

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study



Ludruk is a Javanese drama which performs the stories of Javanese myths and histories associated with daily life using satirical allusions. It will be rather difficult to comprehend and enjoy the stories in Ludruk unless the viewers understand the language of Ludruk since it is one of its dominant part (Siswanto, W. 1997). In other words, by understanding the thematic structures of the language used in Ludruk, the viewers will make themselves easy to figure the story out. Therefore, this study is aimed at describing the thematic structures in the language of Javanese Ludruk.

Thematic structures are ones in which information is structured. Different contexts of language result in different thematic structures (Haliday, 1994). Only by knowing the thematic structures can one well understand a text. The language use in Ludruk is structured in its own thematic structures. Thus, by learning its thematic structures, the Javanese can appreciate Ludruk as their cultural heritage.

Furthermore, Ludruk itself conveys its own messages to the viewers or society in its own way. In other words, the conveyed information is uniquely

structured. The information can only be understood well and effectively by studying the structure of the thematic organization found in the language of Ludruk. Hence, by learning its thematic structures, the viewers of Ludruk can understand it better.

This study functions to document Javanese's cultural richness by which the Javanese can preserve their culture. In this way, they are motivated to appreciate Ludruk as the cultural product. It is predicted that the next generation of the Sumatran Javanese will not know Ludruk anymore because of gradual decrease in interest in watching Ludruk (Supriyanto, 1992). Thus, this study serves an effort to maintain the existence of Ludruk as a cultural asset and identity in pluralistic society of Indonesia.

1.2 Scope of the Study

This study is limited to the description of the thematic structures found in the language of Javanese Ludruk. In this study, the writer specifically explores the types of thematic structures, investigates the dominant type and describes why it is structured thematically as it is. Hence, the study is focused on textual function found in the drama with reference to Hallidayan approach in Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG).

1.3 Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problems of the study are formulated as the following:

1. What kinds of thematic structures are used in the language of Javanese Ludruk?
2. What is the dominant type used in the drama?
3. Why is the language of Ludruk thematically structured as it is?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. to describe various kinds of thematic structures used in the language of Javanese Ludruk.
2. to explore the dominant type used in the drama.
3. to explain the reasons for the thematic structures in the language of Ludruk.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Based on the objectives of the study, the findings of this study are expected to be relevant or useful for

1. other researchers who intend to conduct a research in Javanese Ludruk with reference to SFG.
2. those who are interested in language studies by informing them that language used in Javanese Ludruk is one of languages that has its own characteristics and uniqueness and
3. preservation of Javanese cultural heritage.