

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the study, problem of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key term.

A. Background of the Study

The great advancement in science and technology has touched many aspects of human life. Almost all people of different age groups are aware of the presence and influence of technology in the process of communication. One of the man gadgets is the mobile or cellular phone. Therefore, in the process of communication the different languages are used when they use that cellular phone. At least one can use the local (native) language plus the national (Bahasa Indonesia) and English as the international one.

Indonesia is a multicultural country and the emergence of local languages is inevitable among tribes. Consequently, Indonesians are at least bilingual since they master two languages, vernacular and Bahasa Indonesia. Moreover, it is not surprising if some Indonesians are bilingual and/or multilingual at the same time because of the foreign language learning. The more people master languages, the more their ability to switch and mix codes from one language into another language. Therefore, the phenomenon of code

mixing happens not only between local languages and Bahasa Indonesia, but also among local languages, Bahasa Indonesia and English.

The combination of technology and multilingualism may produce a new function for code mixing. In essence, multilingual texters should be able to choose the shortest words and phrases from each language, perhaps mixed together, to reduce the number of characters or amount of key pressing required to deliver a message due to the limited sign of the screen.

The most obvious linguistic features found in text messages (SMS) language is the use of language mixing. Of course, it is commonly done by those who are bilingual or multilingual. It seems that people who often send messages through the text message service of their cellular phones are fond of mixing their Bahasa Indonesia with vernacular language or even English. Furthermore, the definition of a bilingual itself is given by Spolsky (1998) namely a person who has some functional ability in the second language.¹

The condition of Indonesia with most of the people live in a bilingual or multilingual community will encourage the people to be able to speak with at least two different languages. In other words, the people can use even alternate more than one language. In this case, it is often known as code mixing. Code mixing is two languages use together by the conversant to extent that they change from one language into another the course of a single utterance.²

¹ B. Spolsky, *Sociolinguistics* (Hongkong: Oxford University Press, 1998), 45

² Miriam, Meyerhoff, *Introducing Sociolinguistic* (London: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2006), 120

Then, Holmes (1991) argues that the feature of bilingual speech such as interference, code mixing are normal phenomenon because bilinguals often find it easier to discuss a particular topic in one language rather than another. It means that the occurrence of code mixing cannot be avoided among bilingual and/or multilingual people.

The phenomenon of code mixing does not only occur orally in daily life situation through conversation but also in written through text. One of the many reasons is due to the presence of the product of technology like mobile phone, which is also widely known as cellular phone. Therefore, the most popular feature offered by cellular phone is Short Message Service (SMS) since the mobile technology has spread rapidly throughout the world faster than any other communication technologies and is now widely used everywhere. There are some reasons for this feature. First of all, it is mainly because of the cost that is much lower than the cost of calling. Secondly, this SMS normally allows the sender to write up to 160 characters per message. It is sufficient for a short greeting, content, and closing. Third, the message is sent instantly to the receiver much faster than the fastest means of sending a letter. Consequently, the phenomenon of sending messages through SMS is becoming more and more popular until the present time.

SMS, as defined within the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) as digital mobile phone standard, is a service which enables its users to send short text messages from one mobile phone to another, or to a mobile phone via the Internet (Segerstad, 2002). The widespread use of

cellular phones has led to the proliferation of messages sent using the SMS. The 160-character limit on text messages encourages the use of shortenings and other shortcuts of language in use. When bilingual or multilingual speakers use SMS, their access to multiple sources of vocabulary, sentence structure, and other language devices would appear to provide additional resources for addressing the character limits imposed in SMS, perhaps by increasing the available pool of short phrases and words.

Once, it should be noted that the normal capacity of the SMS is only 160 characters. There is one possibility that people may switch their languages for keeping the efficiency. It means that the senders want to save the charge by keeping the space so that it can contain a longer message. For example, the word 'kamu' needs four characters while 'u' will only spend one character. However, beside of keeping efficiency, there are the other factors behind the occurrence of code mixing.

In line with the descriptions above, i.e. the advancement and innovation of science and technology has been able to touch the human life in term of communication process by creating a mobile and they tend to send message than calling with various reasons whose messages contain code mixing because of the bilingual and/or *diglossia* situation they have, the present study was very much concentrated on exploring the using of code switching in mobile text messages. In this case, the writer focused on the types and the reason of code mixing used in SMS. In this study, the writer decided to design a problem to be researched with the title "CODE-MIXING IN

THE TEXT MESSAGES AMONG ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS
AND LECTURERS OF STAIN KEDIRI”.

B. Problem of The Study

Based on the background of the study above, the writer find a problem of the study as follow:

1. What are the types of code mixing found in text messages sent by English Department students and lecturers of STAIN Kediri?
2. What is the reason of the use of code mixing the in text messages sent by English Department students and lecturers of STAIN Kediri?

C. Objective of the study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the purpose of the study is:

1. To know the types of code mixing found in text messages sent by English Department students and lecturers of STAIN Kediri.
2. To know the reason of the use of code mixing the in text messages sent by English Department students and lecturers of STAIN Kediri.

D. Significance of the study

It is expected that the findings of the study are useful and relevant theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically

The findings of this study are expected to be useful for the readers especially for the college students who want to study more about sociolinguistics related to code mixing and code switching. They can enrich their insight about the types and processes of code mixing because this research provides the different phenomenon of code mixing. It is code mixing in text messages which most of people do it.

2. Practically

It is estimated that the results of the study can practically make a significant contribution to assert the importance way of using code mixing in the written text particularly in text messages. It is considered that the main feature of text messages that is limited on 160 characters per message can encourage the people to do code mixing in their texting in order to save the space.

E. Scope and Limitation

The process of communication is conducted in many ways depending on the sender and receiver of the message. One of the latest means of communication that most of the people have done is through the use of mobile phone with the term text messages that commonly called SMS.

Due to the limited space on the mobile screen and regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of the sending of messages and in term of the money spent, people use technology to simplify the process of communication.

Moreover, there are varieties of language being used in this feature like abbreviation, deletion of any vowel or consonant, emotion, even code switching. The present study was limited to address the use of code mixing in text message through mobile phone. In this case, the study was focused on the types and reason of using code mixing.

The data and the study were collected through documentation and interview. The writer notes the code mixing occur on text messages among English Department students and Lecturers of STAIN Kediri. The data collection was only Indonesian-English or English-Indonesian code mixing.

F. Definition of key term

To give the same perception to some words or phrases, definition of key term are used in this research to avoid misunderstanding on the part of the researcher. The researcher needs to define some key terms and give some clarifications about the terms used in this research.

1. Code : code is a system used for communication between two or more parties.³

³ Ronald, Wardhough, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistic* (USA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006), 86

2. Code Mixing: Code mixing is a mixing of two codes or languages, usually without a change of topic. This is quite common in bilingual or multilingual communities and is often a mark of solidarity, e.g. between bilingual friends or colleagues in an informal situation. Code mixing can involve various levels of languages, e.g. phonology, morphology, grammatical structure or lexical items.
3. Text Messages : is an electronic message sent over a cellular network from one cell phone to another by typing words, often in shortened form.