CHAPTER I

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1.1 The Background of the Study

Some languages actually employ what is regarded as kinship terms for use as address terms (Wardhaugh 1986:262). The concepts of kinship terms, however, may vary from one language to another. According to Hudson (1980:88), there are startling differences among languages in the way they cover kinship concepts.

In English, for example, "uncle"/Aŋkl/ is simply used to address parents' brothers and brother-in-laws, and "aunt" /ant/ is used for parents' sisters and sister-in-laws (Tukan 1987:3). Nowadays, besides using the term "uncle" /ʌŋkl/ and "aunt" /ant/, personal names are often used to address parents' brothers, sisters, brother-in-laws, and sister-in-laws, and sister-in-laws. In other words, address terms are no longer used. According to Wardhaugh (1986:261), this is made possible because in English there is a possibility of the avoidance of an address term, that is φ use. In other languages, such avoidance may be either impolite or deficient.

As another example, in Bahasa Lerek, one must use address terms in addressing uncles and aunts. This dialect even has several different kinship terms for uncles and aunts: five terms for uncles and four terms for aunts (Tukan 1987:4).

Similar to Bahasa Lerek which has various terms for uncles and aunts, Chinese and its dialects even have many more. Like in Bahasa Lerek, it is considered

uncommon and impolite to address uncles and aunts by their personal names. In Chinese and its dialects, as Baker stated (1979:162), within a family, those who are superior to the speaker (that is, those who are older or senior in generation) are always addressed by the appropriate kinship terms, while those who are younger and junior are usually called by their personal names.

The difference between English and Chinese and its dialects in addressing uncles and aunts has aroused the writer's interest to conduct this research. In this study, the writer chose to observe the kinship terms of address in Hokkien dialect, which is one of the Chinese dialects. The fact that she comes from a Hokkien Chinese Indonesian famil y and that she still uses Hokkien kinship terms to address her relatives, including uncles and aunts, are expected to be strong points in conducting this research.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

To carry out this study, the writer looked for the answers to the following research questions:

1. What are the terms of address for uncles and aunts in Hokkien dialect used by Hokkien Chinese Indonesian families in Surabaya?

2. Is there any difference among the Hokkien Chinese Indonesian families in Surabaya in addressing uncles and aunts?

3. How are the terms of address for uncles and aunts used by Hokkien Chinese Indonesian families in Surabaya compared to the original/standard Hokkien terms?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

The study was made with the purpose of discovering:

1. the terms of address for uncles and aunts in Hokkien dialect used by Hokkien Chinese Indonesian families in Surabaya

2. the difference among the Hokkien Chinese Indonesian families in Surabaya in addressing their uncles and aunts.

3. the comparison between the terms of address for uncles and aunts used by Hokkien Chinese Indonesian families in Surabaya and the original/standard Hokkien terms.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The result of this study are expected to give some contribution to the field of sociolinguistics especially about the kinship terms of address, and to provide some additional information about the terms of address for uncles and aunts in Hokkien dialect to the non-speakers of it.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Being aware of how broad and complex the terms of address in Hokkien dialect and how limited the time, energy, and funds available, the writer thought it necessary to limit the scope of the study.

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The writer decided to study the terms of address for uncles and aunts in Hokkien dialect. The writer also limited the study only to Hokkien Chinese Indonesian families who live in Surabaya.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study was based on six theories which involve the nature of sociolinguistics, language and dialect, Chinese language and its dialects, Hokkien dialect, kinship terms of reference and address, and the standard/original kinship terms of address for uncles and aunts in Hokkien dialect.

According to Chaika (1982:133), dialects of Chinese, which are spoken in one country, are not considered separate languages. In Chinese and its dialects, appropriate kinship terms are always used to address family members who are superior to the speaker (that is, those who are older or senior in generation) (see Baker 1979:162). In this case, kinship terms mean the terms used to address one's relatives (Clark 1977:541).

1.7 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer found it useful to define several key terms used in this study. Hopefully the readers will have a clear picture of what this study is trying to present.

1. Kinship

   Encyclopedia Britannica (1947, vol. 13, p. 403) defines kinship as birth, suckling, and the tender cares bestowed by the parents on their offspring establish bonds of union between the members of a family, both in human and in animal society.

2. Uncle

   According to Webster's Third New International Dictionary (1986:2485), 'uncle' is the brother of one's father or mother, or the husband of one's father's sister or the husband of one's mother's sister.

3. Aunt

   Webster's Third New International Dictionary (1986:144) defines 'aunt' as the sister of one's father or mother, the wife of one's father's brother or the wife of one's mother's brother.

4. Hokkien dialect

   Hokkien dialect is a dialect which is spoken mostly in the province of Fu-Kien in China and Taiwan (Encyclopedia Britannica 1947, vol. 9, p. 907). The speakers of Hokkien dialect can also be found in Indonesia (Nababan, 1979:274).

5. Surabaya

   Surabaya is the city where the writer took the subjects. It is one of the cities in Indonesia where there are many speakers of Hokkien dialect. This is supported by Nababan who states that Hokkien dialect speakers can be found especially in the port cities and urban centres of Java, Sumatera, and Western Kalimantan (1979:274).

6. Totok

   In this study, Totok is defined as a person who belongs to the first or second generation of Hokkien Chinese Indonesian (personal definition).

7. First Generation

   First generations are those who were already born in Indonesia, Meanwhile, their parents were still born in mainland (personal definition).

8. Second Generation

   Second generations are those whose parents were already born in Indonesia, while their grandparents were still born in mainland (personal definition).

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, theoretical framework, definition of the key terms, and the organization of the thesis. Chapter two deals with the review of the related literature, while chapter three is about the research methodology. Meanwhile, chapter four presents the data analysis and interpretation of the findings, and the last chapter, chapter five, is the conclusion.