

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1. Background of Research

Language plays an important role in human communication. Many people convey their ideas through language. Wardhaugh (1972: 3) says, “Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication.” In this case, he defines language as the only means to communicate among people, not others. Although animals and trees can communicate each other, they cannot speak as human do.

Generally, English becomes one of the significant subjects at school. Even, English is used by the students in several schools for communication. For this research, the writer conducts a study on the role of English at Senior High School in Tugu Indramayu West Java. Tugu has been chosen by the writer, because she knows that Tugu has a unique dialect in using regional language, this is called Indramayu dialect.

As-sakienah Modern Boarding School is a bilingual school which uses Arabic and English for their educational language. Therefore, it has the jargon that English and Arabic are “the crown of the school”. Although the students use two languages, they still insert the pieces of other languages (Bahasa Indonesia and regional language) and mix those up in the language they used. Basically, the use of Bahasa Indonesia and regional language shall interfere the process of learning a foreign language. “To learn a new language is a very difficult task, as many people know, and in many ways it is even more difficult to learn a different

dialect of one's own language – because they are so similar, it is difficult to keep them apart” (Trudgill, 1974: 74).

Students who learn a foreign language may not eliminate their first and second languages, because those are dominant to use than foreign language. Although they can learn foreign language well, the first language (regional language) and second language (Bahasa Indonesia) shall influence the foreign language they learn. These shall cause interference. The data are taken from the bilingual students who are used to speak English every day. Sometimes, the students speak with incorrect pronunciation at the conversation. For example when a student said:

“Eh yes, haven't pay yes for the competition and language section.”

Her pronunciation is

/eh/, /jes/, /həpnt/, /pai/, /jes/, /fɔ:(r)/, /də/, /kɒmpə'tiʃn/, /ənd/, /'leŋwidʒ/, /'sekʃn/.

In the above conversation, the word “haven't” is pronounced as /həpnt/, which is incorrect. It must be /həvnt/. This is a language mixing with another as an effect of bilingualism. This term is called interference. Interference is a deviation of the norms of either language which occur in the speech of bilinguals as a result of their familiarity with more than one language (Weinreich cited in Wolfson, 1989: 141).

In this case, the student pronounced /v/ with /p/. This is the interference which occurs in phonological level. The deviation is caused by Javanese language (regional language). In fact, the students use phoneme /p/ in phoneme /p/, /v/, and

/f/ in English word. They usually mispronounce the English words because of the unfamiliarity.

Interference occurs in bilingual community. The bilinguals use two languages in their conversation. Compound bilingual students will mix language with another. Sometimes, it is caused by regional language. Rickford (Mckay, 1996: 162) says, “regional dialect differences arise for various reasons. One factor is the influence of geography itself. A river, a mountain range, or an expanse of barren land can serve to keep two populations apart.”

Indramayu lies in the North Coast Strip (*jalur pantura*). Indramayu regency borders with Java Ocean, Cirebon regency, Majalengka regency, Sumedang regency, and Subang regency. It is crossed by the North Coast Strip or *pantura* strip. Indramayu uses some languages, they are: Javanese, Sundanese, and Bahasa Indonesia. This mixing occurs, because Indramayu borders with other cities. Indramayu borders with Majalengka, Cirebon, and Subang which use Javanese language. Therefore, in Indramayu, Javanese language is dominant to use than other language. This, usually, causes the bilingual students to insert Javanese language into English.

Therefore, the writer will analyze the above problem. The writer entitles this research “**Language Interference in English Sentences (A Case Study of Bilingual Students in As-sakienah Modern Boarding School).**”

1.2. Statements of Problem

In a modern Islamic boarding school, students obliged to use two languages (Arabic and English) everyday. They might not be able to eliminate the influence of first and second language into the English language they used. Such obstacles can be called as the interference. From these statements, the writer conducts the study choosing language interference at the school to be analyzed.

To avoid far-ranging discussion, a limitation of the study is essential to be clarified. The research questions as follow:

- 1) What kinds of interference (if any) are experienced by As-sakienah students in English conversation and test material?
- 2) What are the causes of the interference?

1.3. The Purpose of Research

Based on the above statement of problems, the writer tries to find out the two purposes of this research, they are:

- 1) To know the kinds of interference experienced by As-Sakienah students in their conversation and test material.
- 2) To know the causes of interference.

1.4. Significance of Research

The result of the study is expected to give contribution, especially for students to improve their language skill, both in English conversation and text translation. It is also expected to help teachers in transferring the knowledge of

English grammar to the students. So, it can minimize students' grammatical error and language interference.

1.5. Procedure of Research

1.5.1 Method of Research

In accordance with the field of observation, this research applies the qualitative case- study as a method. A case study is a detailed examination of a single subject, a single depository or document, or one particular event, or an examination of specific phenomenon such as a program, an event, a person, a process, and institution, or a social group (Merriam, 1988: 9).

Wilson in Merriam (1988: 11) conceptualizes the case study as a process, which tries to describe and analyze some entity in qualitative, complex, and comprehensive terms not in frequency as it unfolds over a period of time. Whereas Becker (1968) in Merriam (1988: 11) told that the purpose of case study is twofold: 1) to arrive at comprehensive understanding of the groups under study; 2) to develop general theoretically statement about regularities in social structure and process.

1.5.2 Site of Research

The site of this research is As-sakienah Modern Boarding School Tugu Indramayu West Java, located in Jl.Raya Tugu Po Box 01 Balongan Sliyeg-Indramayu. The students in this school, use two languages: Arabic and English in a daily conversation to communicate with each other.

1.5.3 Participants

From the whole 12 students of the twelfth grader (third grade of senior high school), the writer only takes six students originally come from Indramayu. They are considered proper for this study, since they speak Bahasa Indramayu as their mother tongue.

On the other hand, the writer asked the headmaster of this school, called *Mudir*, to get information about the profile of As-Sakienah Boarding School. The data of this research are taken from the students and have been selected for the purpose of this research.

1.5.4 Technique of Collecting Data

In collecting required data of this research, the writer uses observation technique, because the writer sees students' activity at the boarding school. Based on Merriam (1988: 87) "observation is the best technique to use when an activity, event, or situation can be observed first-hand, when a fresh perspective is desired, or when participants are not able or willing to discuss the topic under study." It often enables you to draw inferences about someone's meaning and perspective that you could not obtain by relying exclusively on interview data (Maxwell, 1941: 78).

Several writers in Merriam (1988: 90) present list of things to notice, at least to get started in the activity. The elements likely to be present in viewing

are as follows: 1) The setting; 2) The participants; 3) Activities and interaction; 4) Frequency and duration; and 5) Subtle factors.

1.5.5 Technique of Analyzing Data

Since the findings shall be various, the writer uses categorizing technique to analyze data of this research. Coding is the main categorizing strategy. Coding is also not to find out the data with counting, but to classify the data and categorize it. Then, the data are compared with theoretical concepts.

In qualitative research (Maxwell, 1941: 78-79), in contrast, the goal of coding is not to produce counts of things, but to “fracture” (Strauss, 1987: 29) the data and rearrange it into categories that facilitate the comparison of data within and between these categories and that aid in the data development of theoretical concepts.

1.6 Clarification of Key Terms

- a. **Interference** is a deviation of the norms of either language which occur in the speech of bilinguals as a result of their familiarity with more than one language (Weinreich cited in Wolfson, 1989: 141).
- b. **Formal Conversation** is the conversation refers to the time, place and situation. The conversation is obliged twice a week at Sunday and Thursday. It consists of two students in pairs. The students must talk in the proper manner, because the teacher supervises them.

- c. **Non-formal Conversation** is the contrary from formal conversation. Non-formal conversation is a daily conversation, which does not refer to the place, time, and situation. The students can talk each other without a pair.
- d. **Test Material** is an exercise in some Indonesian sentences which have to be translated into English well. It consists of six sentences.
- e. **Boarding School** is a school where children can live during the term or semester and going home during the holidays. (Hornby, A.S., 2000: 126)
- f. **Case study** is a detailed examination of a single subject, a single depository or document, or one particular event, or an examination of specific phenomenon such as a program, an event, a person, a process, and institution, or a social group. (Merriam, 1988: 9)
- g. **Bilingual Student** is the student who is able to speak two languages equally well. (Hornby, A.S., 2000: 108)

1.7 Organization of Paper

- a. Chapter one involves background of problem, statement of problem, purpose and significance of research, conceptual framework, and procedure of research: method; site of research; participants; technique of collecting data; and technique of analyzing data.
- b. Chapter two presents the literature review related data of research.
- c. Chapter three provides methodology of research detailing method that used in this research, the participants of this research.

- d. Chapter four presents the data analysis related to the finding and discussion of this research.
- e. Chapter five involves the conclusion and suggestion.



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