

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the research background, research problem, research objectives, research scope, and significances of the study.

1.1 Research Background

A language has function to share information, factual things and thought between interlocutors in doing communication (Moghaddam and Abolhassanizadeh, 2008). It is used to communicate with others in order to deliver information and idea. By sharing information, people can build relationship because they have interaction with other people. In line with this matter, Suwartama (2016) argues that language is also used as a mean of communication to deliver a meaning as well as idea through sounds, symbols and words. People can deliver through speaking and writing. Speaking focuses on the sound spoken by speaker. Meanwhile, writing emphasizes on the use of words in the written forms. In addition, language is used to communicate with each other considering the speaker's behavior (Rifai and Prasetyaningrum, 2016). People deliver information in communication in different ways. Their behavior reflects on the way of delivering a language. Having a good behavior means having a polite language and vice versa.

Beside the use of language as a mean of communication, language also has function to maintain and establish relationship with people (Trudgill, 1974). This relationship can be maintained because they keep in touch through communication. The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis in Trudgill (1974) states that the physical environment,

social environment, and value are reflected in language. The use of language influences the choice of vocabulary depends on the condition of environment. It also influences the choice of language depends on the value that develop in the society. Thus, the use of language consider several factors developing in the society to communicate with others.

In building a communication, it involves some activities. Lunenburg (2010) states that communication is a process of information transmission including telling, sending, and delivering messages or information to the others or listeners. This is as a considerable reason, why human needs to do communication in order to deliver message, thought, of idea. Communication are divided into two types, namely: verbal communication and nonverbal communication. Verbal communication includes spoken language, written language such as words, and also language sign. In contrary, the nonverbal one involves gestures, facial expressions, paralanguage, and touch. This is defined as communication between two or more people and involves the transfer of information (or message) from one person to the others. The person transfers the information is called the sender or transmitter. The people receives the message are known as receivers. In addition, Ahmad (2016) argues that communication has its own goal, namely: informing, requesting, persuading, and building relationships with others. The communication allows people to inform idea or information to other. They also can request something to others. It also can be used to persuade to do something in the communication. It also can build relationship because it requires people to meet each other. Thus, they can know each other.

However, nowadays people tend to use swear word in the communication. Swear words or Taboo word occur in every language showing contradiction to the moral value in the society. It is believed to be harmful for those who are involved in the society because it is used to show disapproval behavior of certain people. Taboo is actually forbidden to be used in the society, because it contains negative aspects in the society that is believed to be avoided. Holmes (1992) states that language variation is language resulted by the existence in the society. It is a linguistic form used based on social situation. It includes vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation of dialect, and spelling in different language. In addition, Anderson and Trudgill (1974) reveals the example of swear words through the use of the word “shit”. Although the term “shit” seems rude, yet, words can’t fully determine themselves as good or bad language. This is due to the argument stated by Saussure (1988), who reveals that the relation between the signifier (the words, images, or sounds) and the signified (the object or concept) is arbitrary.

Swear words are divided into three types based on the forms such as: form of words, phrases, and also clauses. Besides the types of swear word, it also has function in the communication. Rothwell (1973) argues that the function of swear words, namely: drawing attention, discredit someone, provoking, creating interpersonal, and providing catharsis. Moreover, Wang (2013) adds that the function of swear words include expressing emotion, emphasizing, showing solidarity and aggression. In addition, Bulton and Hutton (1997) argue that swear words cover four functions, namely: integrative, aggressive, regressive, and expletive. Therefore, the use of swear word has function to be used in the communication to build relationship and express the idea.

Besides its function, the use of swear can refer to something. Hughes (1998) classifies the reference of swear words into seven categories, namely: religion, sex, excrement, name of animals, personal background, mental illness, and sex activity. In addition, Wijana and Rohmadi (2006) classify swear words into eight classification, namely: condition, animal terms, devils, things, part of body, kinship, activity and profession. It can be said that the reference of swear words can be classified into; sex, part of body, animals, sex activity and personal background or profession.

As well as in Indonesia, swear words are also used in the communication. Especially in Pontianak, the use of swear words are used to maintain the relationship in the communication. Pontianak is the capital of the Indonesian province of West Kalimantan. It is located on the equator, hence it is widely known as Khatulistiwa (Equatorial City). The city center is less than 3 kilometres (2 mi) south of the equator. Pontianak is the 26th largest city in Indonesia in terms of population, as well as the fifth largest city on the island of Borneo in terms of population after Samarinda, Banjarmasin, Kuching and Balikpapan. Pontianak is connected by air to other cities of Indonesia as well as some cities in Malaysia such as Kuala Lumpur and Kuching. Because of it, people in Pontianak use Malay language to communicate in their daily life. According to Novianti (2011) almost Malay speakers in Pontianak use Malay language than the other language in West Borneo. In this case the researcher got difficulty to get the valid data, how many people use Malay language, because there are not the valid data about this. Many vocabularies of Malay language are similar with Indonesian language. This is not too surprising, since Indonesian is rooted in Malay Language.

Based on the preliminary observation, people in Pontianak used two languages, namely: Malay language and Indonesian language. People in Pontianak use Malay language in their daily conversation and in informal situation such as; greeting when met each other, gossip, etc. In another ways, Malay speakers in Pontianak also used Indonesian language to communicate, but it happened in formal situation such as; meeting in the school, social gathering, etc. Malay speakers in Pontianak also used swear words to show their bad feeling, and accidentally swearing when they shock. For the example “*ndak e orang tu, cam jalan mak bapak die jak* “. They showed their annoyance when another people ride or drive carelessly. In the central part of Pontianak, there are so many people, especially teenagers who like to utter swear words in their daily conversation for example; “*jubor kau cantek, bapak mak kame’ jak ngate kame’ burok*”. The swear words themselves are used freely when the people reveal their bad feeling. They normally utter the swear words in any casual situation. The existence of swear words are not merely used to humiliate or hurt people. Thus, the use of swear words to show closeness in a relationship.

Some other reseachers had conducted reseach about swear words. Azman, Azmi, Maros, and Bakar (2017) in Malaysia, Suganob-Nicolau (2016), Sari (2018), Aditya (2016) in Cirebon Regency, Arsana (2017) in Seririt District, and Intania (2017) in Singaraja. Arsana (2017) and Intania (2017) focused on the forms, reference and function used by people in Bali in the interaction. Aditya (2016) focused on using swear words by teenagers in Cirebon. Suganob-Nicolau (2016) focused a research about the use swear words used by young learners in elementary school level. Azman, Azmi, Maros, and Bakar (2017) focused on swearing of

impoliteness among youths in Malaysia. Sari (2018) focused on the use of swear words in the movie. Meanwhile, Hariadi (2016) focused on the use of Malay language in daily conversation.

Based on the accounts above, the previous study did not include the use of swear word involving facial expression and intonation in delivering swear words. The previous studies only covered the form, reference and function without explaining the expression of speaker. In addition, there was no researcher who conducted research about swear words in Pontianak. This study is used to enrich the data related to swear word used in Pontianak. Moreover, this study is used to support previous studies in linguistics field.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, there are three problems formulated as follows:

- 1) What are the forms of swear words used by Malay speakers in Pontianak?
- 2) What are the references of swear word used by Malay speakers in Pontianak?
- 3) What are the functions of swear words used by Malay speakers in Pontianak?

1.3 Research Objectives

- 1) To identify the forms of swear words used by Malay speakers in Pontianak.
- 2) To find the references of swear words used by Malay speakers in Pontianak.
- 3) To understand the functions of swear words used by Malay speakers in Pontianak.

1.4 Research Significance

a) Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, the results of this study were expected to give important information and deeper understanding about swear words in Pontianak city.

b) Practical Significance

Practically, the significance of this research was divided into 3 parts, namely: for English Language Education, teachers, and the Indonesian Government.

1) For English Language Education

This study was used to give contribution to English Language Education for the lecturers as well as for the students who taught and learned about linguistics. This study could be used as an additional knowledge for the lecturers to give a real example in teaching sociolinguistics. Then, it was good for students to know the students' diversity in using language especially using the swear words.

2) For the researchers

This study could be used as a reference to other researchers who were interested to conduct a similar study about swear words in the next study.

3) For the Indonesian Government

The government could use the result of this study as an authentic file or document about the swear words in Pontianak city.

1.5 Research Scope

This study was conducted in Pontianak. This study was about the use of swear words in the social interaction. It can be done by using swear words. This study focused on the use swear words in Pontianak. This study was limited on the forms, references, and function of swear words used by Malay speakers in Pontianak, West Borneo.

