

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some basic notions of the research. They are background of the research, statement of problem, research objectives, research significance, organization of the writing, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Sociolinguistic is one of a field of language change studies. Borrowing is known as one of topics regarded significance in influencing the changes that take place in many domains of the English language. Generally speaking, is a production of new words primarily initiated by the appearance of a new object or notion. Therefore, word formation is a progress for the purpose of identification, for example naming of new entities in the material world and new concepts which broaden our knowledge and awareness of social and natural environment.

A great number of new words are created in the process of language change. One of the processes is borrowing. Wardaugh states on text, “borrowing is part of language change such as internal and external, internally changes include in phonology, morphology, and syntax while externally change brought through borrowing (1998:189)”.

Borrowing is the process of importing linguistic items from one linguistic system into another, a process that occurs any time two cultures are in contact over

a period of time (Hoffer:1924). The study of the process of borrowing emphasized items from the linguistic systems such as vocabulary, phonology, grammar. Previously, an emphasis has been given to the study of borrowing of other elements in communication systems. As Hoffer describes the topic overlaps with a number of disciplines also concerned with the study of humans and their communication, such as the fields of anthropology, sociology, and psychology.

The case of borrowing words commonly happens in socio cultural situation. We know English is a universal and international language for interaction and communication with different peoples around the world. Beside, language also symbolize the identity of a country. English directly becomes a language for people's interaction in the world. If we compare deeply, not all countries which use English as the first language has the same characteristics, such as American and British English, both of the English language have their own characteristics.

Likewise, when English in some countries used as the second language, it does not used in a uniform way. It can be seen in particular in some countries of Asia like Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Philippines, that performed different English dialect.

Take the case in Singapore is a multi-ethnic country for the three main ethnic groups and English serves as an interethnic lingua franca. The first languages of most Singaporeans are Mandarin, Chinese dialects (*Hokkien, Teochew, Cantonese*), Malay, and Tamil. Since Singaporeans were educated in English, they speak fluently in English. However, Singapore English can be classified into two. There are Singapore Standard English (SSE) and Singaporean English.

Singapore uses English as the national language. In using English as the important and formal language for communication, English is also used as the informal everyday language known as Singaporean English. According to Cheng & Tay (2002:14), nearly half of all Singaporeans can speak two or more languages and almost everyone understands English. She argues that the small country which was colonized by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1819 was made up by three main ethnic groups; there are Chinese (77%), Malays (14%), and Indians (8%). The other minority ethnic group, the Eurasians makes up 1% of the population.

Singaporean English is the English based on creoles spoken and written colloquially in Singapore. Although English is the lexical language, Singaporean English has its unique slang and syntax, which are mostly used in informal speech.

The phenomenon of borrowing in Singaporean English can be found in many forms including on media. Sitcom as the media and subject of this research serves a daily conversation Singaporean people. It contains a unique slang, dialect and phonetic in English speaks. *Phua Chu Kang* serial will be the object of this research.

A previous study has been conducted by Juherti (2012) in analyzing *English Borrowing Words in Newspaper (A Descriptive Study on asal usul coloumn in Kompas newspaper)*. In this research, the researcher focuses on finding out Singaporean English phrases or expressions which contain borrowing words and reconstructing those phrases into standardized English. In this study, the researcher takes the data of Singaporean English words from sitcom to be discussed under the

title *The Analysis of Singaporean English Borrowing Words in “Phua Chu Kang” Sitcoms.*

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Singaporean English has its own structure and characteristics which are different from Standard English. Singaporean English is no more allow in Singapore for communication with one another. Therefore, here we will find out the characteristics of Singaporean English phrases or expressions which contain borrowing words. Based on the description above, this study focuses on find out Singaporean English phrases or expressions which contain borrowing words which the researcher observes from *Phua Chu Kang* sitcom. The researcher focuses on the following questions:

1. Which phrases or expressions of Singaporean English contain borrowing words found in *Phua Chu Kang* sitcom?
2. What is the Standard English for those Singaporean English phrases or expressions?

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## **1.3 Research Objectives**

Based on the problems of the study, this research is intended:

- a. To find out the phrases or expressions of Singaporean English contain borrowing words in *Phua Chu Kang* sitcoms.
- b. To identify the Standard English for those Singaporean English phrases or expression.

#### **1.4 Research Significance**

There are so many significances of this research, but the researcher classifies into two types based on one theory. According to (Jauhari, 2010: 103), there are some benefits which can be produced from the result of research. Those are theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, this research can give good contributions for the researcher and the readers to develop their knowledge on the correlation about word structure especially in term of borrowing words.

Practically, this research gives an alternative to know and recognize types of Singaporean English used in communication. It also will give a reflection on how Singaporean peoples use English as the formal and informal speech for communicate.

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#### **1.5 Organization of Writing**

This paper is organized into five chapters. The first chapter focuses on the introduction which consist of background of problem, statement of problem, research objectives, research significance, organization of the writing, and definition of key terms.

The second chapter is theoretical foundation which consists of some theories that has a relation and can support this research. The theories are borrowing, Singaporean English and Standard English.

The third chapter research method which consists of research design, sample of data, source of data, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

The fourth chapter is findings and discussion and in this chapter the researcher concerns on the borrowing words found in serial *Phua Chu Kang* sitcom. In the first step, the researcher finds out the phrases or expressions which contain borrowing words and reconstructs it using Standard English. Besides, this chapter concerns on the answer of two statements problem based on theories in chapter II.

The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion. This chapter focuses on the conclusion based on the result of data analysis and in this chapter the researcher provides recommendation.

#### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

In this chapter, the researcher explains the definition of key terms which are used in this research. To avoid misunderstanding about the terms, some of the key terms are defined as below:

- a. Borrowing: is a natural process of language change whereby one language adds new words to its own lexicon by copying those words from another language.

- b. Singaporean English: is an English based creoles or patois spoken colloquially in Singapore which commonly used in informal speech or daily conversation.
- c. Singapore: a small country which has a total land area 650 square kilometers and consists of three main ethnic groups, such as Chinese, Malay and Indian.  
(Cheng, Tay 2002:20)
- d. Standard English: is an English language which contains grammatical rules, syntax, and the pronunciation universally understood.

