CODE CHOICE AND POLITENESS SYSTEMS IN JAVANESE

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ABSTRACT

Javanese is known as a language with its speech stratification called 'undha-usuk' in local term. *Undha-usuk* or speech stratification is a system in which tripartite codes, H(igh) code (called *krama*), M(iddle) code (*madya*), and L(ow) code (*ngoko*), coexist in it with their own functions. Because of its H (*krama*) and L (*ngoko*) codes, Javanese was identified as and classified into a language of diglossia. The codes in Javanese (H, M and L code) could be used to express any idea in a conversation executed by two symmetrical and or asymmetrical speakers. In dyadic communication, the code use will appear in three patterns: firstly, in symmetrical dyadic, two symmetrical speakers both use L (*ngoko*) code; secondly, two symmetrical speakers both use H/M (*krama/madya*) code; and thirdly two asymmetrical speakers use two opposite and hierarchical codes: the first speaker uses L code and the second speaker uses H code.

The code use in Javanese always refers to politeness therefore it could express three politeness systems. When two symmetrical speakers both use L code it will show the phenomena of solidarity politeness. On the other hand, when two symmetrical speakers of Javanese both use H code, it shows the phenomena of deference politeness. The phenomena of code use by two asymmetrical speakers shows us the phenomena of hierarchical politeness. Hierarchical politeness – in which two opposite and hierarchical codes: H (*krama*) and L (*ngoko*) codes are used by two asymmetrical speakers – is identified as **code-crossing**. Code-crossing is social contract that is the powerful speaker has rights to use low code (*ngoko*) while on the other hand less powerful speaker uses high code (*krama*) in their daily life. Code-crossing is conversational strategy established to destroy border between participants based on their right and obligation.

Key words*: Javanese diglossia, solidarity politeness, deference politeness, hierarchical politeness, code-crossing.*