

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

The students of the English Department of Widya Mandala University should take Sociolinguistics in the sixth semester of their study. This subject is concerned with the way in which language is integrated with aspects of human society (Bright, 1992:9). One of the objectives of this subject is to find correlation between social structure and linguistic structure.

Studying Sociolinguistics is interesting, especially when we find the unique correlation between linguistic variation and social variation. Usually, we only know that language has variations among others in vocabulary. But we do not know the real uses and the social functions of those variations. In order to find the real uses and the social functions of those variations, we must look at the social structure of the speech community. Sociolinguistics, in this case, broadens our knowledge about our language or other languages, social aspects of communities, and cultures. Sociolinguistics also helps us connect language and society. A language is a part of society. And in society, we learn to use language. In addition,

Sociolinguistics enables us to recognize the functions of language in society.

Trudgill as quoted by Wardhaugh (1986:13) states that there are some examples of Sociolinguistic study such as the structure of discourse and conversation, speech act, studies in the ethnography of speaking, and investigation of kinship systems. The study under report is about kinship systems. To be more specific, this study is about kinship terms. The writer has chosen kinship terms as the topic of her study because properly used, kinship terms can be a means of establishing and maintaining relationship among people. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (1974:712) defines kinship as the condition of belonging to the same family or being connected by birth or marriage. Kinship terms then are words related to family or relatives. They are used to address one's relatives (White, 1959:117). Besides, 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 main focus of the study under report is on the Balinese kinship terms for father and mother. The consideration of choosing these terms of address was based on the fact that the writer has seen the important role of

father and mother in family life. They do everything for their children. And from their part, the children must show respect to their parents by using proper kinship terms to address them. Besides, father and mother are central in family communication. They hold the most important role in building good communication between the members of the family.

The writer has chosen the case of Negara speech community in Bali because the writer is a Balinese who lives in Negara. This factor facilitated the writer in collecting the data needed for the study under report. Besides, the writer's experience has told her that some Balinese people do not use proper Balinese kinship terms in addressing their father and mother. This is due to the fact that the social factor such as education and the second language influence some Balinese people in using Balinese kinship terms used to address their fathers and mothers.

In brief, the writer's main reason for choosing the topic under study was because she has seen the important role of Balinese terms of address for addressing one's father and mother and because she wanted to perpetuate the uses of Balinese terms of address, especially Balinese terms of address for addressing one's father and mother.

## **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

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

1. What are the types of Balinese terms of address for addressing one's father and mother in Negara, Bali?
2. What are the uses of these Balinese terms of address for addressing one's father and mother in Negara, Bali?
3. What are the social functions of these Balinese terms of address for addressing one's father and mother in Negara, Bali?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

In line with the problems stated above, this study intended to describe:

1. The types of Balinese terms of address for addressing one's father and mother in Negara, Bali.
2. The uses of Balinese terms of address for addressing one's father and mother in Negara, Bali.
3. The social functions of Balinese terms of address for addressing one's father and mother in Negara, Bali.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The writer hopes that the results of the study under report should give some contribution, to Sociolinguistics

in general, the study of kinship terms, and Balinese kinship terms, in particular. The findings of the study under report hopefully can share something significant to the speakers of Balinese and also to the non-speakers of Balinese, especially to the Sociolinguistic teachers and students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, that properly used kinship terms can help maintain a good communication in family as well as in society.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

Being aware of how broad and complex the terms of address in Balinese language and how limited the time, energy, and funds available, it is necessary to limit the scope of the study.

The focus of the study under report is the Balinese terms of address for addressing one's father and mother who come from the same caste, for instance both parents are from the Brahmin caste. This decision was made because it is easier to find the informants whose parents are both from the same caste than to find the informants whose parents are from different castes. The study was also limited to Balinese people who live in Negara since for the

writer (an inhabitant of Negara) it is easier to find representative informants there.

### **1.6 Theoretical Framework**

This study was based on two basic theories: (a) Sociolinguistics with the focus on social dialect, language and caste, and kinship terms and (b) Sociology with the focus on castes.

The writer used Sociolinguistics as an underlying theory because the study of kinship terms is a study of language in relations to society. Holmes (1992:1) states that people who choose to study Sociolinguistics are interested in explaining why people speak differently in different social contexts. In addition, they are also concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the way language is used to convey social meanings.

Kinship terms exist in all languages and dialects. Since this study is about kinship terms, it is obvious if the writer used kinship terms theory as another underlying theory.

This study is an attempt to find the relationship between linguistic structure and social structure. Since Balinese social structure is traditionally based on caste,

it is necessary to find relationship between language and caste.

The writer also used Sociology as another underlying theory because this science is about the nature and growth of society and social behavior. She believes that it can give clear explanation about the social structure of Balinese society especially about caste system.

### **1.7 Definition of 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. Function**

**Function is the relationship between a linguistic form and the social or interpersonal setting in which it is used, as when one refers to the various functions of language (to communicate ideas, express attitudes, etc.) (International Encyclopedia of Linguistics, 1992, Vol 4: 301).**

#### **2. Social function**

**Social function is function which connected with or suited to polite or fashionable society (The Macquarie Dictionary, 1987:1606).**

### 3. Kinship

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (1974:712) defines kinship as condition of belonging to the same family or being connected by birth or marriage.

### 4. Kinship terms

White (1959:117) claims that kinship terms are the terms used to address one's relatives.

### 5. Caste

The Macquarie Dictionary (1987:301) defines caste as one of the artificial divisions or social classes into which the Hindus are rigidly separated and of which the privileges or disabilities are transmitted by inheritance.

### 6. Dialect

Dialect is one of the related norms comprised under the general name 'language'. Every dialect is a language but not every language is a dialect (Haugen, 1972:99).

### 7. Endogamy

Endogamy is marriage within the tribe or other social unit (The Macquarie Dictionary, 1987:585).

### 8. Hypergamy

Webster's Third New International Dictionary (1986:1112) defines hypergamy as marriage into an equal or higher

caste or social group\_\_used of Hindus laws forbidding women to marry men of inferior caste.

## **9. Social class**

Social class is a group which is part of the hierarchical structure of a society, usually classified by occupation, and having common economic or cultural status (The Macquarie Dictionary, 1987: 1606).

### **1.8 Organization of the Thesis**

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