CHAPTER I

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1.1   Background

Sociolinguistics is one of the compulsory subject that the student of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University must take. The term 'Sociolinguistics' refers to the study of the relationship between language and society. According to Pride (1981, ix), sociolinguistics is the study of natural language in its entire various social and cultural context. This study has the objectives of explaining why people speak differently in different social context and identifying the social function of language and the way it is used to convey social meaning (Holmes, 1992:1). By studying sociolinguistics, people are able to identify the relationship between social function of language and linguistic feature. It is known that language includes vocabulary. Moreover, a language varies due to the social meaning such as politeness and friendship relation. For example, when a speaker addresses someone by his or her first name, it shows that he is close to that person. By learning sociolinguistics, people will understand that case.

Sociolinguistics concerns many aspects of social and language variation such as : address term, kinship system, code switching, language diversity, etc. The study conducted by the writer deals with the connection of two aspects, namely : address term and kinship system. As defined in Oxford Dictionary (1995 : 14), *to address* means *to use a particular name or title in speaking or*

writing to somebody. While *kinship* is defined as *a personal relationship by blood or sometimes by marriage. Kinship system* is defined as *the system of social relationship connecting people in a culture who are held to be related and a personal relationship by blood or sometimes by marriage*(Webster,1986). In short, the study is about the use of ones of particular terms of address used to show personal relationship, that is *uncle and aunt.*

The topic about address term and kinship system has been studied by some other researchers. Kurniati (1998) studied the address term used by Balinese to address one's parents. She stated in her study that there are different ways to address one's parents in Bali based on the caste system. There are people who used *Bapa* and *Meme* to address their parents and there are also other terms such as *Gusti Aji* and *Gusti Biang.* The use of address term here is to show the class level of the person, There are also some studies done about address term and kinship system but in different language. Halim (1996), for instance, studied the way of addressing uncle and aunt used by some Teo Chew Pontianak in Surabaya. Whereas, Fenny (1996) also observed the same topic but in different source of language. She observed the address term used by Hinghwa and Hokkien Dialect.

The studies show that there is a need for more investigation such as the comparison of addressing relatives in two or more languages. It is important to compare two or more languages so that people can understand the differences and similarities of the languages and avoid misunderstanding. Based on that reason, the writer decided to observe the difference and similarities of the terms used to address one's uncle and aunt in Balinese and Javanese. The writer chose Balinese

and Javanese because she is from the family which has two different cultures, Balinese and Javanese. Besides, Balinese and Javanese are almost the same, for example: there are Javanese words which are similar to Balinese, e.g. 'Nggih' (Yes), and ' Mulih ' (go home). The similarity that Balinese and Javanese have based on the fact that the history between Java and Bali is closely related. The history is that in the middle of XIV century, Javanese language had an important role in art and religious center as the spoken and written language. When Moslem's influence occurred in East Java, Javanese Hindus moved to Bali and it becomes the language of literacy until nowadays (Koentjaraningrat,1994 : 18). The areas in Bali influenced by Javanese Hindus are called *Balinese Dataran* (Depdikbud, 1985 : 2).Based on that fact, she made a further observation of the differences and similarities between two languages. Meanwhile, the writer chooses aunt and uncle because observing them represents some aspects of language variation such as language variation by age, sex, status and position. Also, as far as the writer knows, there has been no observation on the address term for addressing uncle and aunt in Balinese and Javanese.

1.2   The Research Questions

Language may vary across culture. The choice of address term, for instance, is different between cultures, for example the terms used to address someone in Balinese differs with those in Javanese. Sometimes the difference across culture creates miscommunication. To avoid it, an explanation of the

differences is needed. In line with the background of the study, a major research question are formulated as :

1. What address terms do Balinese and Javanese use to address their uncle and aunt ?

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

3. What are the differences and similarities between Balinese and Javanese Address Terms ?

1.3   The Objectives of the Study

In line with the research questions stated in the previous section, this study was driven to :

1. find out the address term used by Balinese and Javanese to address their uncle and aunt.

2. find out the underlying reason and the social factors that Balinese and Javanese have for using the address term.

3. find out the differences and similarities of Balinese and Javanese in addressing uncle and aunt

1.4   The Significance of the Study

The study explained some major differences and similarities of the address term used in the Balinese and Javanese families to address their uncle and aunt By doing this study, the writer hopes that there will be no more misunderstanding in communication across culture, so that people can avoid

making mistakes in addressing people from different cultures. This study also provides further information on how the Balinese and Javanese address uncle and aunt.

The findings of the study can hopefully give contribution to the student and the teachers of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya, 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, the study can hopefully give a better understanding of the topic about the address term and kinship system in different languages.

1.5   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, which is culturally different and has some social values, is included in this subject. Sociolinguistics also explains that language is used as a means of communication and 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 relationship is addressing people. When someone addresses someone else, he will be regarded as a good user of language especially if he knows the sociolinguistics rules, such as how he addresses 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 is the term used to address one's relatives. The writer takes this concept since the writer investigated the use of kinship term to address used among Balinese and Javanese families.

1.6   The Assumptions

The study was done under the following assumptions:

1. Every language has its own way to address one's relative such as uncle and aunt.

2. The differences and similarities in the terms of addresses used can be described based on the underlying reason and underlying functions.

3. That different language and its aspects such as address term can be compared.

1.7   Scope and Limitation

Realizing that the topic of the study is broad and the time was limited, the writer tried to limit the scope of the study.

The topic about address term in kinship system was limited in the specific points that is the address term used to address uncle and aunt only. The observation is also limited only in two areas of language. They are Balinese and Javanese.

The writer also limited the subjects of the observation. Based on the topic being observed, the involved participants were taken from Balinese and Javanese families. Still, they were selected based on the criteria that each different caste, for Balinese, was represented by some people. The address terms that were asked are the terms that are used only in the same caste not between castes. Whereas, for the Javanese participants, they are the Javanese speakers who live in Surabaya only, although there are many Javanese who live outside Surabaya and they also use Javanese in their daily life. This is because the writer is inhabitant of Surabaya so that it is easier to collect the data. In other words, the participants are the native speakers of Javanese.

1.8   Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid ambiguity and as means of clarification, the following term should be clearly defined as follows:

1. *Comparative* means the condition of involving the way of how to examine people or things, to see how they are alike and how they are different (Crowther (ed.) ,1995:231)

2. *Kinship system* is 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 (Meriam Webster Staff (ed.),1986).

3. *Kinship terms* are terms that are used to address one's relatives (White, 1959:117).

4. *To address* means to use a particular name or title in speaking or writing to somebody (Crowther (ed.) , 1995: 14).

5. *Caste* is a small and named group of person characterized by endogamy, hereditary membership and specific style of life which sometimes include 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).

6. *Aunt* is the sister of one's father or mother or the wife of one's uncle (Crowther (ed.), 1995 : 67).

7. *Uncle* is mother's brother and father's brother and often mother's sister's husband and father's sister's husband (Ember, 1985 : 344).

1.9   The Organization of the Study

The report of the study was organized by the writer in five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction. It includes nine sections. They are : background of the study, the research questions, the research objectives, the significance of the study, theoretical framework, the assumptions, scope and limitation, definition of key terms and the organization of the study. Chapter two

deals with the review of related literature which consists of the related theory and related studies. Chapter III is the research methodology. It includes the nature of the study and the research design, the participants, the sources of the data, the research instruments, the procedure of data collection and the procedure of data analysis. Chapter IV presents findings and discussion of the findings. The last chapter, chapter V, is the closing part containing conclusion and suggestions.