

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

To share their ideas, feelings, or desires, a certain group of people often use a language based on their occupation or profession. In this case, different group of people use different types of language. In sociolinguistics study, this phenomenon is identified as language variation. Language variation is a variety of language as a set of linguistics items with similar social distribution (Hudson, 1980: 24). This statement clarifies that language variation exist because of social divisions. The members of a social group in society use their own variety of language. In society, social group between speakers based on age, socio-economic class, occupation or profession, differentiates one group of people from another group in terms of the language they use. It means that a group of people, who have the same social class, use their own specific language to speak among the members of their group. For instance, people who belong to politics field, often use political terms in making communication within them.

In daily life, we find varieties of language in practice. Register is one of language varieties. Register is characterized by particular vocabularies. Hence, it is difficult to understand by the common people, because register is familiar only to a certain group of speakers. In fact, register has various groups of speakers. The speakers of register can be doctors, nurses, pilots, teachers, politicians and

etcetera. Hudson states that register is widely used in sociolinguistics to refer to 'varieties according to use', in contrast with dialects, defined as 'varieties according to user' (1980:48). This quotation shows that register is a specific language that is used by its speaker based on their activity. Hence political register is a specific language commonly used by politicians as its speakers.

Generally, the vocabularies on politics are not easy to understand by the people who have no relation with politics. For instance, the words such as *legislative*, *congress*, *reconciliation*, and etcetera, have specific meanings related to a specific field, namely politics. Consequently, those who have no concern with politics find some difficulties to understand them.

Political register is mainly used when the members of the politics join a political event or political dialogue. They also use the register when they have a conversation with someone of the same profession. This research is done to reveal the use of the political register in internet. Some words belonging to political register taken from internet are as the following:

1. Following *constitutional mandate*, states are required to redraw their congressional districts every 10 years.
2. Republicans gain control of the state legislature in 2002, he promoted as second redistricting proposal for *congressional boundaries*.
3. The Iraqi governments try to start negotiations after the Iraqi prime minister's presentation on Sunday of a limited plan for *reconciliation*.

The three examples of political registers above prove that the political register consist the particular vocabularies which provide specific meaning. The meaning of political register is different from the common meaning. Hence, the people who have no relation with politics may misunderstand these words. Further, it needs a specific analysis to find its meaning either conducting the dictionary of politics or consulting someone who understands politics. As shown in the examples of political register above, the term *constitutional mandate* means the authority to do something. The term *congressional boundary* means a great formal meeting, which is followed by the members of the parliament. While *reconciliation*, belongs to register based on an activity which means an end to the disagreement and the start of a good relationship again. The researcher finds more examples of political registers which will be discussed in the further discussion.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

There are many varieties of language. Register is one of the language varieties. The researcher is interested in analyzing political register as the topic of this research for some reasons. Firstly, the researcher wants to show the readers the political register commonly found in internet. Secondly, the researcher wants to enlarge and improve her knowledge about political register and its usage in communication. Thirdly, the researcher wants to contribute something valuable for the important role of register in language study.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

In conducting the research on the use of political register in internet, the researcher formulates two problems to discuss. They are as follows:

1. What are the kinds of political register commonly found in internet?
2. What are the meanings of the political register commonly found in internet?

1.4 The Objective of the Study

In line with the topic of the study, this research is aimed to solve two problems as stated above, namely:

1. To identify the kinds of political register commonly found in internet.
2. To explain the meanings of the political register commonly found in internet.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

There are many linguistics branches in studying language such as phonetics, morphology, sociolinguistics and etcetera. Phonetics studies the sound of a language; morphology studies the morphemes, while sociolinguistics studies the language use in a society. In sociolinguistics, there are many discussion of studying language in the society such as the dialect, idiolect, speech community, variety of language, register, slang, jargon, and etcetera. This research focuses only on register, especially register of politics.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

Generally, the researcher hopes that this research may give the readers valuable information about the use of political registers in internet. Theoretically, this research can help the readers to develop and increase their ability about English especially the use of political registers. This research is also performed in order to contribute much more information about registers as a sociolinguistics phenomenon. Besides, this research is also an attempt for the researcher herself to apply some of linguistic theories formerly studied in class. Moreover, the result of this research may stimulate other researchers to do some other researches on the same topic.

1.7 The Meaning of Key Terms

In order to make clearer in this study, the researcher gives the meanings of key terms as the following:

1. Sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society (Hudson, 1980:1).
2. Register is related to the language of the groups of people with common interest or jobs, or the language used in certain situation by certain groups (Holmes, 1994: 276).
3. Politics is activity within particular group or organization by which some members of the group try to gain an advantage over others (Hornby, 2000: 971).

4. Internet is an international computer network connecting other networks and computer from companies, universities, and etcetera (Hornby, 2000: 722).
5. Political registers are the vocabularies of the political field, which have the particular meanings.