

A STUDY ON MILITARY REGISTERS USED BY “ARHANUD” COMMUNITY KARANGPLOSO MALANG

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Human is social creature. It means that people cannot live without any help from others. They need to interact, communicate, shares ideas, transfer knowledge and get some information with other people by using a language. “Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires, by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols” (Sapir, in Alwasilah, 1993: 6). People use a language to communicate with their society. It is proved by Wardhaugh (2003: 1) that a language is what the members of a particular society speak. However, speech in almost any society can take many very different forms. They create new varieties of language.

According to Trask (1999: 282) “Sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics which studies the relation between language and society.” Wardhaugh (2003: 12) has explained, “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.” Another expert, Marjohan (1988: 1) has stated, “Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics which studies language variation and its relation to social variation.” In short, sociolinguistics is the study of language that learns and discusses all of the aspects of language used in society especially language variation as the function in communication of society. Language and society influence one another. It is impossible to understand one without the other. It also influences the speech community. Speech community is a group of people who regularly interact by speaking. “A speech community may be large or small, and it may be highly homogeneous or decidedly heterogeneous” (Trask, 1999: 285). Bolinger (in Hudson 1982: 28) identifies the groups as speech community and stresses the unlimited amount of complexity that is possible:

There is no limit to the ways in which human beings league themselves together for self-identification, security, gain, amusement, worship, or any of the other purposes that are held in commons consequently there is no limit to the number and variety of speech communities that are to be found in society.

According to these definitions, any groups of people (doctor, farmer, music community, military etc.) or population (whether of a city, a village, or whole state) may be expected to contain a very large number of speech communities. In addition, ARHANUD members are considered as speech community. Moreover, the existence of speech community creates many kinds of language variation. Hudson (1982: 24) has defined “A variety of language as a set of linguistic items with similar social distribution.” One of the language variations is a “register”.

As Ferguson (in Wardhaugh 2003: 51) says, “People participating in recurrent communication situations tend to develop similar vocabularies, similar features of intonation, and characteristic bits of syntax and phonology that they use in these situations.” This kind of variety is a register. “Journalese, baby-talk, legalese, the language of auctioneers, race-callers, sport commentators, the language of airline pilots, criminals, financiers, politicians and disc jockeys, the language of

the courtroom and the classroom, could all be considered examples of different registers. The term 'register' here as the language of groups of people with common interests or jobs, or the language used in situations associated with such groups" (Holmes,2001: 246). Holmes also stated "Others use the term 'register' more narrowly to describe the specific vocabulary associated with different occupational groups" (2001: 246). It also happens in military community especially ARHANUD community in Karangploso Malang. They use military English registers in order to make simple in their conversation.

There are some studies related with the phenomenon of register. In 2005, Sari had studied about the register used by the employees of shoe company Artisan Jaya Internusa Makmur in Malang. The result of her study showed that there were two kinds of registers: formal register and informal register. There were 142 formal registers and 4 informal registers. Further, Sari (2005) also found that there were 3 main reasons why they used the English registers. First, it made the communication run easier and simpler because it could make the discourse understandable by the listeners and it shortened the interlocution. Second, the English registers could show the identity of the employees as the persons who were advanced in shoe industry. Last, the employees were accustomed to using the English registers as their medium in communication in the shoe company. In 2006, Handayani also described the register that was used in Unit Pelayanan Internet (UPI) as internet service provider. In her thesis, Handayani (2006) found that there were 144 registers used in UPI of University of Muhammadiyah Malang. The registers were used in such activities as meeting and working, in training conduct, recruitment test and when the staff talked to client. After reading both of the theses above, the writer gets an inspiration to know the real application of register which may occur in other professions or communities not only in the shoe company or UPI.

The writer chooses the members of ARHANUD because she wants to study the registers for professional purpose-military-. Further, the members of ARHANUD use the English registers effectively in every communication. Basically, their language mixes the registers used by the military. It means that if they want to communicate each other, they use Indonesian language but sometimes they use the registers in their conversation. As a matter of fact, the registers usually used by ARHANUD community are taken from English.

Moreover, the registers used by ARHANUD community are called military registers. The military registers require succinctness and firmness in the form of abbreviation and acronym. Therefore, if the military registers are used in a public area, which has many kinds of community, it can cause misunderstanding except certain terms that have been known by the public. Because of those phenomena, it is considered that ARHANUD community is important to be analyzed and this will give contribution to sociolinguistics study.