CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

Sociolinguistics is one of the subjects which must be taken by the sixth semester students of Widya Mandala. This subject is concerned with the way in which language is integrated with aspects of human society (Bright,1992:9).

Sociolinguistics broaden the students knowledge about the language or other languages, social aspects of communities, and cultures. A language is a part of a society, and in a society the students learn how to use languages. Sociolinguistics also enables them to recognize the functions of language in a society.

This study under report is about a kinship system. To be more specific, this study is about kinship terms. The writer selects kinship terms as the topic of her study because properly used, kinship terms can be used as a means of establishing and maintaining relationship among people. White (1959:177) defines a kinship term as a word that designates a social relationship arising of the husband-wife, parent-children or intersibling relationship. In line with this statement, kinship terms can be used to address one's relatives, subordinates and superiors (Alford,1988:103). Thus, kinship terms are also a way to show respect or politeness. "The concepts of kinship term, however, may vary from one language to another" (Wardhaugh,1986:262).

Actually, the various kinds of kinship terms are applied in every language. "Kinship are a universal feature of language because kinship is so important in social organization. Some systems are much 'richer' than others but all make such factors as sex, generation, blood and marriage in their organization" (Wardhaugh,1986:219). In addition, every language has its own characteristics and this should be maintained well.

Balinese kinship terminology is so much apart from everyday usage that most people probably never stop to think why Balinese name their relatives and family as they do. For example, they call their "mother's brother" and "father's brother" (and often "mother's sister's husband" and father's sister's husband") by the same term "uncle". Ember (1973:205) states that it is not that people are unable to distinguish between their mother's or father's brother or that they do not know the different between consaguineal kin (blood kin) and affinal kin (kin by marriage). They should know that kinship behavior is instinctive. Hoebel (1976:225) says:

> "Kinship is a matter of social organization and social organization is an aspect of culture, reflecting ecology, subsistence, ideology and a host of other things. Kinship relation consists of interacting roles customarily ascribed by people to different statuses or relationship"

To this point White (1959:117) defines kinship term as a word designates a social relationship arising out of the husband-wife, parent-children or intersibling relationship.

The main focus of the study under report is on the Balinese kinship terms for uncles and aunts as manifestation of the caste system and the social function of the terms. The consideration of choosing these terms of address was based on the

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fact that some Balinese people do not use proper Balinese kinship terms in addressing their uncles and aunts.

In short, the writer's main reason for choosing the topic under study was because she had seen the important role of Balinese terms of address for addressing uncles and aunts according to their caste.

The writer observed the terms of addressing uncle and aunt because they represents some aspects of language variation such as language variation by sex, age, status and position. Also, as far as the writer knows, there had been no observation on the address term for addressing uncle and aunt in Balinese Language.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the background, the research questions raised in this study are as follows:

1. What are the terms used by the Balinese to address uncles and aunts ?

2. What are the underlying reasons and the social factors the Balinese have for using the address terms?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In the attempt to answer the above questions, this study was designed to describe:

1. the terms used to address uncles and aunts by the Balinese.

2. the underlying reasons and the social factors the Balinese have for using the address term.

1.4 Significance of the Study.

The study explains some address terms used in the Balinese families to address their uncles and aunts. By doing this study, the writer hoped that there will be no more misunderstanding in using the address terms , so that other people who have read this thesis can avoid making mistakes in addressing uncles and aunts based on the caste system. This study also provides further information on how the Balinese address uncle and aunt based on the caste.

The findings of the study can hopefully give contribution to the students and the teacher of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, especially to those taking the Sociolinguistics subject. The findings of the study can also be used as examples or application of the theory about linguistics variation discussed in Sociolinguistics subject. In short, this study can hopefully give a better understanding of the topic about the address terms and kinship systems in different languages.

1.5 Scope and Limitation.

Being aware of how broad and complex the terms of address in Balinese language and how limited the time, energy and fund, the writer decides to limit the scope of the study.

The topic about the address term in kinship system was limited to the terms used to address uncles and aunts only. Also, the observation was limited only in a Balinese language.

The writer also limited the informants of the observation. Based on the topic being observed, the involves informants were taken from Balinese families who live in Tabanan. Still, they were selected based on the criteria that each different caste was represented by some people. The address term that were asked were the terms thatwereused only in the same caste, not between caste. Their age were between twenty three to fifty five. All the interview were conducted in the afternoon at their residence so that all informants did not have the feeling that the interview interrupted their activities. All the informants represented the caste they belonged to. The address terms that were asked were terms thatwereused only in the same caste not between caste.

1.6 Theoretical Framework.

This study was done under the study of Sociolinguistics. It was used as an underlying theory because the topic of the study is about the address term and kinship system which are part of the Sociolinguistics subject.

According to Holmes (1992:1), the people who study sociolinguistics are the people who are interested in explaining why people speak differently in different social context. It means that address term, whichareculturally different and have some social valuesa included Sociolinguistics explain that language is used as a means of communication , establishing and maintaining a good relationship with others. Based on those functions, people have to use language properly. It means that people should understand the Sociolinguistics rules for speaking in a community. One example of the use of language as a means of establishing

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relationship is addressing people. When someone addresses someone else, he will be regarded as a good user of langugae especially if he knows the Sociolinguistics rules, such as how he address the older or the younger people, and what social values are included in addressing people in the language used.

Sociolinguistics studies kinship term. The meaning of kinship term of address here are the term used to address one's relatives. The writer took this concept since the writer investigated the use of kinship term to address uncle and aunt based on their caste.

1.7 Definition of the Key-Terms

To avoid misinterpretation, the writer would like to clarify the terms used in this study so the readers will have a clear picture of what this study is trying to present. The terms to be defined are:

1. Kinship System

   The system of social relationship connecting people in a culture who are held to be defining and a personal relationship by blood and sometimes by marriage (Webster, 1986)

2. Kinship terms

   Kinship term is a word that designates a social relationship arising of the husband-wife, parent-children, or intersibling relationship (White, 1959:177).

3. To address

   To use a particular name or title in speaking or writing to somebody (Crowther,1995:14)

4. Kinship terms

   Kinship term is a word that designates a social relationship arising of the husband-wife, parent-children, or intersibling relationship (White, 1959:117).

5. Uncle

   Mother's brother and father's brother and often mother's sister's husband and father's sister's husband (Ember,1985:344).

6. Aunt

   The sister of one's father or mother or the wife of one's uncle (Crowther,1995:67)

7. Caste

   A small and named group of person characterize by endogamy, hereditary membership and a specific style of life which sometimes including the pursuit by tradition of a particular occupation and is usually associated with a more or less distinct ritual status in a hierarchical system (Beteille, 1971:46).

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one presents (1) Background of the Study, (2) Statement of the Problem, (3) Objective of the Study, (4) Significance of the Study, (5) Scope and Limitation, (6) Theoretical Framework, (7) Definition of the Key-Terms, and (8) Organization of the Study. Chapter two deals with Review of the Related Literature while chapter three is about the Research Methodology. It discusses (1) Research Design; (2) The Informants; (3) Source of the Data; (4) Research Instrument; (5) Procedure of Collecting Data; and (6) Procedure of Data Analysis. Chapter four presents The Findings and Discussion of the Findings, and the last chapter, Chapter five, is the Conclusion.