

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the present study. It describes background of the study, formulation of the problem, aims of the study, research method, scope of the study, significance of the study, clarification of the main terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

Javanese is one of the biggest local languages in Indonesia. It has more or less than 70 million native speakers (Subroto et al., 2008). However, this language begins to be abandoned by its speakers, especially by young generation of Javanese, because it has many complicated rules. It makes them tend to consider that Javanese language is difficult to learn. On the other hand, the use of *Bahasa Indonesia* for most of Javanese young generations (JYG) is considered easy to use and very democratic because they do not need to apply honorific language as applied in Javanese language (Wijayanto, 2007).

According to Subroto et al. (2008), generally, there are three speech levels or *unggah ungguh basa* in Javanese language, namely *Ngoko* (Ng), *Krama* (Kr) and *Krama Inggil* (Kr I). *Ngoko* is the lowest level and is used when addressing someone of the same status, of the same age or of lower status, such as close friends, younger people, and subordinates. *Krama* is the middle level and is used when addressing someone with fairly respected such as a new acquaintance and

respected younger people. *Krama Inggil* is the highest level and is used when addressing someone or talking about another person who is highly respected, such as teachers, parents, grand-fathers, grandmothers, etc (Subroto et al., 2008). Meanwhile, Bax (1975) suggests that Javanese speech levels are classification of either *Ngoko* forms (low forms) or *Krama* forms (high forms) which consist of sets of synonymous lexical items and affixes.

This study is inspired by previous research conducted by Wijayanto (2007). It is found that in the real situation and in a certain domain, sometimes people did not use the proper speech levels. For example, some children use *Ngoko* when they speak to their parents while use *Krama* or *Krama Inggil* when they speak to their teachers. It is also supported by another previous research conducted by Subroto et al. (2008). It is found that Javanese Youth (JY) now have a lack understanding of Javanese *Ngoko*, *Krama* and *Krama Inggil* correspondences. This research also investigated youth's inability in using the Javanese speech levels. From the research, it is found that the ability in using *Krama* and *Krama Inggil* is closely related to Javanese manners, attitudes, and daily behaviors in their society.

The present study aims to enrich the previous studies about endangered languages by its native speakers. This study concerns on the use of Javanese speech level by Javanese teenagers, especially teenagers in Temanggung Regency in Central Java. This study also investigates factors that potentially influence the choice of speech levels by Javanese teenagers, and investigates Javanese young generations' attitudes toward the speech levels.

1.2 Formulation of the Problems

The study is intended to investigate the problems which are formulated as follows.

- a. What are the speech levels used by Javanese teenagers in their daily conversation?
- b. What are the factors that influence the choice of speech levels by Javanese young generations?
- c. What are the attitudes of Javanese young generations toward the Javanese speech levels?

1.3 The Aims of the Study

Related to problems briefly presented previously, the present study aims to:

- a. find the kind of speech levels used by Javanese teenagers in their daily conversation;
- b. investigate the factors that influence the choice of speech levels by Javanese teenagers;
- c. investigate the Javanese teenagers' attitudes toward Javanese speech levels.

1.4 Methodology

The present study is largely qualitative. This method is used to get a rich natural data based on the situation which is taken placed on the society. Sugiono (2007) argues that qualitative method is used to investigate a phenomenon in a natural setting where the key instrument of the study is the researcher. Meanwhile,

Subroto et al. (2008: 91) suggest that “by using this method, the study is able to obtain rich nuances of meanings based on the linguistic and socio-cultural contexts”. It can be inferred that in the social context, the factual data about language used by a community will be able to get easily.

This study focuses on the use of Javanese speech level by Javanese teenagers, especially teenagers in Temanggung Regency in Central Java. This study also investigates factors that potentially influence the choice of speech levels by Javanese teenagers, and their attitudes toward the speech levels.

The target population is Javanese teenagers, especially teenagers living in Temanggung Regency in Central Java and its surroundings. The sample of the research consists of ten students of second grade of SMAN 1 Temanggung. They were chosen as respondents because they lived in some sub-districts of Temanggung regency that are easily accessed.

The procedures of collecting the data for this research were non-participant observation and focus group interview. The non-participant observation using tape recorder was aimed to determine the kind of speech levels used by the Javanese teenagers, while focus group interview was used to investigate the factors that potentially influence the choice of speech levels by Javanese teenagers, and their attitudes toward the speech levels.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study concerns on the use of Javanese speech level by Javanese teenagers, especially teenagers in Temanggung Regency in Central Java. This study also

investigates factors that potentially influenced the choice of speech levels by Javanese teenagers, and their attitudes toward the speech levels. Furthermore, this study focuses on Javanese teenagers in Temanggung Regency in Central Java.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study informs about the varieties of Javanese speech levels in Javanese language, so it is generally expected that people from other ethnics with different languages can get more information about Javanese language. It is also especially expected that this study will raise Javanese teenager's awareness in order to maintain their language, so the language endangerment can be minimized.

1.7 Clarification of the Main Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding and to make the discussion run well, the following key terms are clarified.

- a. *Javanese language* is a *mother tongue* of Javanese people, who reside in central Java and East Java province.
- b. *Javanese Speech Levels* is a way of speaking by Javanese people which are appropriated with the interlocutors faced in the various contexts (Sukastomo, 2006).
- c. *Javanese teenagers* are people, aged between 13 and 19 years old (Oxford Dictionary) and they are the native of Javanese ethnic.

1.8 Organization of the Paper

This paper is organized into five chapters: *chapter one* contains background of the study, the formulations of the problems, the aims of the study, the methodology which is used to collecting the data, the limitation of the study, the significant of the study, and the clarification of the main terms; *chapter two* describes the theoretical framework that is relevant to the present study; *chapter three* explains the appropriate approach in researching the problems, the use of appropriate method in collecting the data and in analyzes the data; *chapter four* discusses the findings gained from the respondents through observation and interview; *chapter five* presents the conclusions of the main points discuss in this study and also the suggestions for the further research related to this study.

