

CHAPTER I

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1.1 Background of The Study

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. In many parts of the world, people speak several languages when they communicate with others. This is because the ability of using several languages or codes is just a normal requirement of daily living in order to interact freely with other people (Ronald Wardhaugh 1988:94,95).

One of the many ways to express people's need to interact freely with other people is by using slang in their communication. What is interesting about slang is that, first, its form is non-standard, so that it can be categorized as dialect. However, eventhough most non-standard languages though the direct and deliberate intervention by society which is called 'standarization' could be a standard language (Hudson 1980:32), slang as one kind of dialects will remain dialect (a non-standard

variety); even, instead of being standardized, it may diminish after a period of time. In relation to this, Salim (1989:1828-9) states that slang is defined as words, idioms, or meanings, which are used in a short period of time. Thus, a special word or idiom categorized as slang may be left by its users when the trend has passed or when it is considered to be out of date. For example: the well-known kind of slang in Malang which consists in saying a word backward with any alternations necessary to make it more pronounceable, for example: 'Aku makan roti' (Indonesian standard) became 'Aku nakam sitor' (Walik-an) for the meaning 'I eat bread'. This slang was invented in the mid 1950's by truly scalpers and known by the name 'Back slang' or 'Bahasa Walik-an' was then adopted by a great number of Malang teenagers.

And because this language is very unique to the writer, so she is interested to do a research about this language. She wants to observe the reasons of using 'Bahasa Walik-an' by the students in Malang and the attitudes of language teachers toward its use.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This thesis is carried out to answer the following questions:

- a. Why do the students in Malang use Bahasa Walik-an?
- b. What are the attitudes of language teachers toward the use of 'Bahasa Walik-an' itself?

1.3 The Objectives of The Study

The aim of this study is to investigate the reasons of using 'Bahasa Walik-an' by the students in Malang and the attitudes of language teachers toward its use.

1.4 Significance of The Study

The findings of this study is expected to give some contributions to the field of Sociolinguistics. This study will be a good material, especially for the students of English department in exploring further research about language. Moreover, the writer hopes that it gives some helpful informations to 'Bahasa Walik-an' in particular. Through the findings, they will be able to know the reasons of Malang's students to maintain Bahasa Walik-an and the attitudes of language teachers toward

its use. Hopefully, these finding could enrich our knowledge and help us understand better about this language.

1.5 Scope of The Study

Considering that the users of 'Bahasa Walik-an' live widespread in Malang, the writer tried to make a limitation in her study. She interviewed and gave questionnaires to the subjects, both male and female. The subjects chosen consists of thirty students of University in Malang to analyze their reasons of using 'Bahasa Walik-an' to other people. And to get the data about the attitudes of language teachers, she took fifteen different language teachers to analyze what their attitudes toward the using of 'Bahasa Walik-an'.

1.6 Theoretical Frameworks

This study is based on the Language Variation which in this research is devided into two particular parts, they are the theory of Slang and Bahasa Walik-an. And in addition there is also the theory of Language Attitude.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, there is a key term used in this thesis to define before further discussion is proceeded

* Bahasa walik-an : According to Melik 'Bahasa Walik-an' consist of saying a word backward with any alternations necessary to make it more pronouncable. It consists of reversed Indonesian and Javanese words, or reversed words from other languages.

1.8 Organization of The Study

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter covers background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope of the study, theoretical framework, definition of key terms, and organization of the study. The second chapter covers language variations which consists of slang and Bahasa Walik-an, and related studies. The third chapter covers the nature of the study, the subjects of the study, research instrument, procedure of data collection, and procedure of data analysis. The fourth chapter is about the findings and

discussion. The final chapter of this study presents the conclusion and some suggestions concerning the topic of further study.