CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the key term.

1.1 Background of the Study

Sociolinguistics is a study of language and society. Chambers (in Wardhaugh) stated sociolinguistics is the study of the social uses of language (2006:11). Furthermore, Wardhaugh states that sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the goal being a better understanding of the structure of language and of how languages function in communication (2006:13). Language and society cannot be separated.

Language is important tool for human to communicate. Sapir (in Mesthrie et.al, 2000:1) states language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols. These symbols are, in the first instance, auditory and they are produced by the so-called ‘organs of speech’. Human needs language to interact to each other. Without language, people will have difficulty in communicating. Certain individuals may have same language or dialect or language variety. It is called speech community. Wardhaugh described that speech community is some kind of social group whose speech characteristics are of interest and can be described in a coherent manner (2006:119).
People need language to interact. There are many kind of language in the world. Language has varieties because of the different society, geography, and culture. Hudson (in Wardhaugh, 2006) states that a variety of language as a set of linguistic items with similar distribution. Language varieties make the language unique and interesting. Register is one of language varieties.

According to Hallinday and Hasan (in Mesthrie et.al, 2000:71),

Register is what you are speaking at that time, depending on what you are doing and the nature of the activity in which the language is functioning. So whereas, in principle at least, any individual might go through life speaking only one dialect (in modern complex societies this is increasingly unlikely; but it is theoretically possible, and it used to be the norm), it is not possible to go through life using only one register. The register reflects another aspect of the social order, that of social processes, the different types of social activity that people commonly engage in.

Register is special words used in a particular place and time in accordance with the purpose registers itself. Humans may only use one dialect in his life but does not prevent the possibility that humans use more than one kind of register. Registers are closely related to human activities especially in work or social group which require registers to facilitate communication and make communication easier. A social process that involves people which usually called social order is another reflection of register.

Register is specific word used by a profession or social group and unfamiliar for the other social groups or profession. Register helps people to express their identity at a specific time or place. According to Wardhaugh (2006:52), registers are sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social groups.
Surgeons, airline pilots, bank managers, sales clerks, jazz fans, and pimps employ different registers.

Register often used by social group which the member have similar activities and interests. One of social group which uses register is backpacker. Backpacker is traveler with low-budget and hold backpack on their back. According to Pearce in Markward Thesis (2008) original definition of backpackers included a preference for budget accommodation and emphases on meeting other travellers, flexible itineraries, longer rather than shorter holidays and informal and participatory holidays. Backpacker often does not go alone. Sometimes backpackers look for friend who has same destination in travelling and need to communicate. The development of technology influences the way people to communicate. Social network can be a media to communicate. Couchsurfing is a social networking as a forum to communicate between backpacker around the world.

In the previous research, Putri Dwi Fajarwati (2011) who studied about “The Register of The Advertisement in The “Iklan Jitu” Section of The “Jawa Pos” Daily Newspaper stated that some group of people who are using register as a means of communication both spoken or written. Syukriati (2008) resulted in her study “A Study of Cinematography Register Used by “Kine Club” Community of UMM” register makes the communication easier, more effective, and simple in order to make person more effectively and easily to join with other member. Previous research conducted by Mujiningsih (2004) on the “A Study on Register Used by “Tapak Suci” Community at Muhammadiyah University of Malang” found that register used to show identity or to create distinction between certain group or society.
After reading the previous researches, the writer is interested to analyze register. The writer wants to analyze the used of register by backpacker in Couchsurfing social network. The backpacker was chosen because backpacker travels to many various countries so they understand or master the English language. The backpacker registers are in English.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the problems are stated as follows:

1. What are the registers used by backpacker in Couchsurfing social networking?
2. What are the meanings of the registers used by backpacker in Couchsurfing social networking?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is as follows:

1. To describe the registers used by backpacker in Couchsurfing social networking.
2. To explain the meaning of the registers used by backpacker in Couchsurfing social networking.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to give benefit to enlarge our knowledge in knowing the registers used by backpacker.
Practically, this study is expected to give information for the teachers who want to give knowledge to their students about register. This study is also expected for the next researcher as an input related to research in the following related analyses.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Based on the background of the study, the study has scope and limitation. The scope of this study is focused on the use of register used by backpacker in Couchsurfing on January 3 to 9, 2014. In addition, this study is limited to the register in the Couchsurfing Malang, Surabaya, and Yogyakarta group posting.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the key terms in this study are defined as follows:

1. Registers are sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social group. (Wardhaugh, 2002:51)

2. Backpacker is included a preference for budget accommodation and emphases on meeting other travellers, flexible itineraries, longer rather than shorter holidays and informal and participatory holidays. (Pearce, 1990)

3. Couchsurfing is a non-profit website that connects global travelers with locals, has opted to accept $7.6 million in funding from Benchmark Capital and Omidyar Network. (Perlroth, 2011)

4. Social networking is a web service that enables you to connect with people who share similar personal or professional interests. (McFedries, 2009)