

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

In everyday life the writer observes that members of a speech community use a certain speech variety in relation with whom they are interacting. They carefully choose the variety they will be using depending on the person they are talking to, the situation, which they are in, and the topic they want to convey. For example, a father will speak differently to mother than to his children; students will use a different variety towards their classmates than to their teachers. At a sermon in a religious ceremony the preacher will employ a different formal variety than an informal chat in a bar among members of a labor union. These situations show to the writer that even in a common speech community, people will choose a certain speech variety in the use of language.

It is supported by Holmes's (1992: 10) opinion that in any community the distinguishable varieties or codes, that are available for use in different social contexts form a kind of repertoire of available options. The members of each community have their distinctive linguistic repertoires. In other words, in every community there is an arrangement of

varieties from which people select according to the context in which they are communicating.

Fishman (1975: 1) explains broadly about the functions of language that it is a mean of interpersonal communication and influence and a carrier of content implicitly or explicitly. He further says that language itself is content, a referent for loyalties and animosities. It is also an indicator of social status and personal relation. Language is a marker of situations and topics as well as of the societal goals of interaction that typify every speech community.

What Fishman wants to say about the definition of language above can be divided into two main points. First, language as a medium by which people communicate and even affect one another carries meaning or information and itself meaning. This meaning can be implied or specific and can show good will or ill will among people. Second, language marks social elements, such as status, relationship, situations, topics and values that take place among people in a speech community.

The speech community according to Hymes (1972: 54) is a "community sharing rules for the conduct and interpretation of speech, and rules for the interpretation of at least one linguistic variety." Hymes quoting Bloomfield (1993: 210) that a speech community refers to people speaking the same language or language variety.

The writer is concerned with the second notion that language may indicate social relationship in an area of interaction, which can be seen in a literary form such as novel. Little(1963: 64) says that a novel is a literary form which clothes a theme in some kind of story. The author of a novel seldom states his view indirectly but he states his view through characters in action and utterances, and also setting in his novel. She further says that a novel tells its "tales descriptively (describing people, place, and actions) and dramatically (through dialog or conversation)."

To combine the second idea in language (given by Fishman, 1975: 1), and the writer draws the conclusion that a novel can become a source of data to study the relationship between language aspects and social aspects. A novel is as a social community that covers settings, characters, and topics using certain pattern of communication and is expressed in an appropriate language. In other words, the choice of a speech variety conforms to the setting, characters, and topic (theme) of interaction as revealed in the dialogue or conversation in the novel. The speech community in a social arena cover status and relationship, situation, and topic, function or purpose of the use of a language among speakers in the speech community.

There is a relationship between the social factors and language factors. As Holmes (1992: 10) states that there are

"different types of linguistic variation used to express and reflect social factors, such as vocabulary or word choice, sounds, word structure (or morphology) and grammar (or syntax)." Whereas social factors determine the choice of a certain type of language variation. Therefore, the writer tries to find out a speaker's social background from his/her speech in choosing their language choice in the novel "The Red Badge of Courage".

In English, the writer meets different speech variations, such as standard, non-standard, colloquial, and slang used by different levels of people with different social background in different situations. According to Holmes (1992: 12) in any situations linguistic choice will generally reflect the influence of one or more of the following components:

- "1. The participants: who is speaking and who are they speaking to ?
2. The setting or social context of the interaction: Where are they speaking?
3. The topic: what is being talked about?
4. The function: why are they speaking?"

The factors above as given by Fishman (1972) and Holmes (1992) are also the factors that make up a novel as given in the definition of Little (1963). Participants conform with characters, setting with situation or social context, topic with theme, and function with the goal or purpose of dialogue or conversation. Thus a speech community in a social arena is the same as a speech community in a novel.

Both consist of the same components or elements, they are participants, setting, topic/theme, and function/purpose.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

With reference to the above background, the writer puts forward the following problems:

1.2.1 What are the speech variations used by the characters in the novel "The Red Badge of Courage"?

1.2.2 What factors motivate the characters to use the speech variations in the novel "The Red Badge of Courage"?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study is to analyze what speech variations are used by the characters in the novel, and what factors motivate the characters to use the speech variations in the novel "The Red Badge of Courage".

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The analysis gives the writer deeper knowledge about sociolinguistics. She can learn to understand different social context from the language she perceives. Besides, she can also differentiate the background of the speakers. In this way, she can enrich social relationship in dealing with different kinds of people in life.

### 1.5 Assumption

Regarding the objective of this study which is to find out what speech variations are used by the characters in the novel "The Red Badge of Courage" by Stephen Crane and what factors motivate the characters to use the variations, the assumptions underlying this study are:

1. A novel is a speech community, which comprises the same factors underlying the choice of a speech variety.
2. The social factors are participants or characters, situation or setting, topic or theme, and function or aim of the interaction.
3. The speech variations are dialect, standard and non-standard, register, and formal and informal.
4. The social factors as well as the speech factors are to be found in the novel "The Red badge of Courage" by Stephen Crane, so that the writer may use it as a source of data for her study.

### 1.6 Scope and Limitation

The writer limits herself by taking only fragments of dialogues of topics among the different characters in different settings in the novel. She needs to show the meaning of fragment of dialogue. According to Brown and Yule (1983: 68) a fragment is the data used which reflects the writer's particular interest. The data selected has to meet certain requirements and the data studied is always a

fragment of discourse with a beginning and an end. A topic identifies the boundaries of stretches of discourse (69).hunk of discourse of the rest (69). Topic is a satisfactory way of describing the unit distinguishes one stretch of discourse 'about' something and the next stretch 'about' something' else. As for example the talk about 'money' stops and shifts on the talk bout 'sex' (70).

In the writer's study a fragment is a coherent and sequential part broken off a dialogue or conversation which meets requirements of a certain topic among certain characters in a certain settings in the novel.

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

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer finds it is useful to define several essential terms used in this study. She hoped that the readers will have a clear picture of that this study is trying to present.

#### 1. Novel

Little (1963: 44) says that novel is a work large scope which meets several aspects: theme, plot, character, and setting.

#### 2. Speech Variation

A language community reflects the speakers' attitudes toward their language and how they use it. There are varieties according to users

(dialect) and varieties according to use (register) (Halliday 1964: 76-77).

### 3. Dialect

A regionally or socially distinctive variety of language, identified by a particular set of words, sounds, and grammatical features. (David Crystal 1991: 102).

### 4. Standard and Non-standard

A standard language, according to Hudson (1980: 32) is the only kind of variety, which would count as a 'proper language' while a non-standard language refers to the language below standard.

### 5. Register

The term refers to a variety of language defined according to its use in social situations (David Crystal 1991: 295). Halliday (1964: 81) says that the register is the name given to a variety of a language which is distinguished according to use.

### 6. Formality and Informality

(Crystal, 1991: 141) explains the term formal by stating opposite terms such as informal, intimate, familiar, etc. 'Formality' of expression refers to a level language which is considered appropriate to socially formal situations.

## 7. Social Factors and Social Dimensions

Holmes (1992: 12-14) says that social factors are participant, setting, topic, and function. Each of these components measured by a scale. The scales are social dimensions, namely: a solidarity social distance scale, a status scale, a formality scale, and two functional scales.

## 8. Utterance

Utterance is a particular speech sound which people utter under particular stimuli (Bloomfield; 1964: 29)

### **1.8 Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework deals with speech community, speech variations: dialect, register: social factors conveying social distance, formality, status and functions of informative and affective of the interaction. Besides the writer also deals with literary theory on novel conveying its elements: theme, plot, character, and setting necessary for deciding the data for analysis.

### **1.9 Organization of the Study**

Chapter I present the introduction with its sub-chapters: background of the study, statement of the problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study. The following sub-

chapters are the assumptions, definition of key terms, theoretical framework, and the organization of the study. Chapter II is the review of the related literature, which is review of social factors, social dimensions, and speech variations which consisting of a review of the kinds of speech variations and social factors influencing the choice of speech variations, speech community, and the last is novel. Chapter III is the research methodology which is divided into research design, the data, the research instruments, and the procedure of data analysis. Chapter IV is the data analysis and research findings. Chapter V is devoted to the conclusion of the analysis and followed by some suggestions. Finally, this thesis is completed with a bibliography.