

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

At present, the use of English can be said to reflect the global dominance of English in science, technology, and culture. “Every documented community of bilingual code switches” (Romaine 2). Code switching has become an integral element of the modes of communication available for bilingual and multilingual communities. The way code switchers speak is part of their identity and it helps them to relate to each other and to the world around them <http://www.smcm.edu/aldiv/ilc/pdfdocks/koziolpdf>. “Code switching is the alternative use by bilingual of two or more languages in the same conversation” (Milroy and Muysken 7). Code switching occurs not only in the middle of conversation or speaking but also in writing; for example, when we read some Indonesian books or articles we often found some inserted words or sentences from another language.

According to this phenomenon, Indonesia can be said to be a bilingual and even multilingual society. It is known that in Indonesia as a multilingual society,

there are hundreds of different languages and dialects. Moreover, as bilinguals, they use a national language, Indonesian, for interacting or associating to the people in large areas or different ethnics. English as a foreign language is widely used in many aspects of life; for example, education, mass media, international communication, etc. this kind of phenomenon can be the evidence that the way bilinguals using code switching shows the status of code switching in bilingual societies. Besides, code switching is common among the bilingual speakers. As a result to this trend, many Indonesians are eager to learn English since kindergarten until university because learning English as an international language may give more opportunities to be successful in life. Moreover, it seems natural that when people are competent in two languages, they will use both of them accordingly.

According to Koziol, people who switch from one language into another language have their own reason. For instance, a speaker or a writer decides to switch codes because a new topic is introduced, and the function of the switch is to adhere to the appropriate language for the topic. However, the function of code switching can be diverged from the function it serves. For example, a speaker may use code switching because they are talking with a close friend or surrounded by others who also do code switching; on the other side, the function of a specific switch may be to reiterate a point because they want to make sure that the idea is understood by the hearers or the readers (23).

Based on the overview above, I intend to do research on sociolinguistics. Specifically, I am going to focus on the functions of code switching. “Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society” (Holmes 1). In sociolinguistics, code switching is derived from bilingualism and

multilingualism as a result of language contact in society because people usually switch two or more languages in speech act or discourse “Bilingualism is the ability to use two languages in varying degrees of proficiency and in different context, such as reading, writing, listening and speaking” <<http://www.answer.com/topic/bilingual>>. On the other hand, multilingualism deals with a number of languages spoken by individuals or a particular community. I choose this topic with the assumption that the result will make me aware of the phenomenon of code switching.

In general, the finding of the study can inform those who want to know the functions of switching languages. In addition, lecturers and students who deal with code switching can take the advantages from the result of this study. This study is significant because it can give some information about code switching as a various feature of bilingual societies and individuals about how to communicate with people who are able to speak more than one language. The study can give some informative inputs to those who want to carry on research in the same field with a certain interest.

This study will mainly observe the switching from English into Indonesian in a novel written by Niels Mulder, an independent anthropologist who did some research in Indonesia in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. He wrote about Indonesian culture, especially Javanese. I find in this novel that the writer often uses code switching to describe the Indonesian society and culture.

(708 words)

Statement of the Problem

This study is intended to analyze the code switching according to the following questions:

1. What is the function of code switching in the novel?
2. What is the significance of the use of code switching in the novel?

Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to find the answers from the questions above, namely:

1. To know the function of code switching in the novel.
2. To find out the significance of the use of code switching in the novel.

Method of Research

The method of research used in this thesis follows this procedure. Initially, I read a novel by Niels Mulder entitled Inside Indonesian Society (Cultural Change in Java), which provides me with the data needed for the analysis. The data I collect contain code switching. After I find the data, I classify them into the functions of code switching. Lastly, I analyze the data by using some theories from text books and electronic websites.

Organization of the Thesis

The thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problems, Purpose of the study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, Theoretical Framework is presented. Chapter Three covers the analysis and the discussion of the data. At the end of my thesis, I present the Bibliography and the Appendix. The Bibliography lists all the references that have been used to support my analysis. The Appendix consists of a table containing the data of the analysis.