

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the study

Of all the aptitudes and behaviors which characterize human beings, language is the most uniquely human, and quite possibly the most important (Traugott, 1980:1). Language is considered important, because it is around people everywhere, in speech, writing, sign language, or simply in minds when people dream, remember a conversation, or quietly think out a problem. It is vehicle of power, a means by which people control, create, and preserve. The question "What is language?" has been asked from remotest times, yet its answer is still far from clear. Usually when people are asked what language is, they might say that language is a means of communication. That statement contains a part of the truth. However, it is not that simple.

There are some definitions of language that have been made by some linguists. Some of them are:

- (a) Language is "a highly organized system in which each unit plays an important part which is related to other parts" (Boey, 1975:1).
- (b) Language is "an arbitrary system of articulated sounds made use of by a group of humans as a means of carrying on the affairs of their society" (Francis, 1958:13).

(c) Language is “a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication” (Wardhaugh, 1977:3).

(d) Language is “a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires, by means of a system of voluntary produced symbols” (Sapir, 1921).

From those definitions above, it is known that actually language is not simply a means of communication, but what is much more important than that is that language is a system. In general terms, a system is “a whole made up of smaller units which stand in particular relation to each other and perform particular functions” (Traugott, 1980:6). For instance, a family can be viewed as a system in which each member is related by particular blood or marriage ties to all the others, and has specific roles and responsibilities. In language, the system is made up of units, functions, and relations. For example, sounds are units which are combined to make words or parts of words like *un-* and *-tion*, and these are, in turn, units which can be joined in systematic ways to form larger meaningful sequences, like complex words, phrases, or sentences. In these larger sequences, each of the smallest units has a particular function and particular relations to the other units.

One of the languages in the world is Indonesian. Like other languages, Indonesian also has its own system that has been long investigated. Although Indonesian is the national language of Indonesia, it is not the only language that

is spoken in Indonesia. As it is known that Indonesia consists of so many ethnic groups and each group has its own culture, including its language. One of those languages is Cindo language.

Cindo language is a language used by most of Chinese people who live in Indonesia. The language is quite unique because it is not Indonesian nor Javanese, for example: the word - 'gini-no'. The pattern is not the Indonesian pattern nor the Javanese one, because there is no such a word in both languages. There must be a particular pattern in the Cindo language since all languages are systematic. Therefore, the writer wants to investigate the patterns that are used in the Cindo language. In addition, the reason why the writer wants to investigate the Cindo language is that she lives among the people who speak the language.

From those reasons above, the writer wants to find out what patterns are found in the vocabularies of Cihdo language especially the verbs. This thesis, then, will be entitled "The verb formations of the Cindo language in Surabaya"

1.2 Statement of the problem

In line with the background of the study aforementioned, the writer investigated "What are the verb formations of the Cindo language in Surabaya?"

1.3 Objective of the study

Through this study, the writer would like to find out the verb formations of the Cindo language in Surabaya.

1.4 Significance of the study

The findings of the study should give some contributions to both the study of linguistics and sociolinguistics.

To the study of linguistics, the writer hopes that this study will give clearer picture about the morphological system of the Cindo language, so it will be easier for people who want to learn that language. To the study of sociolinguistics, it is hoped that this thesis will be an inventory study about language that is used by one of the ethnic groups in Indonesia.

The writer hopes that this study will deepen the readers' knowledge about language, especially Cindo language. It is also expected that this study will be worthy enough to be an additional reference to those who want to make further studies in the field of language, especially the Cindo language.

1.5 Scope and limitation of the study

Realizing how broad the discussion of the Cindo language could be, this study is limited in several ways:

1. The subjects under the study were the Cindo language speakers in Surabaya.

2. The area of analysis was focused on:
 - (a) Informal oral communication
 - (b) Actual, real, and natural conversations.
3. Only the verb formations

1.6 Theoretical framework

This thesis is based on the theories of linguistics especially the theory of morphology. According to Moulton (1969:4), linguistics is the branch of learning which studies the languages of any and all human societies: how each such language is constructed; how it varies through space and changes through time; how it is related to other languages; and how it is used by its speakers.

Linguistics has two branches. They are theoretical linguistics and applied linguistics. Each of them has four main branches. The branches of the former are phonetics, phonemics, morphemics, and grammar. The study of grammar can be divided into two, morphology and syntax. The branches of the latter are semantics, graphics, linguistic geography, and lexicography (Francis, 1958: 41).

Since this thesis deals with the structure of words (grammar), the theory being used is the theory of morphology. Morphology is the study of the minimally meaningful sound units or combinations. In a simple way, morphology is the study of morphs, the minimally meaningful sound units or combination.

1.7 Definition of the key terms

To avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation, it is necessary to define the following terms:

a. Cindo language:

Language that is used by Indo-Chinese speakers

1.8 Organization of the study

The writer divides this thesis into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which introduces the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitations, theoretical framework, definition of the key terms, and organization of the study.

The second chapter presents some theories that are related to the topic of her study. The third chapter, a method of the study dealing with data collection and data analysis. Next, the fourth chapter concerns the analysis of the Cindo language. The fifth chapter, conclusion and summary based on the analysis done in the fourth chapter.