A STUDY ON THE USES OF THE SPEECH LEVELS OF BALINESE LANGUAGE IN INFORMAL CONTEXTS

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching

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ABSTRACT


Key words: Balinese language levels, 'basa alus (sing-gih)', 'basa madia', 'basa kapara/biasa', informal contexts.

Balinese language, like Javanese language, has different speech levels. In order to be able to communicate effectively, a Balinese should carefully choose the Balinese language levels ('basa alus', 'basa madia', and 'basa kapara') he is to use. Otherwise, he will hurt someone's feeling or be regarded impolite. This sort of situation lead to the question of what possible reasons that make Balinese speak to each other differently in informal contexts.

The answer to the question was explored by recording some conversations of Balinese native speakers and distributing questionnaires given to Balinese people. Using the following parameters: participants, role relationship, setting and scene, topic, and code, the writer analyzed the data and found out that the reasons which make Balinese people talk to each other in different speech levels in informal contexts were: role relationships between participants which played the most important role and secondly, the contexts (settings) of interaction where the conversations took place. Other parameter, topic of conversations, played a predominant role only.

The writer suggested that there would be another study on Balinese language since this study is limited in its scope, informants, subjects of study, and area of analysis. Furthermore; it would be better if there are more studies on other regional languages.