

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background Of The Study

The habit of using Teochew languages remains intact even if the speakers are outside the geographic language. This kind of phenomenon has encouraged the formation of bilingual societies. Immigrants and locals interacting with each other forces both parties to get to know one another, and understand each other's interaction language in mastery of two or more languages.

The *Teochew* variety is viewed as the commercial linguafranca amongst the elderly members of Chinese business circles in China Town (Yaowarat). Recalling the distinction between dominant and subsidiary groups, most scholars and members of the general public tend to accept the stereotypical or receive view of *Teochew* as the dominant group as juxtaposed to the subsidiary groups of those of Chinese descent or partial Chinese descent, including speakers of Cantonese, Hakka, Hainanese, amongst others. Thus, it seems clear that the Teochew variant is believed to be well-preserved.

Some of the current researches in this field, reviewed the existing literature based on new literature published from 1998 to 2002. Schools, educators, parents, and communities played a crucial role in helping minority Students's maintained their first languages (Kouritzin, 1999). A research conducted by Lao (2004) was closely connected to heritage language maintenance. He pointed out that language use at home by parents and children was the most crucial factor in

determining whether the heritage language would be maintained or lost over the generations.

Li (1999) also highlighted her research idea through a case study of a language minority in the U S context. She mentions that immigrant children's heritage language skills and identity formation was greatly influenced by parents' positive attitudes toward the heritage language at home. This shows that parents' supportive interactions with their children at home in the heritage language was likely to enhance the possibility of maintaining the heritage language over the generations. It was therefore important to investigate how the Chinese Descendants have attempted to preserve their ancestral language in this present day of generations of Borneo Chinese.

This research also connected the writer's family background as her parents are Chinese *Teochew* who originally come from Ketapang, West Borneo. They have been living in Semarang for long time. The writer was interested in conducting research on Soegijapranata Catholic University students' and their parents' efforts to maintain their *Teochew* heritage language.

1.2. Field Of The Study

The field of the study was linguistics which focuses on Sociolinguistics.

1.3. Scope Of The Study

The research focused on language maintenance in *Teochew* language as a part of Sociolinguistic topic of interest.

1.4. Problem Formulation

As a *Teochew* young generation, the writer was very concerned with her heritage language maintenance as language is article identity. The loss of a language means the loss of one's identity. Her concern on her heritage language was reflected on her research question "What do the students and their parents do to maintain their *Teochew* heritage language?"

1.5. Objective Of The Study

The objective of the study was to analyze the students' and their parents' efforts to maintain their *Teochew* heritage language.

1.6. Significance Of The Study

The writer analyzed of the students' and their parents' efforts to maintain their heritage language in Soegijapranata Catholic University Semarang. By analyzing, the writer shows what the parents and their children do to maintain their Chinese *Teochew* heritage language in Soegijapranata Catholic University Semarang. The writer hopes this research can give some information for both lecturers and students' from the Faculty Language and Arts Soegijapranata Catholic University in studying Sociolinguistics, especially in the language maintenance.

1.7. Definition Of Terms

Some terms that are used in this study are:

1. Language Maintenance

According to Budiana (2017), language maintenance is the effort to make someone to still use their original when they become blended with new culture.

2. Chinese *Teochew*

According to Lao (2004), Chinese *Teochew* is one of the ethnic groups who have lived in Indonesia since thousand years ago and become part of Indonesian people now. Han Chinese people, native to the Chaoshan region of eastern Guangdong province who speaks the *Teochew* dialect.

