

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statement of the research problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In communication, people use different kinds of languages when they talk with different people in different situation. Everyone speaks at least one language, and probably most people in the world speak more than one. Certainly no one talks exactly the same way at all times. People will use different way when they talk with different people like parents, friends, servants and so on. It means that language vary in many ways.

The study of language variation is important as the part of sociolinguistics. It is because languages vary from one place to another, from one social group to another, and from one situation to another. Linguists commonly use language variety as a cover term for any of the overlapping subcategories of a language. There are eight kinds of language varieties such as acrolect, basilect, vulgar, jargon, slang, colloquial, cant, and argot (Labov, cited by Chaer and Agustine, 2004: 66).

The writer is interested to do research about sociolinguistics especially language variety because the variation of language is always

developed in the society everyday. From those several kinds of language varieties, the writer decided to focus the research in argot since the sense of argot basically means the secret language that is used by particular group which aims to prevent outsiders from understanding their conversation. It is used by outlaws or criminal cases such as terrorists, robbers, kidnappers, gamblers, drug users and so on. Those informations made the writer to be interested and curious about what were the words that probably used to hide the real meaning.

Since the community of drug users are getting wider in the society, the writer narrows the research on the argot that is used by drug users. The society also get curious about the secret languages using by drug users to make others not realize that they are talking about something illegal. Related to the matters above, drug users community and their language were chosen as the subject of this study.

The other reason why the writer chose drug users as the subject of this study was because the writer was familiar with drug users who lived around her, the writer sometimes heard a conversation between two people or more, but what they were talking about did not make sense with the context and the writer cannot catch what they were really talking about. For example there was a man said “My *becak* is out of stock” since *becak* in literal meaning is a three-wheel vehicle and it is impossible for a *becak* to be out of stock. In fact, *becak* here means crystal meth.

Taking drug users as the subject of this study is easier than drug dealer since a drug dealer only known by particular people. Drug users' utterances also have much varieties because there are so many member of drug users and each community of drug users have their own argot.

Some studies have found related to argot, but these studies are very limited, both in quantity and scope of the study. Previous studies have been found like that was done by Irwan Nugata (2009) which was about Broker Argot in Terminal Ketapang, Dadang Fernandy (2012) which was about Maduresse Argot of Young Adult Community in Larangan Luar Village, and Muhammad Musabbih (2014) which was about Blaters' Argot in Socah Village Bangkalan. Those studies discussed the argot that are used by other community beside drug users. The study which used drug users as its subject of study has not existed yet. Therefore, to cover the vacant space of the previous research, the writer conducted the research entitled "An Analysis of Drug Users' Argot in Kamal District Bangkalan".

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Based on the background above, the problem can be formulated into two research questions, those are:

1. What are the characteristics of argot found in drug users' community in Kamal district Bangkalan?

2. What are the purposes of using argot in drug users' social interaction in Kamal district Bangkalan?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

From the research questions above, it can be seen that the author intends to:

1. To explain the characteristics of argot used by drug users in Kamal district Bangkalan.
2. To explain the purposes of using argot in drug users' social interaction in Kamal district Bangkalan.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide not only theoretical significance, but also practical significance. Theoretically, people are expected to have better understanding about argot words used by drug users, especially in Kamal district Bangkalan. The readers understand that the linguistics process can happen around ours and indirectly foster the readers' interest in producing other linguistics paper which is better than this. Moreover, the result of the study become a reference for those who want to know about the drug users' argot and for the linguistics students and teacher who are willing to know further about the background used of argot. Practically, the writer hopes that this research can give benefit for people

who live around the drug users such as police, so they will get more knowledge about Argot used by drug users.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer conducted research within the domain of Sociolinguistics which concerned about language variation and focused on the conversation that occurred among drug users in Kamal district Bangkalan.

The writer limit the data only the argot using by drug users, especially the drug users who are in Kamal district, Bangkalan regency, Madura Island, East Java, Indonesia.