INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher provides the context of the background, research problems, objectives, and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of Study

Lamaholot is one of the languages of the Flores Islands. It is used as a mother tongue by the Lamaholot tribe, who inhabit the eastern part of Flores Island (except for the people in Larantuka city who also use Larantuka Malay or Nagi), Solor Island, Adonara Island, and Lembata Island (except the Kedang area) with various dialects. As a part of Indonesia, people in this region also speak *Bahasa Indonesia* (Indonesian). *Bahasa Indonesia* is used in schools as the medium of instruction, for religious services such as worship in churches or/and for sermons in mosques and government offices.

Every language has a variety of diversity. Language diversity or variation occurs because of the demand to fulfill the function of language as a means of interaction in various community activities. The study that examines the problem of language variety is sociolinguistics. In sociolinguistics (the function of language in a social context), language varies considerably. Language variations are determined by time, place, sociocultural, situation, and medium of expression factors. The time factor creates language differences from time to time. Regional factors differentiate the language used in one place from another. Sociocultural factors distinguish the language used by a social group. Situational factors arise because language users choose certain language characteristics in certain situations. The medium factor differentiates spoken language from written language (Chaer and Agustine, 1995: 79).

Language can reflect the social relationship between speakers. Alternatively, it can be said that language becomes a marker of social relations between speech participants because when someone talks to another person, the choice of linguistic forms is determined by the relationship between the speaker and the speaking partner (Brown and Ford, 1964: 234). This is in line with what Chaer (2010: 39) revealed that the process of speech involves the speaker, the interlocutor, and the message or object spoken, but on condition that the speech partner is conscious or aware of the speech of the speaker.

We know that in communicating, it is necessary to have a speaker and speech partner as communication actors who use the address system in the speech interaction. According to Chaer (1997: 107), what is meant by forms of address are forms or expressions to greet, reprimand, or call the second person or the person being spoken to. This means that the speaker must adjust the address to the speech partner because the accuracy of the address will affect the success of communication. In other words, addressing terms cannot be used freely. Therefore, speakers must choose and use the correct addressing terms. For example, when a child talks to his parents, he cannot use a name (according to Indonesian culture, calling parents by name directly is not allowed). He or she must use the term 'father or mother.' Alternatively, in a formal situation, such as a discussion process, a student cannot say the name of his friend but must use a term of address such as 'brother X or sister Y'. So, is this applicable to other languages? To answer this, we need to know that language and culture influence the way people address one another because different languages will have different cultures too. This means that it is necessary to consider the relativity of language.

The address used by a person is strongly influenced by the environment, age, occupation, social status, and familiarity. According to Soewito (1983: 3), the factors of address division are based on factors related to social issues such as age and gender and situational factors such as who the speaker of the language is, to whom the address is addressed, when, and where. These factors cause variations or varieties of addresses for each interlocutor; in other words, each person has a different address.

Based on the factors mentioned earlier, we can easily find varieties in the use of address in everyday life in various conversational languages. One of them is a language with various addresses in the Lamaholot community who use Lamaholot language. The Lamaholot language has many dialects, including the Mulan dialect used by the Atakera village community. As a society that still firmly holds the rules of customs and norms of politeness, the rules of addressing terms are also applied in daily communication. This raises the researcher's question about the use of addressing terms by the Lamaholot (especially in Atakera village). In addition, there has yet to be research on addressing terms in the Lamaholot language of the Mulan dialect. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting more detailed and in-depth research to find how the use of address terms in the Lamaholot language (Mulan dialect) and what their functions are in a study entitled " Terms of Address in Mulan Dialect of Lamaholot Language".

**1.2	Research Problems**

Based on the above background, this research aims to answer several problems that are the focus of the research. These problems are as follows:

1. What are the types of addressing terms used in the Mulan dialect of the Lamaholot language?

2. What are the functions of the addressing terms used in the Mulan dialect of the Lamaholot language?

**1.3	Objectives of Study**

Based on the formulation of the problems above, the research objectives are as follows:

1. To find out the types of addressing terms in Mulan dialect of Lamaholot language.

2. Describe the functions of the addressing terms in Mulan dialect of Lamaholot language.

**1.4	Significance of Study**

This study has both theoretical and practical significance as the following:

a)	**Theoretical significance**

Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to help determine the terms of address used by the speakers of Mulan dialect of Lamaholot language.

b) **Practical significance**

   Practically, the results of this study are expected to be useful for lecturers and students to make the results of this research as learning material or reference regarding the use of terms of address in the Lamaholot language. This research is also expected to be a reference and relevant research for future researchers to conduct more in-depth similar research.