CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the research background, research problems, research objectives, research significance, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Language is a communication tool for people to interact with other human beings. Therefore, human beings can express their ideas, emotions, feeling and can exchange information about anything. There are so many people who have more than one language. Most of them are having two or more languages, namely their language of the country and the second language. Language is basic to social interactions, to make a relationship one another. In fact, language and society are related. No human can live in the world without language and language cannot be used without society. Wardhaugh (2006) states that language is a system of arbitrary verbal symbol by which the member of speech community used as a means of communication to interact and express their ideas, feelings, and thoughts. Language is really needed by people as a means of communication in the life. In a society, people always communicate to establish a relationship without communication, people cannot understand each other. Sophisticated technology, social media help us communicate each other. Communication by using technology can ease us to do it.
Nowadays, people do not always speak in one language but they also often mix their language. They can speak using two or more language at a time. Furthermore, Das and Gamback (2013) state that the increased use of the internet enables many Thais to have more chances to interact in English with others in verbal and textual forms. They can express their ideas, emotions, feelings and can exchange information about update status on twitter anything.

So far, social media become a phenomenon in this digital era. Social media have become an important and easiest tool for people who want to express their ambitiousness because they just write and share their ideas on internet. Therefore, they need social media as a tool of communication to share information. Mayfield (2008) says that, “Social media is the best understood as a group of new kinds of online media, which share most or all of the characteristics such as participation, openness, conversation, community and connectedness”. In other words, social media becomes a tool to share information and meet new people all over the world.

The world has thousands of languages, each with its own identity. Different countries have different languages. For example, youngsters of Thailand often use Thai language to communicate in everyday life. Some of people in south of Thailand also use Malay language, because they neighbor with Malay. So, they can use Thai language, Malay language and English language as multilingual. This studying is called multilingual. Therefore, there are many researches related with the study of code-mixing which occurs in any form of communication.
Code-mixing has always been used in communication events in oral or written language for example, and it occurs in the status update writing on Twitter. It is found the use of foreign language words. Code-mixing used in social media especially for updated status. Users mix two languages in one sentence. In using the internet media, Twitter is very popular in a society. Twitter becomes a part of social media used by people in their daily communication. Therefore Twitter helps to develop code-mixing in a society.

Twitter can be thought of as people’s home on the internet. It is a place where people can leave messages, browse through photo collections, posting something and soon. Twitter uses the term 'follow'. Once someone is 'followed', what one writes or shares on one's page will occur in one's follower's page. The followers can reply to the text and make it a two-way communication. Because of its simplicity, Twitter becomes popular among people all around the world, including Thailand.

Based on the explanation, this research emphasizes on the study of code-mixing which is used by Thai students in their social media networking especially Twitter. Besides, the society assumed that every people have various kinds of reason in using code mixing in their social media networking.

1.2. Research Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher has two things that will be discussed farther through the research namely:

1. What types of code-mixing are used by Thai students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang to update status writing on Twitter?
2. What is the most frequent type of code-mixing written used by Thai students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang to status update on Twitter?

1.3. Research Objectives

1. To identify the types of code-mixing are used by Thai students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang to update status on Twitter.

2. To know the most frequent type of code-mixing written used by Thai students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang to status update writing on Twitter.

1.4. Research Significances

The result of this study is expected to give contribution in two ways:

1. Theoretically, this study is expected to bring advantages for Thai students in University of Muhammadiyah Malang who are interested in sociolinguistic, especially in code mixing. By reading this study, the reader will have a deeper understanding of code-mixing and the user of it in real life.

2. Practically, it is expected to the Thai students have more information about code mixing, and then they can make an update status on Twitter with more educational value and have variation in their sentence or quick text. Furthermore, their status update should be more interesting.
1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is update status of followers or friend list of the researcher more specifically; this study is limited to update the implementations use of code-mixing in status updates.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Code-mixing is two language used together by the conversant to the extent that they change from one language into another in the course of single utterance. (Wardhaugh, 2000)

2. Thai students refers to students from Thailand who are studying in Indonesia University.

3. Update status refers to status which allows users to post caption for all their Friends to read, friends can to respond with their comment. (Zuckerberg, 2009)

4. Twitter is a unique conversation tool that allows you to send and receive short message (called tweets) within your community. (Kingston 2011)