

# **CHAPTER I**

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### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Language has an important role in the society. People use language to communicate with others and to do interaction. Interaction is needed for the living continuity in the society. Nowadays, society is getting more complex than were those of the past. Lehmann (1983:1) says that language provides the means for us to take our place in society, to express our wants and convey information, to learn about the people and the world around us. Language, in short, enables us to live effectively, to develop our capabilities, and to satisfy our curiosity about our surroundings. He also states that language has their richest means for communication but also as a system with a life apart from their own.

Getting a better understanding on language itself draws us to what language is. Language according to Wardhaugh (1998:1) is what the members of a particular society speak. The speakers may use more than one language when they speak in a society. The use of the language they speak is influenced by such factors, namely: who the listeners is, where they talk, and how they feel towards the hearers. Holmes (1992:1) argues that participants, social context of the interaction, topic, functions of the interaction, social distance, status scale, formality scale, and the functional scale relating to the purposes or topic of interaction, influence the speakers' language in society.

The language use and its style vary in everyday living because the people who use the language have different social background. No one speaks the same way all the time and people continuously change their language and develop it for a wide variety of purposes. However, a speaker may not use the language as he pleases. As Wardhaugh (1998:6) says that no individual is free to do just exactly what he or she pleases so far as language is concerned. One cannot produce words any way he pleases, inflect the sentences as the mood suits them. If one does all of these things, his communication purpose may not be reached. The producing of words are concerned with norms, which are applied in a society. Furthermore, individuals have knowledge of the various limits (or norms) and it is also difficult to explain how individual speaker acquires a knowledge of these norms of linguistic behavior.

People will usually make use of the appropriate language style when communicating. The reasons of choosing the appropriate style are influenced by the social factors. They are the addressees, the sex, the age of the addressee, the race, the setting, the topic and the function of the communication. In addition, it is very important to select, in terms of formality, the appropriate style of speaking in context of a particular interaction. The ways of distinctive style may be shaped by the functional demands of particular situations or occupations. Ceremonial occasions, for example, require very formal speech style; public lecturers use less formal style; casual conversation use quite informal style, conversations between intimates if it contains little importance matter may be use informal or casual style. Holmes (1992: 246) states that the better you know someone, the more

casual and relaxed the speech style you will use to him or her. People use more standards form to those they do not know well and more vernacular forms to their friends. People will also talk differently to children and to adults either consciously or unconsciously. The sentences that people uses for children are usually short, simple and more explicit while the complex ones are used for adults.

In a family, parents and children also use a special style of language. Parents usually use informal language when talking to their children while children use less formal language. Parents or older people may use informal style because they have the authority of their children. The less formal style used by children is to give respect. Yet, the language style used in a family is the intimate style. According to Martin Joos (1967), the intimate style is the style used in a family or best friends. They do not need to speak completely. In this stage, new words or terms are created only for the family members or best friends. Furthermore, there are five language styles, which is divided based on the formality stages; (1) frozen style, (2) formal style, (3) consultative style, (4) casual style, (5) intimate style (Martin Joos: 1967).

Ones' family has a different social background and probably different style of language. There is a possibility that the intimate style is not the only style of language, which is uttered in a family. Parents' language style might be similar with the children's. When the children are grown up and have their own family, what kind of language style will they use to speak to their parents? This question has aroused the writer's curiosity and she, based on the above viewpoints and

some assumptions, is interested to observe the language style of parents and grown up children. Specifically she would like to conduct an observation on the language style used among family members of certain Khek Bangka people.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

The following problem statements guide the writer in doing the research:

1. What language style does the father use when talking to his sons and daughters?
2. What language style does the father as father-in-law use when talking to his daughters-in-law and sons-in-law?
3. What language style do the sons and daughters use when talking to their father?
4. What language style do the sons and daughters as brother and sister use when communicating?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to describe:

1. the language style that is used by the father when talking to his sons and daughters.
2. the language style that is used by the father when talking to his sons-in-law and daughters-in-law.
3. the language style of the sons and daughters when talking to their father

4. the language style of the brothers and sisters when communicating.

#### **1.4 Significance of The Study**

The writer wants to give more insight to those who are interested in the sociolinguistics study especially the language style. From this study, those who are interested in sociolinguistics can get much information about the relationship of sociolinguistics study with the society. Furthermore, she would like to know about the language style that is generally used in a Chinese Khek Bangka family and the grown up children's attitude when talking to their parent. Moreover, the writer can have better understanding on the relationship of parents and grown up children in family.

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

Language has large scope to be dealt with, so the writer thinks that she should limit her study. This study is a sociolinguistics study specifically language style. She would like to do an analysis on the language style that is used by a certain Khek Bangka people. In doing the research, she will analyze both linguistics and non-linguistics aspects in each of the sentences in the dialogues.

The subjects under this study is a Chinese Khek Bangka family who lives in Surabaya. The family is the writer's relative that is Chen's family. The family consists of a father, his six sons, his four daughters, and their spouses. Eight of the children are married and two of them are not married. Since most of the children live far away from their father and seldom come to see him, the subjects being

identified by the writer only consist of a father, the three daughters, four sons, one son-in-law and one daughter-in-law. Thus, there are ten subjects of the study all together. From the above clarification of the subjects, what the writer means by Chen's family is a Chinese Khek Bangka family that consists of a father, the ten children, and their spouses.

The Chen's family members speak Khek, Indonesia and Chindo. The writer is curious to find out the language style that is used between the certain members of the family. She will try to record the daily life conversations in the family, especially the father and the children's dialogues, the father and the in-law's dialogues and the dialogues between the children as brothers and sisters. However, the writer fails to find any oral communication between the sons-in-law to the father. It seems that they do not feel the need to communicate one to another. Therefore, there is no analysis on the language style between the father and the sons-in-law.

## **1.6 Theoretical Framework**

This study is based on two underlying theories: language style and language variation.

*Language style* refers to communication forms that make or instruct people whether consciously or unconsciously to use language differently suiting to the addressee's social background, social context, topic, and social distance. *Style* is an instruction to hearers superimposed upon the content of the communication (Chaika 1994:92). *Style* of language is affected by the addressee/the participant,

the age of the addressee, and the social background of the addressee. The better you know someone the more casual your language will be.

*Language variation* is similar to the term *variety* or *code*. It refers to any set of linguistic forms, which patterns according to social factors. Variety is a broad term, which involve different accents, different linguistic styles, different dialects, and even different languages, which contrast with each other for social reasons. In addition, it is used to cover all the different realizations of the abstract concept 'language' in different social contexts (Holmes: 1992).

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

To avoid misunderstandings in this study, the writer feels that she should explain and clarify the following concept:

#### *1. Language*

Language is the words, their pronunciation, and the methods of combining them used and understood by a considerable community and established by long usage (Webster 1986).

#### *2. Style*

Style is a mode of expressing thought in oral or written language as a manner of expressing characteristic of an individual, a period, a school, or other identifiable group (as a nation) (Webster 1986:2271). Style in this study more pertains to communication and to interaction. It refers to some or all of the



language habits like Shakespeare's style or the style of James Joyce and it refers to all of the language habits shared by a group of people, refer to the effectiveness of a mode of expression, and may refer to literary language.

### *3. Language Variation*

Language variation is the diversity of language forms that is caused by the social factors: the participants, the context, the geographical area, the topic or purpose of the interaction, etc (Holmes: 1992).

### *4. Chindo*

Chindo is a language used by Chinese people who live in Indonesia, which is the combination of Javanese and Indonesian language (with only a few Chinese words) (Rafferty: 1984).

### *5. Family*

A family is a group of people consisting of parent and children (Oxford dictionary: 1987). There are two kinds of family. They are the nucleus family and extended family. The nucleus family is a group of people consisting of parent and children who live together. The extended family is a group of people consisting of parent and children who live separately. However, in this study, the spouses are considered as members of a family because of the marital status.

## **1.8 Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction of the study. It is divided into eight sub-topics: the background of the study, the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope of limitation of the study, the theoretical framework, the definitions of the key terms, and the organization of the thesis.

Chapter two presents the review of the related literature, which define some theories concern with the study, the description of Khek language and the previous study. Chapter three is the research methods. It includes the research design, the subjects under study, the research instruments, the data, the procedures of collecting data, and the technique of data analysis. Chapter four contains the findings and discussion of the findings. The last chapter is the conclusion. It includes conclusion and recommendation.