

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains six subchapters of the study. They are background, problem statement, objective, significance, scope and limitation, and definition of terms. They are explained in details below.

1.1 Background of the Study

It is worthwhile to study a language because it plays a very important role in almost all fields of life such as: communication, commerce, economy, politics, education, science, technology, and social life. Language connects people to each other in social relationship and allows them to participate in a variety of activities in everyday life (Agha, 2007: 1). Language also functions as social controls, social integration, and adaptation since it can be used to build cooperation with others (Keraf, 1973: 13-14). It is also a tool of communication and interaction among the people in a society (Alwasilah, 1983: 81). As a tool of communication, language can be used or expressed in two ways: verbal and non-verbal. In verbal communication, a speaker expresses language orally or in the spoken form, while in non-verbal communication, a speaker uses body movements or gestures. From that reason, it can be said that language has a unique characteristic in its role as a tool of making communication.

Language is systematic and each language has its own system that is different from other languages. Linguistic is the scientific study of the languages.

It is generally known that linguistics is divided into two: microlinguistics and macrolinguistics. Microlinguistics covers the structure of sounds called phonology, structure of words called morphology, structure of sentences called syntax, and structure of meaning called semantic. Meanwhile, macrolinguistics includes philosophical linguistics, mathematical and statistical linguistics, anthropological linguistics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, and cultural linguistics (Mesthrie et al. 2000: 5). In sociolinguistics, there is a theory or concepts on language in interaction. In other words, language in interaction is a part of sociolinguistics, in which the writer is going to do the research.

Language in interaction covers five sub-topics: speaking and silence, narratives, conversation style, encoding relationship and asymmetrical talk (Mesthrie, et al. 2000: 184-203). So the study of encoding relationship is a part of language in interaction and it is a study of how speakers construct a certain kind of relationship with others which is explicitly encoded in language (Mesthrie, et al. 2000: 201). The different ways of expressing a language can be found among ethnic groups. In communication, a speaker or a listener uses different language forms to say something or to respond to a statement, which is not always suitable with what is being expected. Sometimes it causes misunderstanding among the speakers and the listeners. These problems are because of the different cultural perceptions. Therefore, people should not only know their language, but also know how to use it, for instance, they know whether or not a given expression is appropriate in a given situation (Bolinger and Sears, 1981: 192).

In a language we have a term called dialect. The term dialect in sociolinguistics is used to describe the speech characteristics of a region (regional dialect) and of a group of people defined by social or occupational characteristics (social dialect) (Mesthrie, et al. 2000: 45). Furthermore, a language is determined by the culture of its society. Based on some different systems of the language above, the writer is interested in doing a study of encoding relationship of Tetun dialect of Tetun Language spoken by the people in Dafala.

Tetun language is a language spoken by the people who reside in North part of Belu Regency and South of Malaka Regency of Timor Island. It is belonged to Austronesia language. Tetun dialect is a dialect spoken by people living in North part of Belu regency. Meanwhile, the terms of address are the terms used by people to address each other in daily life (Pateda, 1997: 16). Terms of address are used by people to show politeness and honorifics. Terms of address system in a community are influenced by some factors, such as identity, age, sex, kinship terms and social status. These factors are holding important role concerned by addressee and addresser in addressing each other (Trip, 1969: 95). Tetun dialect has its own terms of address in its daily use. Some of them are the following.

- 1) ***Ina*** o malo sa?
mother *you do what*
 ‘What are you doing, **mother**?’

- 2) Emi ***feto*** tur iha dapur.
you women sit in the kitchen.
 ‘The **women** have to sit in the kitchen’.

Sentence 1 contains term of address *inaw* which is used to address a woman who is older than the addresser, and sentence 2 has the term of address *feto* which is used by addresser to address a woman. The term of address in sentence 1 is influenced by the politeness and in sentence 2, it is influenced by gender. It is considered as a part of culture that has to be kept and developed. The development of a language can be carried out by analyzing the language itself.

Considering the explanation above, the writer is interested in making a further research about the terms of address in Tetun dialect with the title '**A Study on Kinship Terms of Tetun Dialect of Tetun Language Spoken by People in Dafala of Belu Regency**'.

1.2 Problem Statements

Based on the background of this study, the writer specified the topic in some problem statements, as formulated in the following questions.

1. What are kinds of kinship terms in Tetun dialect of Tetun language spoken by people in Dafala of Belu Regency?
2. What are the functions and the meanings of kinship terms in Tetun dialect of Tetun language spoken by people in Dafala of Belu Regency?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Objective of a study is actually the aims of what a study wants to find out. Based on the problems above, the objective of the study is formulated in the following statements.

1. To identify and describe kinds of kinship terms of Tetun dialect of Tetun language spoken by people in Dafala of Belu Regency.
2. To identify and describe the functions and meanings of kinship terms of Tetun dialect of Tetun language spoken by people in Dafala of Belu Regency.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are two general significance of this study. They are academic significance as theoretical in linguistic world and practical significance as practical in daily life (Pierry, in Erom. 2012: 4).

1.4.1 Academic Benefits

There are academics significances of this study. Such significance are as follows.

1. The result of this study can become contribution of ideas on linguistics theory, especially dealing with the sociolinguistic theory in the branch of language in interaction.
2. The result of this can become scientific information for the sake of enriching literatures on the related study in the future.
3. The result of this study can become a scientific reference for the related study review for the coming researchers, especially the local language researches.
4. The result of this study can become an additional source of reference for the maintenance and development of Tetun dialect.

1.4.2 Practical Benefits

The practical significances that might be expected to be achieved from the result of this study are as follows.

1. To provide the linguistic knowledge and skill of the writer on how to conduct and do a research in scientific way.
2. To increase the skill and knowledge of the writer in Tetun Language especially in encoding relationship of Tetun dialect.
3. To provide good information about encoding relationship for the Tetun dialect speakers.
4. To provide information on local cultural linguistics for English Department Students that go in line with the vision and mission of FKIP of UNWIRA.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is about Language in interaction, specifically discusses about encoding relationship in Tetun Dialect of Tetun Language. Tetun Langauge is spoken by people in Belu Regency and Malaka Regency. TetunLanguage has many variations that are called dialect. The dialect of Tetun Language includes Tetun Dialect and Tetun Fehan Dialect. This study focuses on Tetun Dialect. It is spoken by people in Dafala of Belu Regency. This study concentrates on Tetun Dialect of Tetun Language. It consists of the social status, role or position of the speaker or listener in the community. Language in interaction covers five sub-topics; speaking and silence, narratives, conversational style, encoding relationship and asymmetrical talk (Mesthrie, et al. 2000: 184-203). This study

specifically applies the theory of language in interaction especially encoding relationship and this study focuses on kinship terms. Formal and informal are taken into account.

1.6 Definition of the Terms

Dealing with this study, there are some important terms need to be defined. It is intended to avoid misunderstanding to these terms and the study as a whole. Such terms include: Language, Encoding, Dialect, Tetun language, Tetun dialect, Dafala. They are explained below.

1. Language

Language connects people to each other in social relationship and allows them to participate in a variety of activities in everyday life (Agha, 2007: 1). Language is a tool of communication and interaction (Alwasilah, 1983: 81). Language also functions as social control, social integration, and adaptation since the language can be used to build cooperation with others (Keraf, 1973: 13-14).

2. Encoding Relationship

Encoding relationship is defined as a word or phrase used to address an addressee (Elaine, 1983: 46-49). The study of encoding relationship is the study of how speakers construct a certain kind of relationship with others which is explicitly encoded in language (Mesthrie, et al. 2000: 201).

3. Dialect

The term ‘dialect’ in sociolinguistics is used to describe the speech characteristic of a region (regional dialect) or of a group of people defined by

social or occupational characteristics rather than by region alone (social dialect), (Mesthrie et al. 2000: 45). Referring to the definition given above it can be classified that dialect belongs to language to show the variation in the use of the language in a particular area and by a particular people.

4. Tetun Language

Tetun Language is one of the local languages in Timor Island. It is spoken by people living in Belu Regency and Malaka Regency.

5. Tetun Dialect

Tetun dialect is a dialect spoken by people in Dafala in North part of Belu Regency.

6. Dafala

It is in North part of Belu. It is 15-20 km from Atambua. It is in Tasi Feto Timur Sub-district in Belu Regency.