CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the general description on the present study. Section 1.1 discusses the background of the study; Section 1.2 presents limitation of the study; Section 1.3 is about research questions; Section 1.4 is aims of the study; Section 1.5 discusses the significance of the study; 1.6 discusses research methodology; Section 1.7 presents clarification of the terms; and Section 1.8 presents organization of paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

In Sundanese, there are so many word variations in describing something. The variations may appear differently at every place in Sunda (West Java & Banten Provinces). The word "loba" which means many, is called "jenuk" in *Kabupaten* Kuningan and "rea" in some place around Bandung. The word "mandi" or bathe in Sundanese has a different variation in *Kabupaten* Majalengka, it is called "papung". Occasionally, it is confusing when meeting other people from the other regions in Sunda and talk to them.

The phenomenon of word or lexical variation is not only coming into view in the level of province but also in the level of regency. *Kabupaten* Kuningan, regency in the east side of West Java has so many variations. This regency consists of 32 districts with 980.605 populations in the year 2002. (Retrieved from http://www.kuningan.go. id).

The phenomenon of lexical variation is a part of dialectology. Dialectology is one of the most interesting researches in linguistics domain. Researcher like Wakelin (1972:102) as cited from Milroy (1987:9) investigates isoglosses in England. He illustrates the boundary between The Northern and North-midland dialect by showing eight isoglosses. Other researchers are Labov, Ash and Boberg (1997). Their study of American English Dialect shows three major Regional dialects in USA (The North, South and West). Besides, there is Teeuw (1951) as cited from Ayatrohaedi (2002:17). He investigates dialect in Lombok. He is the pioneer of regional dialect researcher in Indonesia.

Regional dialect of every place in one language may appear differently. It caused by geographical condition of the places. When geographical features imply to the dialect it is called regional dialect. As explained by Wardhaugh (1992:42) various language implications such as pronunciation, word choices, syntax and form of word can be very useful in describing variation or dialect. Because of that, it can serve as the map of dialect distribution to show their geographical provenance and called dialect geography.

Later, the lexical variation will be analyzed and bounded by the line. The boundaries or lines between different places that have same features (pronunciation or word choice) can be called as isoglosses. Wardhaugh (1992:43) states that sometimes the maps of dialect geography are made to show the boundaries between the various language features, that boundaries called isoglosses.

1.2 Scope of the Study

This study was focused on dialect geography. The study analyzed the Sundanese lexical variations in Kuningan, and served in a form of maps. The maps consisted of the lexical variations distribution and isoglosses as the boundary.

1. 3 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, this study is considered to answer the following questions:

1. How are the distribution maps of lexical variation in *Kabupaten* Kuningan?
2. Were the isoglosses taking place in the map?
3. What words are mostly used by the Kuningans as their dialect?

1.4 Aims of the Research

Based on the research questions, this research is aimed:

1. to portray the dialect distribution maps in *Kabupaten* Kuningan;
2. to show the isoglosses line in the map; and
3. to find out the major dialect that used by the people in Kuningan.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is hoped to add deep understanding about dialect, especially in Sundanese dialect and its lexical variation.

As we know, Indonesia is a big country with heterogenic society and culture. Every ethnic group in Indonesia has their own languages. Bataknese, Sundanese, Balinese are some examples of the ethnic languages. Therefore, they need to be revealed and studied. Ahmad (1999) in Ayatrohaedi (2002:8) states that there are 700 languages and dialects in Indonesia. He states mostly Indonesian linguists are interested in language structure; about 90%. The rest of that; 10% should divided to Sociolinguistics, Historical linguistics, Dialectology, Language education, Psycholinguistics, etc.

1.6 Research Methodology

I.6.1 Research Design

This study employs a qualitative approach. This method appropriates to reveal the phenomena of the Sundanese regional dialect or dialect boundary in Kuningan. Lincoln and Guba (1985 as cited in Shank 1995:63) explain that qualitative approach is descriptive. They suggest that by using this method, they will gather the data in form of: transcript, interview, photograph, field notes, video tapes documents and other notes. Moreover, Arikunto, (2005:234 in Hatta 2007:5) states that in presenting the data, descriptive analysis method is not generally directed toward hypothesis testing, but only to describe the existing phenomena and current condition without being influenced by the investigator.

Strauss and Corbin (1990:2) explains that a qualitative method can be used to uncover and understand what lies behind phenomena about which little is yet known. It is the quality in describing and analyzing the data not the quantity or

how many data that we get. In line with Strauss and Corbin, Sowell and Casey (1982 in Shank 1995:3) states, that descriptive research uses the existing situation for data collection and does not require any manipulation of variables by the researchers.

1.6.2 The Subject.

Since the research is conducted in *Kabupaten* Kuningan, the subject deals with the Kuningans or Kuningan people with Sundanese as the mother-tongue language. Kuningan has 32 districts. Most of them have in common, or even uncommon in word variation. In this particular situation, I tried to figure out the isoglosses phenomena in Kuningan.

1.6.3 Data Collection Technique

This research used several techniques in collecting the data. Pilot study is conducted to determine lexical variations in Kuningan. After the study, every lexical variation was formulated in questionnaire to get the data of regional dialect of every district in Kuningan. The respondents are the people from 32 districts of *Kabupaten* Kuningan. This technique will more effective, because we can minimize the questionnaire loses. By the questionnaires, the isogloss data can be analyzed and drawn in map.

1.6.4 Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, this research conducted three steps of analysis. Firstly, the research populated the data based on the lexicon and the place it used.

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Secondly, the research made map of dialect geography. By the mapping process, the isogloss lines drawn, this is the next step of analyzing.

1.7 Clarification of the terms

These are the clarification of the terms are used in the title. Sundanese; Sundanese is the people whom live in West Java and Banten and they use *Basa Sunda* (Sundanese) in their daily conversation.

Isoglosses; isogloss is a line on dialect maps between two regions that indicates similar linguistic feature (such as a lexical item, pronunciation, etc).

Lexical Variation; lexical variation is dialect differentiations implicated by word choice.

Kabupaten Kuningan; *Kabupaten* Kuningan is one of the regencies in West Java Province. It is Located in the eastern of West Java, side by side with the Central Java Province.

1.8 Organization of the Paper

The study is presented into five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction. It discusses an introduction to the subject matter, including: background of the study, limitation of the study, research questions, aims of the study, significance of the study, research methods and research procedures, clarification of key terms, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II is Literature Review. It presents the theoretical framework principal to the topic chosen.

Chapter III is Research Methodology. It explains the methodology chosen to conduct the whole study.

Chapter IV is Data Presentation and Discussion .It is the heart of this paper. It elucidates the writer's data analysis and discussion of the whole research.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion It conveys the conclusion and suggestion in accordance with the research.