

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

In general, university students in particular, those of Soegijapranata Catholic University in Semarang come from different parts of Indonesia. Some of whom come from Cirebon. Cirebon is in West Java. It is between Jakarta and the border of Central Java and in the south of Cirebon is Bandung. This geographical area makes Cirebon people become multilingual. In addition, multilingualism that happens to the students from Cirebon (Cirebonese students) of Soegijapranata Catholic University in Semarang is because of the migration.

The Cirebonese students migrate from Cirebon to Semarang, Central Java, to continue their study. They live in a boarding house and the first time they come to Semarang, they make their own community whose members are only the Cirebonese. But then, after the class begins, they scatter and have a new group with friends who are in the same department. This situation influences the language that is used by the Cirebonese students when they talk to friends in college. The language they use will be different from the language they use when they talk to friends in their own community or friends from Cirebon. According to Holmes (2001, p. 52), this experience happens to the people who use a minority language in a place which has strong local language in society. This results to the Cirebonese's ability to speak

Javanese. Immigrant ethnic minorities often adopt the language of the host country in which they reside (May, 2001, p. 135). In this case, not a country but a province which has a strong local language.

The local language in Semarang is Javanese and the students from Cirebon who used to speak in Cirebonese do an adaptation in Semarang. They adapt to the language that most people use in Semarang. Thus, they have to decide to use what language when they have conversations in Semarang. Deciding language in conversation is known as language choice. As it is explained by Saville-Troike (1989, p. 50),

Language choice is Given the multiple varieties of language available within the communicative repertoire of a community, and the subset of varieties available to its subgroups and individuals, speakers must select the code and interaction strategy to be used in any specific context.

The Cirebonese have to decide the language and interaction strategies to be used in any specific context. When they talk to friends from Semarang, they may use Javanese. However when they gather with friends from Cirebon, they may use their own local language. In addition, when they are in the boarding house which has so many different people too, they may use another language.

The condition of different places and different people will affect the Cirebonese to decide what language that should be used too. It is called as the domain of language use. According to an American sociolinguist, Joshua Fishman, a domain involves typical interactions between typical participants in typical settings (as cited in Holmes, 2001, p. 21).

Typical interaction that happens to the Cirebonese is the topic of conversation. It would be different even when the Cirebonese talk to friends from the same hometown discuss about college and discuss about other things. Then, a typical participant is someone that has relation with closeness between the speaker and hearer. For example between the Cirebonese and their lecturers, the Cirebonese and their close friends, or between the Cirebonese and their new friends who come from another city in their boarding house. In the other words, it influences the addressee, whether they are parents, friends, lectures, or priests. Besides, there is also a typical setting which influences the places, for examples in the boarding house and faculty.

This condition makes the writer wants to know more about language choice that the Cirebonese students of Soegijapranata Catholic University in Semarang make in a certain domain. The domain includes the addressee, setting, topic, and the language that is used by the Cirebonese students of Soegijapranata Catholic University in Semarang in their daily interaction.

## **1.2 Field of the Study**

The field of the study in this research is Linguistics.

## **1.3 Scope of the Study**

This research is focused on analyzing the Cirebonese students' domains of Soegijapranata Catholic University in Semarang. It is part of sociolinguistics study.



#### **1.4 Problem Formulation**

There are two questions which are addressed in this study:

1. What languages can Soegijapranata Catholic University Semarang Cirebonese Students use?
2. What are the domains of Soegijapranata Catholic University Semarang Cirebonese Students?

#### **1.5 Objective of the Study**

There are two purposes from this study:

1. To identify languages that the Soegijapranata Catholic University Semarang Cirebonese Students can use.
2. To explore the Soegijapranata Catholic University Semarang Cirebonese Students' domains.

#### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

Cirebonese Students in Soegijapranata Catholic University Semarang are multilingual. They can speak Cirebonese, Indonesian, Sundanese, Betawi, and Javanese. As a result, they can choose a particular language in a particular situation or other words they make language choice. This research was conducted to find out the domains of language choice. It may contribute more knowledge on the language choice in Sociolinguistics field.

### 1.7 Definition of Terms

**Language choice** : The multiple varieties of language available within the communicative repertoire of a community, and the subset of varieties available to its subgroups and individuals, speakers must select the code and interaction strategy to be used in any specific context (Saville-Troike, 1989, p. 50).

**Cirebonese** : People who have residence in Cirebon.

**Domains** : Patterns of code choice in many speech communities (Holmes, 2001, p. 21).

