

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a medium of communication that allows people to share things one to another as well as to express their communicative needs. Language is very vital and useful in our daily life. When people want to share their ideas, feelings, or perception with others, they have to use language to transfer them. The languages are used in all life style, cultural ceremony, daily activity, and transferring knowledge from the educator to the learners. This is happening until this time. Language holds very important role in human beings lives. Nobody would be able to live on this earth due to the lack of communication tool. Language could be simply defined as a tool of communication which is given by God to human beings. Wardhaugh (2005: 3) states that “Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication.

There are various kinds of language depending on the purpose of language use. The use of language in interaction entails more than simply exchanging information about thoughts and factual things between one person to another, it is an important process in which the relationships among people are

outlined and negotiated. Participating in conversations, people consciously or unconsciously show their identities, their belonging to a specific culture or group and also their tendencies to become close or distant from others. A significant linguistic area in which all these functions are highlighted is “term/forms of address”. These linguistic elements are almost never neutral in the interpersonal meaning they convey, that is, the choice of particular form inevitably entails the expression of particular feelings and attitudes, which is the result of the interlocutors evaluation of the nature of the relationship between them. Philipsen and Huspek (1985: 94) stated: “Terms of address reflect the social and linguistic background of interactants to a greater extent than other aspects of language”. This is the reason why these items have been the focus of attention by a large number of researches in the area of sociolinguistics.

Dialect is also discerned as a variety of language used by one occupational group or one social class. Fasold(2001) “Dialect studies show that how one speaks is inextricably bound up with one’s identity. Who one is, how one may be treated, and how one may treat other all proclaimed in one’s speech”. Chaer (2004: 15), “Argues that the problem of sociolinguistic function is in terms of speaker, listeners, topics, codes, and the mandate of the talks”. Sociolinguistic issues are interesting to talk about tribal language ethnicity and people values are in intergration and embedded in one to each other. For example, East Nusa Tenggara is a province with diverse ethnicity and languages. In this province there are many islands and languages. Grimes (1997: 5), “states that there are 72 local languages spoken in this province. Almost each island has its own vernaculars used by

people in daily communication beside Indonesian”. One of the languages spoken in East Nusa Tenggara Province is Bunaq language which is used by Belunese of Makir Village.

Bunaq language is a language spoken by the people who live in Makir village. Bunaq dialect is the writer’s interest because the writer wants to know about terms of address in Bunaq dialect of Makir Village used for addressing people and how to address people considering the status, age, sex and context of situation of the community. This language its belonged to Austronesian language.

Bunaq dialect is a dialect that is intelligible for the people in Bunaq speech community, thus it is considered as a dialect. in this speech community, people culturally address others according to the local norms. One of it is to use the appropriate addressing terms based on the social status, age, and sex. It may cause problems when the outsiders from other linguistics and culture background come to Makir. The understanding or communication may happen when the addressee may get offended or even gets angry when the addresser does not consider the age, sex, social status or other culture aspect in system of addressing.

Actually there are some terms of address practiced by Bunaq people. Some of the terms of address used in Bunaq are quoted below.

1. *Eme* “Mother”

The term *eme* is used to address a mother and the caller is a child or those who by the culture have to call her *eme*.

2. *Ama* “Father”

The term *ama* is used to address a father and the caller is a child. This term is also used to address other men who have no family relationship like the term *emeabove*.

3. *Tata mone, Tata pana* “Grandfather, Grandmother”

The term *tatamone* is used to address grandfather, and *tatapana* is used to address grandmother.

The terms of addressing in bunaq dialect can be distinguished according to situation both formal and informal in community. Jacob (2011) mentions that “Language politeness used in social community must see social relationship between speakers and listeners according to status, job, sex, age, and situation”. It may cause problems when the outsiders from other linguistics and culture background come to Makir. The understanding or communication may happen when the addressee may get offended or even gets angry when the addresser does not consider the age, sex, social status or other culture aspect in system of addressing.

Based on the background explained above the writer would like to conduct a research entitled “**A Study on Kinship Terms of Bunaq Language Spoken by People in Makir Village of Belu Regency**”.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The topic is specified into some problems. They are formulated in questions as follow :

1. What are the kinship terms used to address people in Bunaq Language spoken by people Makir village of Belu Regency?
2. What are the functions and meanings of kinship terms used in Bunaq Language spoken by people in Makir of Belu Regency ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In line with the problem statements, this study has some objectives which are actually the aims of doing the study. The objectives in detail are as follows:

1. To find out the terms used to address people in Bunaq Language spoken by people in Makir village of Belu Regency.
2. To describe the meaning and functions of kinship terms used to address people in Bunaq Language spoken by people in Makir village of Belu Regency.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has some significance for the writer and the readers. They are explained below:

1. For the Writer

Doing this study can improve the writer's knowledge on terms of address in general and terms of address in Bunaq Language spoken by people in makir village of Belu Regency in particular.

2. For the Readers

To help and inform the readers about the terms of address used in Bunaq language spoken by people in Makir village of Belu Regency.

3. Researcher

This study will be used as a reference by other researchers who will conduct the studies of the similar topic in any other local language.

4. For the English Study Program

This study will give information about local culture and linguistics that goes in line with the vision and mission of FKIP of UNWIRA Kupang. Based on this the effort of perpetuation is done.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

Linguistics covers a wide range of linguistics topics. In general, it covers two: microlinguistics and macrolinguistics. Microlinguistics covers phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Macrolinguistics covers cultural linguistics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, anthropological linguistics, stylistics, language teaching, mathematical and statistical linguistic, philosophical linguistics, and ecolinguistics.

This study focuses on macrolinguistics especially on sociolinguistics aspect which concentrates on social interaction of the terms of address used in Bunaq Language spoken by people in Makir village of Belu Regency. It is limited to the terms of addressing people in Bunaq language used to address people within the

community of Bunaq especially terms of address used in family relationship and non family relationship, in relation to age, gender, and social status.

1.6 Defenition of Terms

In order to make the readers have the same perception or understanding and also to avoid the ambiguity and misconception about the term used in this study, the writer would define some terms found in the title of this writing as follows:

1. Bunaq Language

Bunaq language is a local language spoken by a group of people who live in BeluRegency, LamaknenSub district.

2. Terms of Address

Terms of address are used to address someone in interaction by means of language.

3. Makir

It is in North part of Belu. It is 35-40 km from Atambua. It is in Lamaknen Sub-district in Belu Regency.