions, the study intends to:

- 1.3.1. Identify the language styles used by the main characters in *Rush Hour 3*.
- 1.3.2. Analyze the factors that make them to use different language styles when they speak to other participants.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that the result of the study will make a contribution to sociolinguistics. It is expected that the study on language style used by the main characters in *Rush Hour 3* can give additional information about language styles used by people who have different background, how they speak to other people, and the factors that influence them in choosing different language styles. So, in communicating everyday, a person can use appropriate language styles.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the study

This study is limited in several ways:

- The subjects under study are the main characters named Lee and James Carter. Lee is a chief inspector from Hong Kong,

while Carter is a detective from New York. The writer chooses Lee and Carter as the subjects because both of them have different backgrounds. In the Rush Hour 1, first, they are new for each other. They become friends because they are put in the same case. Since that time, they develop their relationship and become very close friends until in Rush Hour 3. Carter is a loud and a bit flamboyant person. He has his own way in solving problem but it sometimes sounds crazy. While, Lee is calm, thoughtful, serious, and polite person.

- The language styles to be analyzed in this study is limited to the conversation between Lee and Carter. Therefore, the writer just takes the conversations which involve both the main characters.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is based on the theories of Sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics is the study of the ways people use language in society and it has something to do with how we talk, and the reason why we talk. Varieties of the society also affect in language varieties. Each society has its own language. Language varieties reflecting on its users are divided into regional dialects and social dialect. Regional dialect involves features of pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar which differ according to the geographical area the speakers come from. Social dialect is the speech of people from different social groups which differ in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Social group is usually determined by a range of features, such as education, occupation, residential area, and income level. In addition to sociolinguistics, another theory underlying this

study is language styles. According to Trudgill (1992:72), style is associated with social context and which differs from other styles in terms of their formality. Style can be ranged from very formal to very informal one or what he calls colloquial. According to Martin Joos, styles are classified into five. They are frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

The following definitions of the terms used in this study are provided in order to avoid misinterpretation and misunderstanding:

- **Rush Hour 3**

Rush Hour 3 is the comedy-action movie which is starred by Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker. The story is still the continuity of the previous sequel, *Rush Hour* that began in 1998 and continued with the first sequel *Rush Hour 2* in 2001. The film of *Rush Hour 3* is set in Paris, Los Angeles, and Hong Kong. It was released on August 10, 2007, in USA. *Rush Hour 3* which has the duration of 91 minutes is directed by Brett Ratner and produced by Roger Birnbaum, Andrew Z. Davis, Jonathan Glickman, Arthur Sarkissian, and Jay Stern. The screenplay is written by Jeff Nathanson, while the original story is written by Ross LaManna.

- **Style**

Style is variation in speech that can be the formal one or the casual one basing on the situation of the speech. According to Trudgill (1992:72) style is associated with social context and which differs from other styles in terms of their formality. It is

supported by Chaika (1994:81) who says that style refers to the selection of linguistic forms to convey social or artistic effects. Style forms a communication system in its own right, one that determines how a social interaction will proceed. It tells whether formally or informally.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. It gives the readers some explanations about the background of the study, the scope, and limitation of the study, theoretical frameworks, definition of key terms, and the organization of study. The second chapter is the review of related literature, which presents the basic theories of the study of Sociolinguistic, Varieties of Language, Social Dialect, Language Style, and the Previous Study. The third chapter is about the research method. It discusses the nature of study, the subjects, the instruments, the procedures of collecting data. The fourth chapter focuses on finding and discussions of the data. The fifth chapter of this study presents the summary and conclusion and some suggestions concerning the topic under the study.