

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some aspects underlining the topic of the study. It include background of the research, problems of the study, the objective of the research, the operational definition of the terms, the significance of the research, and the limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is one of communication systems which are used by people in life. Without using language, people will get difficulty to communicate one another. Cook (2008:1) states that Language is important for human life. We use it to show our love or our hatred, 'to achieve our goals and further our careers, to gain artistic satisfaction or simple pleasure, to pray or to blaspheme'. Through language we plan our lives and remember our parts; we create our social identity and our people. Language is the most unique thing about human beings.

According to Edgar (2011) in Mustofa (2017:2) "English as an international language has been used by all people in the world". English also has an important role in every aspect of human life every day, such as in communication, transferring information, science, education, technology and also a business. Many people believes that English is useful for them. Additionally, Kannaovakum and Gunther (2003:66) argue that English is not a national language or official language in Thailand; however, it is considered the most important for Thailand. Many Thai

people believe that knowing English can help people gain more opportunities, academic achievements and social and economic benefits, which has led to English becoming an influential factor in everyday lives.

Most Thai people use English to communicate with other countries. The popularity and importance of English in the contact between English and Thai is unavoidable bringing about the phenomenon of language switching and mixing (Yiamkamnuan, 2010 in Papijit, 2013:2). Since English came to Thailand, that English has blended into Thai daily interactions, Thai people tend to use more English words in Thai contexts and the expansion in education and economic development. Prasithrathsint (1997) in Papijit (2013:2) stated that most people in Thai society are either bilingual or multilingual. They can understand and speak many languages and switch or mix them causing one language to influence the others and the people easy to many aspect of human life.

People who master in two languages are called bilinguals, and people who master more than two languages are called multilingual. According to Zentell (1997) in Mustofa (2017:1) 'a bilingual person is someone who can speak two languages, a person who speaks more than two languages is called multilingual'. A person it is possible to understand and use three, four, or ever more language fluently.

Moreover, in bilingual and multilingual community, potentially people will use two or more codes to communicate to make others understand what they say. In every interaction, people usually choose different code in different situation. There are two kinds of code; code switching and code mixing. Code switching is an

important tool of bilingualism or multilingualism. Anyone in the society knows more than one language and able to speak more than one language chooses between them according to circumstances. Additionally Code-mixing occurs when speaker fluent-bilingual without any change in situation. (Ahmad et.al., 2015:47).

Furthermore William (2004) in Ahmad et.al. (2015:47) states that code-switching is used to change from informal situations to formal situations. In addition, code switching is switching two language or more in the same sentence or discourse. Whereas in code mixing, speakers mix one language with other language and must be smaller than clause (word or phrase). In relation to that, Many Thai students are studying in English language education at University of Muhammadiyah Jember often use code switching and code mixing in formal and informal communication. It is because they can have easier communication and understanding.

Based on the explanation above, the phenomenon of code switching and code mixing made the researcher interested in conducting the descriptive research entitled “The use of code switching and code mixing in communication of Thai students at University of Muhammadiyah Jember”.

1.2 Problems of the Research

Based on the background of the research that has been explained above, the problems of the research can be formulated as follows:

1. Do the Thai students use code switching and code mixing in communication?
2. What types of code switching and code mixing in communication used by Thai students at University of Muhammadiyah Jember?

3. Why do the Thai students use code switching and code mixing in communication?

1.3 Objective of the Research

According to the problems of the study that have been stated above, the objective of the research are as follows:

1. To describe yes or not the Thai students use code switching and code mixing in communication.
2. To describe the types of code switching and code mixing in communication used by Thai students at University of Muhammadiyah Jember.
3. To describe the Thai students use code switching and code mixing in communication.

1.4 Operational Definition of the Terms

To get a definitive understanding of the concepts of this study, the following operational definition of the terms is given:

1.4.1 Code Switching

Code switching is speakers change from one language into other language, clause or sentence.

1.4.2 Code Mixing

Code mixing is speakers mix the one language with other language and smaller than clause (word or phrase).

1.5 Significance of the Research

Theoretically, the result of this study is expected to students of the study in sociolinguistic, especially in code switching and code mixing.

1.6 Scope of the Research

The scope of this research is focused on describing the types and the use of code switching and code mixing out the classroom by Thai students at University of Muhammadiyah Jember. Thai students come from Thailand who get scholarship in studying at English language education on eleven students from south of Thailand at University of Muhammadiyah Jember Academic year 2013-2017.

