

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

To address all members of a family and relatives in English, for example brothers and sisters, one simply uses 'uncles' for parents' brothers and brothers-in-law, and 'aunts' for parents' sisters and sisters-in-law. This is totally different from the writer's language, the Hokkien Gek dialect of Chinese. In the Hokkien Gek dialect of Chinese, there are several terms used to address members of a family and relatives. Unfortunately, the terms of address in the Hokkien Gek dialect of Chinese are unfamiliar for speakers of English.

The facts that the speakers of this dialect nowadays are very few and the writer comes from a Hokkien Gek Chinese Indonesian family and still uses this dialect in addressing her family and relatives, are the strong points in doing this research. Moreover, the writer finds that there has not been any thesis on this topic before.

Based on the reason above, the writer would like to talk about the terms of address used by members of the Chinese community in the Hokkien Gek dialect of Chinese. Hopefully this discussion will be useful for the readers.

### **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

With reference to the background of the study, the problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the terms used to address one's family and relatives in the Hokkien Gek dialect of Chinese ?
2. Why does someone use particular terms of address?

### **1.3. Objective of the Study**

The study is intended to find out the various kinds of terms used to address one's family and relatives in the Hokkien Gek dialect of Chinese and the reasons why someone uses the terms of address.

#### **1.4. Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to give some contribution to the field of sociolinguistics and to provide some information about the terms of address for one's family and relatives in the Hokkien Gek dialect of Chinese to the non-speakers of this dialect.

#### **1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

Concerning the limited time, energy, and funds available to do this research, the writer decides to choose four subjects from four different Hokkien Gek families who live in Surabaya. They are chosen under the assumption that they still use Hokkien Gek dialect of Chinese in their communication, and address their families and relatives using this dialect.

#### **1.6. Theoretical Framework**

This study is based on theories of sociolinguistics, dialect and language, kinship terms of address, and role

relationship The writer also presents the nature of Hokkien Gek dialect of Chinese and also the description of Chinese tradition related to the study.

Hudson (1980:1) states that sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society.

Petyt says that there are two criteria to distinguish a 'language' from a 'dialect', that are: the existence of a written language and political allegiances. (1980:14).

According to Clark (1977: 541), kinship term in a simple definition, means a term used to name one's relatives.

### **1.7. Definition of Key Terms**

There are some terms that need further explanations in order to enable the readers to understand when they read this research. The terms to be defined are:

#### **1. Kinship Term**

Kinship is a word or a phrase that is fixed and definite to be used to address someone who has relationship by blood or family relations (relatives). (Murphy:1986).

## 2. Members of the Chinese Community

Members of the Chinese community in this thesis refer to family and relatives. Furthermore, family refers to a father, a mother and children. In this study, relatives refer to grandparents, uncles, aunts, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law and cousins.

## 3. Dialects

Dialect is a form of a language prevailing in a particular district, and marked by peculiarities of vocabulary and pronunciation (Webster Dictionary: 1977:276).

## 4. Hokkien Gek Dialect of Chinese

Hokkien Gek dialect of Chinese is one of the dialect spoken in Hokkien Yong Ting, China

### **1.8. Organization of the Paper**

This thesis consists of five chapters. They are: Introduction, Review of Related Literature, Research of Methodology, Data Analysis, and Conclusion.

Chapter I talks about why the writer is interested in doing this study, the purpose of this study, the supporting theories, and the organization of the thesis. Chapter II presents the basic theories of the study elaborated from theoretical framework. Chapter III deals with the research methodology: how the study is carried out until the data collection is done. Chapter IV discusses data analysis, and the last is Chapter V, conclusion.