

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Indonesia consist of many islands. It means that every island even every city must have different culture and language that differ one another as their identity. As De Kuthy (2001) states that “since language is a social phenomenon, it is natural to assume that the structure of a society has some impact on the language of the speaker of that society”.

Sumatera Island is one of the biggest islands in Indonesia that has varieties culture and languages. Asahan, as a part of district in Sumatera Island, has an important role to contribute the varieties in language. Included in Desa Danau Sijabut, it is a small village in Asahan which is invites many people from different ethnics to live there. They come to live and work there because they assume that Desa Danau Sijabut is a good place to keep them survive.

In this village, it's easily to find Javanese people. One of the reason is because of the migration of Javanese people from the Java Island to other major Island, such as Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Sumatera. This due to the transmigration program held by the government or for many others reasons. Some of the Javanese migrated to North Sumatera then well-known as Pujakesuma (Putra/Putri Jawa Kelahiran Sumatera. But now days, the Javanese people who lives in North Sumatera, especially in Desa Danau Sijabut are the next generation of migrated of Javanese. Even most of them are Javanese, it means not only Javanese people who lives in this place, but also there are some people come from

another ethnics who lived there. Such as, Bataknese, Mandailingnese, Padangnese (Minang), Banjar and Malay. So, this situation force Javanese people to speak Bahasa Indonesia to other people that come from different ethnics. This phenomena is called as bilingualism.

Generally, bilingualism means being able to speak two languages. As in case above, the Javanese people who are surrounded by some of people from any tribes are used to speak both Javanese and Indonesian. They speak Javanese and Indonesian language depending on where they are engaged to, for example, they use Indonesian language with their friends in their environment while they speak Javanese with their family at home or to other people who come from the same ethnic.

Actually, the Javanese daily lives in communication cannot be separated from their speech levels when they speak. According to Poedjosoedarmo (1979: 54) giving definition about speech level that have relationship with Javanese language “*Speech levels in Javanese level constitute a system for showing 1) the degree of formality, and 2) the degree of respect felt by the speaker toward the addressee. The greater the degree of respect and formality in an utterance, the greater the politeness shown*”. Meanwhile, Subroto et al. (2009) giving another definition about speech levels, generally, there are three speech levels or *unggah ungguh basa* in Javanese language, namely *Ngoko*, *Madya* and *Krama*. *Ngoko* is the lowest level or informal speech 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. *Madya* is the middle level and is used when addressing someone with fairly respected such as a new acquaintance and respected younger

people. *Krama* 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.

This study is inspired by previous research conducted by Subroto et al (2014). It is found that the use of *krama inggil* in Semarang is oriented on self kramanisation. The use of *krama inggil* in Pekalongan is oriented to the prevailing normative standards in the Javanese language.

In line with the previous studies above, the researcher found the phenomena in Desa Danau Sijabut that most of Javanese speakers in this place still use Javanese language nicely even they are come from different background and profession and also they live around some ethnics such as, Mandailingnese, Bataknese, Padangnese, Banjar and Malay that force them to speak Bahasa Indonesia or bilingualism in daily communication, but most of Javanese speakers tend to use only one kind of speech level when they communicate with their family or the speakers come from the same ethnic group in family gathering, neighborhood and for their job even they understanding well of vocabulary and the rules of speech levels. Some of the example of Javanese language that often uttered by Javanese speakers in Desa Danau Sijabut in daily Communication is describe below:

1. JL : *Arep nengdi, yuk/lek?*
English : Where are you going?
2. JL : *Piro iki?*
English : How much is it?
3. JL : *Isek opo?*
English : What are you doing?
4. JL : *Eneng opo/ Eneng perlu opo?*
English : what's going on?
5. JL : *kowe uwes mangan?*
English : have you had breakfast/lunch/dinner?

Another example of Javanese language that is used in conversation among two Javanese speakers that describes below:

Sumarno : *O geng... geng.*

Sugeng : *Iyo wak, opo iku?*

Sumarno : *njalok pasire lah, setimbo wae arep ge nambal anu iku ehhhh lante*

Sugeng : *ohh iyo iyo wak, jipuk wae lah sepiro perlu ne.*

Sumarno : *suwon sanget lah yo geng.*

Sugeng : *iyo wak, podo podo.*

In refers to those example above, it can be seen that they feel comfortable in using Javanese language when communication in same ethnic. In this case, both of them are used *Ngoko* speech level. Actually, based on the rules of speech levels, the second participant (Sugeng) must use *Madya* because he spoke to a person older than him. But in this case, he didn't use the proper speech level. It can be said that, he ignore the rules of speech levels itself even he knows what kind of speech level must be used. Furthermore, he also do not have a clear reason for that, so it is still being in a big question for the researcher. Based on the situation of using Javanese speech levels in Desa Danau Sijabut, she is interested in conducting her research about "Javanese Speaker's Attitude toward Their Speech Levels in Desa Danau Sijabut".

1.2 The Problems of the Study

The problems of this study are formulated as the following:

1. What are the characteristics of Javanese speaker's attitude when they use the dominant speech level?
2. How is the Javanese speaker's attitude towards their speech levels in Desa Danau Sijabut linguistically realized?

3. Why do the Javanese speakers have such attitudes toward their speech level like the way they do?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems of the study above, the objectives of the study are:

- 1) to investigate the characteristics of speaker's attitude when they use the dominant speech level, and
- 2) to explain the linguistic realizations of Javanese speaker's attitude toward their speech levels in Desa Danau Sijabut.
- 3) to give reasons of Javanese speaker's attitude toward their speech levels in Desa Danau Sijabut.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

This study only focused on. Javanese speaker's attitude toward their Speech Levels and the reasons why they have such attitudes when they use the dominant speech level.

1.5 The Significances of the Study

Theoretically, findings of this study are expected to enlighten some aspect.

In terms sociolinguistics, this study should contribute a clear description in Javanese speaker's attitude toward Levels who living in Desa Danau Sijabut.

Practically, in terms of social environment, findings of this study are expected to give information about Javanese speaker's attitude toward their speech levels for researchers, students, educators, and government. Firstly for the

researchers, the finding of the study can be a previous knowledge for the next research who wants to gain a deep insight especially in Javanese speaker's attitude toward their speech levels and generally in language planning theories. Secondly for the students, they can enrich their knowledge about speaker's attitude and vernacular language especially for Javanese language and its speech levels. Thirdly for the educators they can use it to support their teaching material about speaker's attitude and vernacular language, especially for Javanese language and its speech levels. The last for the government, hopefully the result of this study can help the local government in Desa Danau Sijabut to make a language policy toward Javanese language by make the rules to use Javanese language to all of community who live in Desa Danau Sijabut.