

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The writer was born in a Chinese family in *Khek* and *Hokkian* families. The father comes from *Hokkian* family and mother comes from *Khek* family. As the writer grows up, the writer meets most of close relatives from both *Khek* and *Hokkian* families. When the writer meets them, the writer always calls their title and the last name (TLN). For example, the writer calls her uncle by using *Ayi* (Aunty) + Bing (Last name). It is intended not only to respect older or younger person but also to place myself in a good manner. The address terms are words that are used to refer someone in a polite way. Leach (1958, p.143) as cited in Huang (1998, p.2) states that address terms are category words by means of which an individual is taught to recognize the significant groupings in the social structure into which he is born. It means that address term is used for grouping people into the social factor in the place they belong to.

Address terms are used to call or to address other people, not only elder Chinese but also Javanese people. It can be done not only at home but also elsewhere such as in the university and in the office. Someone intends to address other people who seem older than them. For example in Faculty of Letter in Soegijapranata Catholic University, someone calls his or her senior by using "Cik" or "Koh" although he or she does not know the senior's age. S/he also will address his or her lecturer by using "Mr", or "Mrs" + First Name or using "Miss", "Madam", or "Sir". This kind of situation also can be found in Chinese community.

There are many kinds of ethnics in Chinese community such as *Khek* and *Hokkian*. *Khek* and *Hokkian* have their own culture, language, and address system. In Chinese community, seniority plays an important role in family relations. According to Huang (1998, p.3):

because a kinship term represents a member's status in a family and his/her relations with other members, it is an unwritten law that people should be addressed by their kinship terms before any verbal communication could take place.

It means that if a child wants to talk to the elder of the family without addressing the correct address term, s/he will be considered as an impolite child because in Chinese family, age is the main factor in using the address term. Braun (1988, p.114) says "Age is the decisive factor governing address behavior". It can be said that age is the main factor that holds an important role in using the address terms.

In expressing and stating the address terms I get confused of the terms that are used in *Khek* and *Hokkian* family. For example, when calling my grandfather in *Khek* family I should address him by using "Akung". On the other side, in *Hokkian* family, I should address him by using "Akong" because there are many differences in using the address terms in *Khek* and *Hokkian* families. There are many factors that affect these differences such as the differences of sex, age, and social class. According to Manjulakshi (2004, p.1), "The use of address terms are determined by several factors, such as education, socio-economic status, age, sex, caste, the context". In socio-economic status, persons who are poor in education and have low economy usually get the different term of address that people who have higher socio-economic status. Manjulakshi (2004, p.4) says that person who is poor in education and has to survive hard for their livelihood, have great difficulty in improving or altering their modes of address and pronominal

usage. This idea is supported by Wardaugh (2010, p.288) who says

Among these social factors are the particular occasion, the social status or rank of the other, sex, age, family relationships, occupational hierarchy, transactional status, such as a doctor-patient relationship or priest-penitent, race, and the degree of intimacy.

It means that not only socio-economic status, literacy level, caste, age and sex but also family relationship, occupational hierarchy, and transactional status, particular occasion, the degree of intimacy, and even race determine the use of address term. For example, someone will call his or her close friend by using First Name (FN) because they have intimacy as close friends. In a particular occasion, someone will call other people by using Last Name or Title + Last Name. It is used to respect people in front of public and also to be considered as a polite person.

From the example above, it could be seen that there are many differences in the address terms especially in both *Khek* and *Hokkian* families. The interesting phenomena as shown have inspired the writer to further analyze the address terms in both *Khek* and *Hokkian* families, especially in mixed *Khek* and *Hokkian* families.

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of the study is Linguistics, especially Sociolinguistics.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The study focuses on analyzing the address terms used in Chinese families, concentrating in *Khek* and *Hokkian* families in Semarang.

1.4 Problem Formulation

In order to get a great result of this analysis, the following problems have been formulated:

1. What are the address terms used in mixed *Khek* and *Hokkian* families and how many persons use the address terms correctly?
2. What are the Tu and Vous dimensions in the use of address terms in mixed *Khek* and *Hokkian* families?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The problem formulation above leads the writer to the following study objectives:

1. To describe the address terms used in mixed *Khek* and *Hokkian* families and to find out how many persons use the correct address terms.
2. To find out the Tu and Vous dimensions in the use of address terms in mixed *Khek* and *Hokkian* families.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The writer decided to analyze in *Khek* and *Hokkian* families in order to know what the address terms are used and what the Tu and Vous dimensions are. By analyzing, the writer would like to show the terms used in addressing relatives in mixed *Khek* and *Hokkian* families. The writer hopes this study could give some information for both lecturers and students from the Faculty of Letters of Soegijapranata Catholic University in studying Sociolinguistics, especially in the address terms.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Some terms that are used in this study are:

1. Address terms

- Address forms are the words speakers use to designate the person they are talking to while they are talking to them (Fasold, 1990, p.2).

2. *Khek* or Hakka family

- Hakkas are inhabitants at the junction of Guangdong, Fujian, and Jiangxi. Others have settled in Sichuan and Taiwan. They are a group entering the southern provinces after Jin dynasty. Hakkas are characteristic of hardworking people and their spoken language can find roots in ancient classical Chinese (Yoon-Ngan, 2005, p.2).

3. *Hokkian* ethnic

- *Hokkian* is the early settlers originated mostly from Fujian and Guangdong provinces in Southern China (Tan, 2008, p.255).

