

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Kinship terms play a uniquely important part in the lives of many of the people (Burling 1970:18). It has something to do with sociolinguistics which is concerned with the ways in which language is integrated with aspects of human society.- e.g., social interaction, and social change (Bright 1992:9). By having the two understandings above, it becomes more obvious that kinship and sociolinguistics are related with language and society.

Chinese has more terms than in English. In English, there is only one term of address for each members of family and relative. For instance, to address his family and relatives, one uses the terms "brother", "sister", "brother in-law" and "sister in-law". On the contrary, in Chinese, there are several terms of address used to address each one's family and relatives based on their ages. For instances, a speaker uses the term "koko" to address his older brother while "titi" is used to address his younger brother. Moreover, to address his older sister, the speaker uses "cécé" while "méi-méi" is for addressing his younger sister. Furthermore, to address his older brother's wife, the term "sao-sao" is used while "ti-fu" is used for addressing his younger brother's wife. In addition, the speaker uses the term

"cé-cang" for addressing his older sister's husband while to address his younger sister's husband, "méi-fu" is used. By looking at the instances above, it is obvious that age factor is really involved much in Chinese. Therefore, terms of address used in Chinese especially in Gek dialect are more complicated than in English. Apart from that, these terms of address are not common for many people in Indonesia and have its own characteristics which are different from other terms of address. Based on the reasons above, the writer became interested to make a study on terms of address addressing members of Chinese family and relatives in Gek dialect.

### **1.2 Statements 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 members of Chinese family and relatives in Gek dialect used by Gek Chinese Indonesian families in Surabaya?
2. What are the reasons for Gek Chinese Indonesian families in Surabaya to maintain the terms of address?

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

This study is intended to discover and describe:

1. The terms of address for members of Chinese family and relatives in Gek dialect used by Gek Chinese Indone-

sian families in Surabaya.

2. The reasons for Gek Chinese Indonesian families in Surabaya to maintain the terms of address.

#### 1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hoped that this study will give some contributions to the field of sociolinguistics especially about terms of address and provide some additional informations about the terms of address used to address members of Chinese family and relatives in Gek dialect to non-speakers of it.

#### 1.5 Scope and Limitation

Being aware of how broad and complex the terms of address in Gek dialect and how limited the time, energy, and funds, the writer thought it is necessary to limit the scope of the study. The writer decided to study the terms of address for members of Chinese family and relatives in Gek dialect. The writer also limited the study only to Gek Chinese Indonesian families who live in Surabaya.

#### 1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is based on three theories which involve language and dialect, Chinese language and its dialects, and Gek dialect. In Chinese and its dialects, it is important to use appropriate terms of address for

addressing their family and relatives members. By using the terms of address appropriately, the degree of social distance or solidarity between people - relative age, sex, social roles, whether people work together or are part of the same family, and so on can be determined (Holmes 1990:247).

### 1.7 Definition of the Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, the writer found it is necessary to define several key terms used in this study. It was hoped that the readers will have a clear picture of what this study is going to present.

#### 1. Kinship Terms

International Encyclopedia of Linguistics (1992, vol.4, p.310) defines kinship terms as the system of lexical items used in a language to express personal relationships within the family, in both narrow and extended senses.

#### 2. Terms of Address

Terms of Address are the terms that Ego (the speaker) employs when addressing a particular relative (Linda 1995:15).

#### 3. Dialect

Dialect means a regionally or socially distinctive variety of language characterized by a particular set

of words and grammatical structure and often associated with a distinctive pronunciation or accent (International Encyclopedia of Linguistics 1992, vol.4, p.292).

#### 4. Second Generations

Second generations are those whose parents were already born in Indonesia, while their grandparents were still born in mainland (personal definition, Linda 1995).

#### 5. Third Generations

Third generations are those who were born in Indonesia and their parents and grandparents were also born in Indonesia (Lukardi 1996:9).

#### 6. Members of the Chinese Family and Relatives

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

### 1.8 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical framework, definition of the key terms, and organization of the thesis. Chapter two presents the review of the related

literature while chapter three is about research methodology. Chapter four deals with findings and discussion. At last, chapter five presents summary, conclusion, and suggestions.