#### **CHAPTER I**

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter is concerned about an overview of the language choice used by students of English Department at Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. This contains of background of the study, research question, research objectives, and significance of the research, scope and limitations, and definition of key terms.

# 1.1 Background of the Study

In this world, language is a necessary in human life. It functions as a tool of communication used by people in their life to make interactions. This dealing with J Aitchison's (2007:146) statement that human being is a social animal that needs to interact with others. As the social animal, humans have to use language along their life. No one can interact with others without using language. Everybody will never be able to stay away from using language. From waking up until going to bed again, people will not be able to count how many times they use language in a day. Thus, it is clear that language is very important for our life.

Ramelan stated in his book (Ramelan, 1992:25)," language and society are two components that cannot be separated and influence each other. In human's life language is very essential. It can be used to express the rules of communication". Everyone has known that language is very essential for human life, because language is the connector between the speaker and the hearer and it is the only one tool of communication that all of human beings use.

M Blank in (J Aitchison, 2007:147) said that human develops language in order to cope with everyday needs. Dealing with Blank, Holmes (2001:2) states that human uses language to ask for and give people information. While, Wardhaugh in his book (2006:1) states that language is what the members of particular society speak. Through these theories, the writer took two points that language has two important functions from a social point of view. First, it has important role in conveying information about the speaker's means to another's. Second, it establishes social relationship. This is as what Trudgill (1976:13) said that language is not simply a means of communication, information about the weather or any other subject. It is also very important means of establishing and maintaining relationship with other people. Simply, it can be underlined that language is very important for human life and it covers human's relationship.

Based on the statement above, it can be stated that language becomes necessary for every human around the world. However, human using language differently depends on the region or the domains they live. British use English as their language, Arabian use Arabic language, Indonesian use Indonesian language, Japanesse use Japanese language. Small regions like Java have Javanese, Madura has Madurese, Sunda has Sundanese and there are still many other languages in Indonesia as a local language.

Indonesia is a country whose territory is very vast. Its population consists of various ethnic groups with a variety of regional languages, as well as various cultural backgrounds. Because of these reasons, Indonesia is called a country rich in cultures. One of the richness of Indonesian culture is the area of language. Based on the data from <a href="https://www.badanbahasa.kemendikbud.go.id">www.badanbahasa.kemendikbud.go.id</a>, in 2015 there are about 7.102 languages spread around the world, while, in Indonesia it was registered that 707 languages are used by 221 million societies. It means that Indonesia approximately 10% of all languages in the world.

Nowadays, language has been developed and spread quickly. Many people can learn foreign language easily, and use it in daily activities. This case becomes phenomenon that someone unconsciously uses different language when they speak with another who has different mother tongue. It is occused because every person also has language choice and different

ways to communicate with each other. It is related to Grosjean's (1982: vii) statement in (Fathi, 2006:7), who said that "half the world's population is bilingual". Moreover, According to Thomason, bilingualism arises as a result of language contact. It may be stable, where the patterns of multilingualism are of long standing; or transitional, where bilingualism looks like a stage on the way to monolingualism towards the dominant language (Thomason 2001: 4).

Multilingualism is a condition when people use more than two languages to interact with other people by turns (Chaer and Agustine, 2004:85). In other words, students of English Department in State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya are multilingual society because they use more than two languages in daily activities, they are; Vernacular Language, National Language, and Foreign Language. This condition demands them to choose one of an understandable language to communicate with another person.

The phenomenon of language in context occurs towards the students of English Departments State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya become so complicated because there is more than one language used by them. This is complicated because they should choose an appropriate language when communicating with another. Furthermore, the speaker should determine the suitable code and variation. Thus, every

bilingual or multilingual people should choose one language (do language choice) in communication.

Holmes (2001:21) states, there are some factors that influence a person to use language choice, they are; to whom you are talking to, the social context of the talk, the function, and the last is the topic of the talk. In other sides, Sumarsono (2009:201) states, there are three kinds of language choice in sociolinguistic field; they are code switching, code mixing, and language variation. First, code switching is the speaker influenced by participants, topic, and situation. Second, code mixing is almost the same with code switching but it is usually appears in phrase and word. The last is variation within the same language, it is combining the same language between formal and informal form.

Hence, writer was interested in researching the language choice phenomenon occurred toward multilingual group society. Because the multilingual society is more complicated for choosing suitable language than monolingual or bilingual society

Here, the writer chooses the students of English Department at Faculty of Arts and Himanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. At least there were two supporting reasons for choosing the students of English Department as the subject of this research. First, students of English Department are multilingual society, because they use three languages (Vernacular Language, National Language, and Foreign

Language) in daily communication. Second, students of English Department are multilingual academic society. So, they should consider the context before choosing a language when communicatete to another, such as; the place (class or out of class or), situation (formal or nonformal), the addressee (lecturers or friends).

Based on the data gotten from the Head of English Department, per 30<sup>th</sup>March 2016 there are 590 people from different region which still listed as the students of English Department State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. However, the students from Java and Madura were more dominant than another, this can be seen in the daily activities of them, that Javanese and Madurese languages were used in often, besides of Indonesia and English. Dealing with this condition, in order get the maximum data, the researcher limited the subject of this study just from Madurese and Javanese students only.

### 1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the explanation stated in introduction or background of the study above, the researcher formulates the statement of the problems as follow:

1.2.1 What are the patterns of language choice used by students of English Department at Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya?

1.2.2 What are the reasons for used language choice among the students of English Department at Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya?

# 1.3 Objectives of The Study

Related to statement of the problem above, the objectives of the study are:

- 1.3.1 To identify the patterns of language choice used by students of English Department at Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya
- 1.3.2 To reveal the reasons for the use of language choices used by students of English Department at Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya

# 1.4 Significance of Conducting the Study

Mahsun stated in his book (2005:229) that the significance of conducting the research itself is to solve the problems that become the research focus. By doing this analysis, the researcher hopes he can reveals and shows to the readers especially to researcher him self about the using of language choice used by students of English Department at Faculty of

Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. The result of this study was expected to give the following benefits as below:

## 1.4.1 Theoretically

The writer expects this research could give the meaningful contribution to the studies in linguistic field, especially to enlarge the knowledge about language choice as part of sociolinguistic. Through this research the writer also expects can give information to the readers about language choice phenomenon among the students of English Department at Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya, especially for students of English Departments who study about it.

# 1.4.2 Practically

Practically, this research was expectsto give information about language choice phenomenon occurred to the students of English Department. As the multilingual society, students of English Department should choose the suitable language when they had conversation, based on the social factor. Finally, the writer hopes this study could become reference for the readers, especially for students who are interested in this topic and want to conduct further research.

## 1.5 Scope and Limitation

## 1.5.1. Scope

This study takes place in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. The scope of this study is the students of English Department at Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya which are from Java and Madura.

#### 1.5.2. Limitation

To avoid broader explanation in this research, here the writer limit the data of the research on the language choice used by students of English Department Faculty of Arts and Humanities, State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Hence, the writer decided to limit the data sources by the utterances of the English Department students which taken through questionnaire, interview, and observation in the field.

Moreover, the data randomly taken from some students in all semester as the respondents of the questionnaire, they are the students from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>,6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> semesters. The researcher took for about ten students as the subject of the reseach in each semester. It also included the way the students used and made language choice in their activity. However, The researcher observed before to clarify that they were qualify to be the simple of this research.

## **1.6 Operational Definitions**

Toavoid any misunderstanding and misinterpretation about the basic concepts of the study, here the researcher explained the definition and key terms are stated below:

- **1.6.1 Language choice:** the use of one language in one situation and another language in another situation depending on the prevailing social context. In addition Holmes (2013:22) states language choice is choosing a language that usually appears in many speech communities.
- 1.6.2 English Department students: Students of Faculty of Arts and Humanities at State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya who Take English Department
- **1.6.3 Multilingual**: A condition when people use more than two languages to interact with other people by turns (Chaer and Agustine, 2004:85).
- **1.6.4 Sociolinguistics:** The study about language which take relation to social condition (Sumarsono, 2009).