

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Most people know that there are only two varieties of English, namely British and American English. In fact, English has many kinds of varieties spread all over the world. English in every country has its own uniqueness, for example, English in Singapore which is known as Singaporean English. The uniqueness of Singaporean English is, for instance, it's (a) "messy grammar" or (b) some words' added at the beginning or at the end of a sentence.

For example : (a) Now what time?

(b) You can take it *lah*

Aiyoh , why so expensive?

However, because of the uniqueness of Singaporean English, it comes as an independent language that is acceptable in the world.

Singapore is one of the smallest countries in the world, but it is very influential to the world. Singapore is made up of 15% Malay, 76% Chinese, and 7% India (Tamil) (Jack, p. 135), It has four formal languages, they are English, Chinese, Melayu, and Indian. According to Wong (2014, p. 5) in 2000, 23.03% Singaporeans speak English as the dominant home language and in 2010, 32.29% Singaporeans' do. This

means that English used in Singapore has increased by 9% over the last decade.

Even though Malay language is a national language in Singapore, most Singaporeans do not speak Malay, Singaporean English is the main language spoken by Singaporeans, and it is used by most Singaporeans in their daily conversations.

The English used in Singapore has been influenced by a range of other languages, including various Chinese dialects, Malay and various Indian languages (Gupta, 1994) and because of that Singaporean English successfully become a part of English in the global world. English also makes Singapore connected with modernisation such as modern technology, education as well as access to the worldwide market.

Singaporean English is the Creole language that is used in both spoken and written form of English used in Singapore. It was caused by the arrival of English to Singapore, and it was affected by the Chinese dialect such as Hokkien, Cantonese, Teochew. Jack (2016) says that Singaporean English is known as a language for low prestige which makes Singaporean English an informal language. It is usually used by Singaporeans who are not fluent in English to communicate one with another.

The uniqueness of Singaporean English is interesting to investigate. One of the most obvious of Singaporean English is the grammatical characteristics. Many authors have observed that the grammar of

Singaporean English did not have a subject that makes a grammatical subject of a finite clause can be omitted(Gupta, 1994) the absence of subject and object pronouns where they might be expected in standard varieties of English (Tan, 2003). The grammar of Singaporean English has been influenced by other languages, such as Chinese, not only the structures but also the pronunciation that is identical with the Chinese language, there may be larger movement over the individual syllables in Singaporean English than in other varieties of English. It makes Singaporean English sound resemble to original tones of Chinese especially when speakers keep the original tones of words that are taken into Singaporean English from Chinese languages. Another feature strongly reminiscent of Chinese is the verbs which are often repeated.

However, there are two things that cannot be ignored by learning a foreign language. They are attitude and motivation. In learning a second language, it is important that students have high motivation and a positive attitude towards the target language. This is because many linguists have proven that motivation and attitude are closely related to determining the success of second language learning (Gardner & Lambert, 1972).

In this study, the writer wants to analyze the students' attitudes towards the grammar of Singaporean English as compared with their attitudes towards the Standard British English.

1.2 Field of the study

The field of the study is Sociolinguistics.

1.3 Scope of the study

The study focuses on the varieties of English, especially Singaporean English and the writer discusses the students' attitudes towards Singaporean English, whether they have positive or negative attitudes in learning Singaporean English

1.4 Problem Formulation

In order to get the results of this research, the following problem is formulated:

What are the students' attitudes towards Singaporean English?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The problem formulation above has a purpose to:

To find out the students' attitudes towards Singaporean English.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that the results of this study can deepen the readers' knowledge of varieties of English and hope the results may motivate the students of the Faculty of Language and Arts, Soegijapranta Catholic University to research more about other varieties of English used world widely.

1.7 Definition of Term

1.7.1 Grammar

Grammar is the structure that has parts of speech. Geoffrey Leech(1982) stated that grammar refers to the mechanism according to which language works when it is used to communicate. It can make us figure out that grammar is an important thing to communicate, in order to make people understand the context.

1.7.2 Attitude

Attitudes are kind of how someone reacts to something that influenced by environment. Attitudes vary with the linguistic background of the parents, indicating the parental variables could play a role in the language learning process through the students' attitudes (Lambert, 1991).

1.7.3 Singaporean English

Singaporean English is a language that Singaporean people used for daily conversation. According to Wong (2012), Singaporean English is different from the other three languages such as Malay, Tamil, and Chinese, in the sense of that not being an Asian language. It obviously does not represent any Singaporean racial group that as one of the most commonly used Singaporean English takes an important role.

1.7.4 Standard British English

Standard British English is the English language that is used in the United Kingdom as it is written and spoken.

