

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

One of the main things in our lives to exist in a society is communication. Communication is a basic needs of human life and part of his everyday life. To fulfill the needs of communicating and interacting with others, people make use of languages. Chaika (1982:2) states that language is used to express a man's personal identity, background also character. This is in line with Lehmann (1983:1), who says, "languages are the means which enable human beings to play their roles in society, to express their needs, to give and get information and to learn about the people and their surroundings".

Language is also often associated with society. This is in line with Hudson(1980:1), who points out that language and society are so intertwined that there is a combination between the study of language and the study of society that is called sociolinguistics, the study of language in relation to society.

Eventhough there are many topic areas of sociolinguistics, here the writer prefers investigating code switching. In many parts of the world, people speak several languages when they communicate with others. This is in line with Bell (1976:110), who concludes that no person is monolingual, because there are many different roles played by an individual in the society, different social relationships in which he engages and different social groups to which he belongs. As a

consequence of those factors, code switching is likely to happen in any speech community.

At Evergreen Basketball Club where the writer becomes a member, code switching frequently takes place during the players' conversations. The writer himself often does code switching when talking to other players, for example, when he is talking to one of his good friends. He usually uses Javanese and Chinese dialect of Indonesian and sometimes English. However, when the writer talks with his coach or someone whom he does not know very well, he usually code switches to a more formal language, i.e. standard Indonesian.

There are two reasons why the writer decided to study code switching especially among basketball players. First, code switching commonly takes place in society; this is when one switches from one language to another language in the process of a speech event. Second, players in 'Evergreen' club often code switch during the conversations. What is more interesting is that there are more than one language involved in the code switching since the players are all multilingual. This made the writer interested to do a research on code switching among the members of "Evergreen" Basketball Club Surabaya.

## **1.2 The Statements of the Problem**

In line with the background of the study, the questions investigated are formulated as follows:

1. What languages are mainly code switched by the players in Evergreen Basketball Club Surabaya during their conversations?

2. Why do the players switch from one code to another code?

### **1.3 The Objectives of the Study**

With references to the statements of problem (section 1.2) this study intended to:

1. describe the languages which are mostly switched by the players in Evergreen Basketball Club Surabaya during their conversations.
2. describe the reasons why the Basketball Players switch from one code to another code.

### **1.4 The Significance of the Study**

The findings of this study are most likely to confirm the varieties of sociolinguistic study because this code switching study can be a good input in learning sociolinguistics. Besides, the findings of this study are to give a better understanding of the existence and the reasons why people tend to code switch from one language to another.

### **1.5 The Scope and Limitation of the Study**

There are more or less twenty five basketball players who are active in Evergreen Basketball Club in Indrapura Surabaya. They are divided into two groups. The first group is the senior group (Group A). This group consists of the basketball players who have very good skills (fifteen people). Second is junior group (Group B) who have average skills. This group consists of ten players.

The writer of this thesis chose the junior group of the basketball players as the subjects of this study. That's because at the time of doing this study, he was also a member of this group who is still active joining in the club. There are six players who were observed by the writer. They were chosen because each of them can speak more than two languages and they are the writer's close friends who frequently gather together.

The area of analysis is focused on the conversations which took place in the Evergreen Basketball Club. All conversations took place in informal situations. This is because the writer conducted the study when they had a break during the practise or after the practise is over.

The data were collected by means of observation, which was done 4 times, each lasting about 20-25 minutes.

## **1.6 The Theoretical Framework**

This study was based on the theories of sociolinguistics which includes code switching and bilingualism.

Sociolinguistics, according to Chaika (1982:2), is the study of the ways people use language in social interaction. It has something to do with how we talk to our parents, or to our friends, or even to people whom we do not really know. In addition, sociolinguistics is also concerned with the reason why we talk as we do and why other people talk as they do. Therefore, This theory is used to understand code-switching and its reasons or the factors that contribute to it.

Code switching, According to Bell (1976:110) is the consequence of role switching because in the society, an individual plays more than one role, participates in many social relationships or belongs to many groups. The existence of code switching is marked by the selection of styles, dialects, or language to be used in a certain social context.

Nababan (1984:27-29) states that bilingualism is the habit of using two different languages in the interaction with other people.

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

Before proceeding to further discussion, it is advisable for the writer to clarify some key terms applied in this thesis in order to avoid misinterpretation.

### **1. Code Switching**

According to Marasigan (1983:70), code switching is the use of the two languages or codes in the same sentence or discourse. This is in line with Holmes (1992:42) who points out that code switching is the language changing in the same discourse. Another definition of code switching as Hoffman (1991:110) states includes the alternate use of two languages within the same utterance or during a conversation.

### **2. Basketball Player**

A basketball player is a person who plays in a basketball team. Basketball is a game which consists of 5 players in a team. The rule of this game is to make score by throwing the ball into the basket. Besides, team work is needed in this game in order to win the game.

### **3. Evergreen Basketball Club**

It is a basketball club which is owned by Cheung Diuan Tjiek. It is located on Jl. Indrapura no 1. This club is organized by the coach, whose name is Tjie Sien and the member of this club is about 50 people, however, among all those members, only 20-25 people can be said to actively attend the exercise.

### **1.8 The Organization of the Study**

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter deals with the Introduction which includes the background of the study, the statements of the problem, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, the theoretical framework, the definition of key terms, research methods and the organization of the thesis. Chapter two concerns with the review of the related literature which consists of the related studies and the related theories. Chapter three is about research methodology. Chapter four contains the data analysis and interpretation of findings. The last chapter proposes the conclusion and some suggestions relating to the topic under study.