CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a basic aspect of human life. It has an important role in the process of social interaction. It is used in giving information, establishing and maintaining relationship with other people. It is the important thing to be known and understood by human in order to maintain the human relationship through doing communication. Wardhaugh stated that language is what the members of a particular society speak (Wardhaugh, 2006: 1). If there is no language in society, there will be nothing and if there is no society, the language will be nothing. So, there is a strong relationship between language and society as a human being who use the language. Thus, language and society may influence each other.

The different societies may have the different languages used or we call language varieties. Language variety can be caused by the social status, age, job or the environment. According to Holmes (1992: 245), 'The addresses and the context will affect our choice of code or variety, whether language, dialect or style.' From this statement, it can be stated that there are various reasons and factors that causes the various kinds of language. Language grows and develops in the society as the result of people's interaction with others.

In this world, there are so many kinds of people with having different background. They may have different job or occupation, different class, and different culture. Each of these differences will influence their language as well

as in used for their communication. Although the information or messages that they will show up is in the same topic, but the utterances that they will be used is having a specific differences and characteristics. It will show the variation in language as a result of people's interactions.

The study of language varieties in particular society can be called by register. Register is a part of Sociolinguistics study, which concerns in the language used in the particular group of people. Holmes stated that Sociolinguistics is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used. Examining the way people use language in different social contexts provides a wealth information about the way language works, as well as about the social relationships in a community (Holmes, 1992: 1). So, language in every community has special characteristic and context. It will show the identity of the user itself.

Register describes the language of groups of people with common interests or jobs, or the language used in situations associated with such groups, such as the language of doctors, engineers, journals, legalese, etc. The "register" concerns to a specific vocabulary. Register focuses on the sets of vocabulary items that is used by an individual or a group or a community in certain matter and certain purposes. Every language will has its function or purpose depend on the usage of its language. Sometimes one language that is used in one group has different pronunciation, writing, intonation and vocabulary with another languages.

According to M.A.K. Halliday "A register is a variety defined by reference to the social context. It is a function of what you are doing at the time. A register

is thus a variety of language which corresponds to a variety of situation, and should be viewed as a semantic concept. Since it is a configuration of meanings, a register must also, of course, include the expressions, the lexicogrammatical and phonological features that typically accompany or realize these meanings" (as cited in *Lewandowski,* 2010, *p.* 66). It means that a register has a strong relationship with the social context in a particular society. It brings the meaning which corresponded to some situations. It also contains the linguistic features in order the meanings.

Register in language shows the social characteristic of the participant of language. Different social interactions also become the factor of the different register in using language, such as the different language which is used by a lecturer in the class, a language which is used by a manager in the factory, or language by a mother in the house. They seem to have different register in their communication.

Register also can be used in particular society. It can be seen in the context of literary work, for example the drama which wrote by William Shakespeare *The Mechant of Venice*. The story was written in between 1596 and 1598. It tells about Bassanio who wanted to marry Portia but he did not have any money to propose her. To solve this problem, Bassanio asked to borrow some money from his friend Antonio. Antonio was a merchant, however, Antonio's ship was still in over the sea. He can not lend some money to Basanio because he did not yet has some money at that time. So Bassanio lend some money to the Jewish Shylock and made a bargain using Antonio names. In fact, Shylock hated Antonio because

Antonio was Chistian and Shylock was Jew. For some reasons and some secret purposes, finally Shylock agreed to lend some money for Bassanio. Immediately, the news reported that Antonio's ship lost at the sea. Automatically, he can not pay his debt to Shylock. After knowing this problem, Shylock took this opportunity to bring their problem to the court and tried to give punishment to Antonio.

The writer chooses the script of *The Merchant of Venice* because the content of the story is interesting. It shows the trading and the loaning issues happen in business community. The phenomena of trading and loaning activity become the popular and the familiar issues in this globalization era. These issues can not be separated with the people's interaction in their daily life.

The social background of the characters above is in the context of business society, which concern in merchandising area. Their social background will affect the language which is used in their communication. So, language that is used has the specific characteristic.

Some characters in *The Merchant of Venice* drama use their language in a specific purpose. The language which is used in this drama has specific terms and vocabularies about business context. The form of language in business communication will determine the proccess of a social interaction there, for example the words 'debt, congregate, merchant, bargains, etc, these are considered as the kinds of words which is used in business transaction.

Considering the problem above, the writer enthusiastically will focus on the study of register used by business community in the drama *The Merchant of*

Venice by William Shakespeare. The writer chooses this topic because the writer intends to do the research of register used by the characters as businessman through their occupation in the business community. This research is considered an interesting research because this community is commonly familiar with our society. Their language has an attractive feature to be used and to be known by us. This community can be found in many places and societies. They operate the common activity in our society's activities, so we will easy to understand and apply it.

Example:

> Bassanio: "*(......) To you, Antonio, I owe the most, in **money** and in love, and from your love I have a **warranty** to unburden all my plots and purposes how to get clear of all the **debts** I owe.*"

> Antonio: "*I pray you, good Bassanio, let me know it; and if it stand, as you yourself still do, within the eye of **honour**, be assured, my **purse**, my person, my extremest means, lie all unlock'd to your occasions.*"

The dialogue above shows that the characters talk about business transaction. Bassanio seems to have a cooperation with Antonio in solving his love story with making an agreement in business term. There are specific vocabularies about business on the dialogue above. It correlates with their occupation/job in business factor. The register which is found on the dialogue are the words *money, warranty, debts, honour,* and *purse*. These words considered as their register which give identity in their community.

The first word is the word *Money*. It represents a noun. Its meaning is the coins or bank notes that use to buy things, or the sum that have in a bank account. The second word is the word *Warranty*. It represents a noun. Its meaning is a

written promise by a company that, if you find a fault in something they have sold you within a certain time, they will repair it or replace it free of charge. The third word is the word *Debt*. It represents a verb. Its meaning is a sum of money that you owe someone. The fourth word is the word *Honour*. It represents a noun. Its meaning is a special award that is given to someone, usually because they have done something good or because they are greatly respected. The last word is the word *Purse*. It represent a noun. Its meaning is a very small bag that people, especially women, keep their money in. Then, the purpose of the used of these register is to show their identity to be a merchant or showing the background of their occupation as a merchant.

Based on the reason above, the writer is motivated to analyze the *register used by business community in William Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice'*. This research is conducted because the writer would like to know how the social context will influence the using of register in business community. Actually the drama used here happens in the society in the past era, but the phenomena which is showing up in this story still happens in this era, like the loaning issues. The context of register which is used there still can be applied in the real life. For example, in this time, there is still happen the loaning transaction which using interest in the loaning's agreement, and that issues are also happen in this drama. The writer also intends to show up the social value and the particular laguage which is used by the society at that time, especially in their register.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the statement of problems to be discussed in this research are:

1. What are the registers used by business community in William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*?

2. What are the factors that influenced the register used by business community in William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*?

3. What are the purposes of register by Business community in William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Related to the statement of the problems above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To identify the registers used by business community in William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.

2. To identify the factors that influenced the register used by business community William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.

3. To find the purposes of register by business community in William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is to enlarge an understanding of the term register used in the business community in William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* drama. This study provides for linguistics students to develop their knowledge in register and society included of it. Furthermore, this study is

expected to give very significant contribution for many people to enrich the understanding about the usage of language in the particular context and situation, especially in trading or loaning situation. The last, this study provides to develop a linguistics study which is concern in Sociolinguistics.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

The scope of this study is focused on the register used by business community in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare. This study is limited of the use of register, which is got from the utterances that is uttered by some characters in the drama. The limitation of the study is the register (specific vocabularies) used in William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venvice* as the kind of literary work.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation about the basic concepts used in this research, the writer would like to give some definitions of the key terms as follows.

1. Registers are sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social groups. (Wardhaugh, 2006: 52).

2. Business is activity of buying and selling; commerse or trade. (Oxford learner's pocket dictionary, 2008:55)

3. Community is a group of people which are working in very well, and they are

uncomfortable aggregating members into large categories like social class because they see how much internal variability there is within these groups. (Meyerhoff, 2006: 200)

4. Language is what the members of a particular society speak' (Wardhaugh, 2006:1)

5. Drama is an adaptation, recreation and reflection of reality on stage. (Onyeka, 2008: 3)