

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In a multilingual country, like Indonesia, people commonly switch from one language into another in conversation. To conduct switches from the mother tongue or native language into Indonesian, the national language, is frequently heard in daily conversations. Today, we even hear Indonesian youths, especially those living in cities, switching between English and Indonesian in their discourses. These switches are called code-switching, a change by a speaker or writer from one language to another in the middle of their discourse or sometimes even in the middle when producing sentences (Hoffmann, 2014). They use code switching in informal situations and the addressees have the closed-relationship with them. It could be their parents, friends, boyfriend/girlfriend. As a national language, Indonesian is used in formal situations such as in a national meeting. In linguistics, code switching is concurrent use of more than one language or language variety in conversation. Code switching can be found in spoken and written language. Code switching in written language can be found in newspaper, magazine, novel, etc. In spoken language can be found in teaching and learning process, television program such as talk show, quiz, and movies.

Nowadays, the international language unity is English. In Indonesia, English becomes one of compulsory subjects at all of levels of education where English is

taught as a foreign language/EFL classroom. This is what makes English students in Indonesia, especially at the Widya Mandira Catholic University Kupang, accustomed to use English in class and outside the classroom. As the multilingual society, they often use Indonesian as their daily language in class and outside. However, as a multilingual society sometimes they find the situation that makes them to speak Indonesian or any other language. So unconsciously they have done code switching. Beside the situation, there are other things that make them do code switching, such as who they talk to, what topics are discussed, and other functions. Therefore, the researcher wants to conduct a research about learners' code switching in group discussions.

There are several similar studies regarding code switching which are the references for writer to conduct this research such as, research on code switching in the learning process, research on code switching in a talk show on TV, or research on code switching in a novel. In previous research, researchers examined code switching related to the types of code switching, functions of code switching, and factors of code switching. So, this is the reason for researchers to research on code switching. However, in this study the writer examined the types of code switching and its functions in group discussions. The difference between this study and the previous study is that the researcher also found out the relationship between the types and the functions of the code switching performed by the 6th semester students of Widya Mandira, Kupang Catholic University. In addition, researchers also have a different method from previous studies, where

the researcher had a review with the participants to get valid results after the data was analyzed.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on explanation above, the research has three questions to be answered:

1. What are the types of code switching performed by the 6th semester students of English Education of Widya Mandira Catholic University Kupang in group discussions?
2. What are the functions of the use of code switching performed by the 6th semester students of English Education of Widya Mandira Catholic University Kupang in group discussions?
3. What are the relationships between types and functions performed by the 6th semester students of English Education of Widya Mandira Catholic University Kupang in group discussions?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problems mentioned above, the objective of this study aimed at finding out:

1. The types of code switching performed by the 6th semester students of English Education of Widya Mandira Catholic University Kupang in group discussions.
2. The possible function of code switching performed by the 6th semester students of English Education of Widya Mandira Catholic University Kupang in group discussions.

3. The relationship between types and functions performed by the 6th semester students of English Education of Widya Mandira Catholic University Kupang in group discussions.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to enrich theoretical perspective on code switching, used by the 6th semester students of English Education of Widya Mandira Catholic University in group discussions, especially how to analyze the utterance using code switching theory. Practically, this study may be employed to help readers in analyzing code switching that is used in group discussions. It is also expected to provide empirical source for further researchers and the readers who concern sociolinguistic studies. It is also expected that this study would be more developed by those who are interested in the field of sociolinguistics especially in code switching.