

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

In every activity people may do when they are with others especially because we are created as individuals living together with other individuals, they communicate. Language allows people to say things to each other and express their communicative needs. The number of language which is used by the society, however, differs between one to another. There are three kinds of society in relation to language, according to Hornby (1971:1). They are monolingual (when there is only one code used), bilingual (if within the society there are two languages used) and multilingual (there are more than two languages/ multi languages used within the society). Nevertheless, over half of the world population is bilingual and many people are multilingual. (Holmes, 1992:79). The acquisition of the number of languages occurs because in their social interactions each of them carries different purposes. Thus people may vary their language style depending on the social context which they are facing. In short, the speakers of language speak differently based on the social context, whether it is formal or in public, or private and personal.

Variation in language use, according to Wardaugh (1977:1) occurs, however, because of several aspects such as sex, age, occupation, and function. Whereas Holmes (1992:1) stated that language variation appears because of the

social factors and dimensions. Basically, both of them have the similar opinion toward language variation, they only used different terms in describing it.

This language variation, moreover, can happen at different ages (Holmes, 1992:183). Holmes classifies the special speech pattern that based on the speaker's age as the age-graded speech pattern. The extensive swear word vocabulary which some teenagers use is likely to change over time, for example slang. Though they continue to know these terms, the frequency of using them often diminishes, especially as they are getting older and having a wider socialization.

In relation to language context, language can be divided into two types that are standard form and vernacular forms (Holmes, 1992:80-82). People usually use standard form in the formal situation and tend to use vernacular form in the informal situation. In standard form the rules of language (such as the use of correct grammatical forms, vocabulary, and pronunciation) is very strict, whereas in the vernacular the correctness of linguistic features does not matter.

The differences in a person's style of language usually are based on its uses (the function), users (the speaker/addressee), where it is used (the context) and to whom (the addressor).

The main factor which influences language style is the context. Context deals with situation, whether it is formal or informal. When the writer listened to Istarsa Radio 100.9 FM, the morning program, Tony Show, she found that both the radio broadcasters and their listeners were very stylistic in their language use.

The fact arouse the writer's curiosity to find out the kind of language style used by the listeners, who gave their opinion in public i.e radio broadcasting and also the radio broadcasters.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

With reference to the background of the study, the problem is formulated as follows:

What language style is used by the radio broadcaster and the listeners of Tony Show?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In line with the background and the problem stated above, this study then is intended to find out and described the language style used by the radio broadcasters and their listeners, who were interactively involved in Tony Show.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The findings of this study were intended to enrich our knowledge in the language world, particularly in the style of someone's language. This was also intended to know and prove that each person have their own language style.

1.5 Scope of Limitation

Due to the limited fund, time and energy also the wide range of the subjects which need to be observed, therefore, the writer decided to make use only

5 conversations conducted by two radio broadcasters and their listeners during Istara FM's morning show entitled the Tony Show.

Since they were assumed to be living in Surabaya and under range of youngsters, the conversations taken then would consist of Indonesian, Javanese, and some new vocabularies which are very well known as the trademarks of youngsters to create new vocabularies. The writer, nevertheless, would only focus on the style of the language used by both the listeners and the radio broadcasters.

1.6 The Assumption

This study was done based on these following assumptions:

1. Everyone has their own style in their choices of language depending on the social context they are into.
2. Radio broadcasters also have their own style or register during their performance.
3. The radiobroadcaster were unconsciously did the broadcasting in natural speaking because they were involved with the listeners directly.
4. There was no chance for the radio broadcaster to do biased recording since they had to be able to gained as many information from the listeners, and if they did not do it in such natural way then there was no chance for them to attract their listeners.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

The underlying theory of this study was language style, besides the social factors and social dimensions of language and also the accommodation theory.

Why we speak differently in different social context is closely related to the language's social function and how it conveys social meanings (Holmes, 1992:1). In order to be able to succeed in our social interaction, we have to take social factors and social dimensions into account. In any situation, linguistics choices will be based on the participants, the setting, the topic, and the function (the social factors) and also influenced by someone's social dimensions such as social distance, the status of the speakers, the degree of formality of the situation in which the speakers are.

In relation to language, age plays a very important role in the language features variation. Moreover, Holmes also supports this by saying that teenagers usually have their own pattern of language, which is grading along with the age of the speakers as age-graded pattern of speech, or among the teenagers it is usually known as slang. The definition of slang itself actually is still ambiguous.

Nearly all language occurs in natural situations and the situation has a considerable effect on the language. The language which came out arises from the contributions of the various elements such as the subject, the addressor, the addressee and the context, and will vary from situation to situation (Wilkinson, 1971:36-37). This is what Wardaugh stated as speakers of a language speak it differently (1977:218). As Holmes (1992:164-184) and Wardaugh (1977:219-

221) stated that language variation occurs because of the speaker's age, sex, occupation, and function.

1.8 The Definition of Key Terms

There are some terms that are to be understood in order to avoid any misunderstanding. The terms to be defined are language variation, language style, register, social factors and social dimensions, and also accommodation theory.

Language variation refers to the choices of language according to its user, its uses, where it is used, to whom, and who is using it (Holmes, 1992:274).

Language style refers to language variation, which reflects changes in situational factors such as addressee, setting, task, or topic (Holmes, 1992:276).

Register refers to the particular lexicon or vocabulary related or associated with a particular group of people with particular profession (Holmes, 1992:276).

What is meant by social factors are the elements which are related to the users of language, the participants, others relate to its uses-the social setting and function of the interaction, the topic of what the speakers are talking about and also the aim or purposes of the interaction (Holmes, 1992:247).

In addition to the social factors, it is also important for us to take into account of the dimensions which relate the social factors above with the other person we are interacting with. They are the social distance, the status scale, the formality scale, and the functional scales, which relate to the purposes of interaction.

1.9 The Organization of the Thesis

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter deals with the reason why the writer was interested in studying this matter, the problem appeared, the purpose of the study and its significance, the definition of key terms, the supporting theories and the organization of the thesis. The second chapter explains about the basic theories which underlie the study based on the theoretical framework. Chapter III discusses how the data were collected and analyzed. Chapter IV talks about the findings and the analysis of the data. Finally, the conclusion of the data analysis and findings is presented in chapter V.