

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a general introduction to the research, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Objective of the Study, Scope of the Study, Significance of the Study, and Organization of the Research Paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

Social talk or casual conversation may simply be described as a relaxed conversation. It is called a relaxed conversation because people usually speak casually to someone they familiar with such as friends, relatives, and family members. A casual conversation takes place in a wide variety of settings. Thesaurus Dictionary (2014) defines casual conversation as blabber, chatter, chitchat, gab, gossip, table talk, trivial conversation, jesting, joking, kidding, ribbing dialoguing, and small talk.

A casual conversation usually involves different expressions whereby people are less formal with their language. They pay less attention to grammar and the choice of vocabulary. They might also include more slang and idioms in their talk, as well as drop certain words in their sentences or certain letters in their words. A Casual talk might be made up of fewer complete sentences and include lots of short phrases and simple words. They might combine two languages or even use

broken language because it is totally acceptable in casual talk (Gilmartin & Vogel, 2018).

The differences in expression or word choice within a language people used in a casual conversation may cause language variation. Language variation is one form of sociolinguistic phenomena. It usually occurs in bilingual or multilingual societies in a particular region that employs language deviation in it. In multilingual societies, it can be ensured there is a contact in which one language may influence another language. This contact may cause different ways of speaking, which is called a variety (Eifring, 2005).

There are many language varieties used in society. Varieties are used group to group, speaker to speaker, in terms of the pronunciation of a language, the choice of words and the meaning of those words, and even the use of syntactic constructions. Chaika (2008) states that the difference in language variation can be seen from vocabulary, morphology, and syntax. Jack & Richard (2013) claim that language variation refers to the differences in pronunciation, grammar, or word choice within a language, which may be related to regional, social class, and educational background to the degree of formality of a situation in which language is used. It means that the various regions, social class, and educational background may cause a variety of a language.

English Department of Unisbank which is one of the faculties of Stikubank University located in Mugassari, Semarang, Central Java is a small example of a multilingual society. This society consists of college students who can speak more than two languages and they are required to communicate in English. There occurs

the contact between a foreign language and native languages. The foreign language used here is English, and the native languages are Indonesian or Javanese with different dialects and accents.

The variation of language will only occur if there is an interaction in that society. The interaction between students due to talk activity must be existing. They used different styles of their language depending on the situation, formal or informal (casual). In their casual conversation, the students show a variety of a language as a consequence of the language contact between their foreign and native language. The students may show a variety of language including, say the same thing in different ways, word choice, or even create new words. Considering this situation, the researcher is encouraged to analyze the language variations realized in the casual exchange of the seventh-semester students of the English Department of Unisbank.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The researcher formulated the problems as follows:

1. What language variations are realized in students' casual exchange?
2. Which factor influence the existence of language variation in the casual exchange?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This study is conducted in order to respond the research question stated in the statement of problems. The objectives are formulated as follows:

1. To identify the type of language variations realized in students' casual exchange.
2. To describe the factors influencing the existence of language variations in the student's casual exchange.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study only focuses on the language variations produced in casual conversation made by the seventh-semester students of the English Department of Unisbank Semarang. The language variation in this research covers the internal variation and external variation proposed by George Yule.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The researcher expects that this study may give academic contributions, especially for the researcher, students, and other researchers. For the researcher, this study may provide an opportunity to apply her knowledge about language variation. For students, hopefully, this study may help them to enrich their knowledge about sociolinguistics, especially in the field of language variation. For other researchers, hopefully, this study may help them to conduct and sum up the finding of this study so they may inspire them to conduct better research.

1.6 Organization of the Research Paper

In order to guide either the researcher or the readers in understanding the whole content of this research paper, the researcher organized this research paper into five chapters.

Chapter I: Introduction, consists of Background of the Study, Statement of Problem, Objective of the Study, Scope of the Study, Significance of the Study, and Organization of the Research Paper.

Chapter II: Review of Related Literature, consists of Previous Studies, and Theoretical Framework.

Chapter III: Research Method, consists of Research Design, Unit of Analysis, Source of the Data, Technique of Data Collection, and Technique of Data Analysis.

Chapter IV: Findings and Discussion, consists of an explanation of the result of the research.

Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestion, consists of the conclusion of the research and suggestion for further research.