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An Analysis of Address Term Used in Indonesian (Bali) Kinship and English Kinship System

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Abstract

This research investigates the address term used in Balinese kinship and English kinship, and show how they different. Society cannot be separated from doing interaction to each other through communicate using the language. Address term is commonly use in communication to address the interlocutor, such as families and relatives. This study uses descriptive qualitative approach. The data is focused on the address term use in kinship system in Bali and compare to English Kinship. The data of Balinese kinship are collected by observing the daily communication in the society and also conduct an interview to fifteen participants, while English kinship data were taken from previous researches. The result of this study show that Balinese kinship has many address terms in kinship system that differentiated by each caste, and Balinese kinship is more complex than English kinship.

Keywords: *Address Term, Kinship Terminology, Culture, Language, Caste System*

Introduction

Communication has important role in society to make a good relationship with other. Language is used to communicate with others, and from that communication people do an interaction with the society. In the social environment people are different from each other because of the gender, age, and social class of each person. In those differences, people have a special term in addressing the interlocutor in doing conversation. The address term used depend on the relation between speaker and also the interlocutor. According to Semiun (2018), people uses address terms and kinship terms as the way to express politeness in their communication and how they use the terms is influenced by its language. Address term is commonly used in daily communication with family and society. The language that people used in addressing their family and their society is determined by its own culture. Yu & Ren (2013) say that there are rules and norms in every culture for addressing people appropriately in communication. In this case also show that language and culture is related and cannot be separated. Every language has its own culture and how people used the language is characterize the culture itself.

Indonesia, especially Bali is known by the culture existence. Balinese people are still tightly bound with culture because it still consistence. The cultures are shown on the ritual, art, and also language. Bali has a variety of languages that are used based on caste. People in their communication show how they have relation with the interlocutor and also show the caste of that people. According to Dhayef & Alhussaini (2018), kin terminology is term used by people who have relationship. In communicating in the social environment, people commonly call the interlocutor based on their relationship in kinship system. The Kinship system of Balinese people is created based on blood, marriages, and relative in society. Moreover the address term use in Bali is differentiated based on their caste, such as Brahmana, Ksatria, Waisya, and Sudra. There are some terms that only exist in Bali for addressing kin and relatives, such as “Ajik” and “Ajung” for addressing father, “Biang” for mother, “Wi” and “Mbok” for addressing the older siblings.

As well as Balinese culture, western people (English) also have its own way to address people in communication. English kinship is difference from Balinese kinship because it has difference culture. It is related to the explanation by Semiun (2018), he states that the use of languages in kinship terms are different from each other. In the previous research there are some researchers dealing with address term in kinship terminology comparing English Kinship with Chinese and Javanese. This study focused on address term in kinship system used in Bali which is really complex and compare with English kinship, therefore this research is conducted to investigate how Balinese people address their relatives based on their caste, and how Balinese Kinship is different from English kinship.

Reviewing Literature

1. Address Term

Address term is used to call family and society in doing communication. According to Semiun (2018), address term is used by families and societies to refer each other in communication, and he states that it used to show politeness during the interaction in families and societies to maintain a good relationship in the communication. Yu & Ren (2013) says that people use address term to address the interlocutor when they are communicating. By addressing someone, people know the relationship between speaker and also the interlocutor because they address each other based on their relationship, whether they are family or just a society. Surono (2018) explains the use of address term describe the relationship of people in society and also show the relationship of language and society. Lumbanbatu et al (2018) also states that the use of address term is related to language and culture. People has different way to use the address term because they have their own culture, and they use the address term based on situation in the environment.

2. Kinship Terminology

Kinship terminology is refers the relation of individuals in family and society. The kinship term is used to express the identity of individuals in the family and relatives to show their relationship and convey social information (Keesing, 1975 in Ngo, 2017).

According to Read (2015), the kinship term of speaker and listener is shown by the address term used in their conversation. He also explains that the differences of kinship terminology are influenced by the culture itself. It means that every culture has its own kinship system and they address their kin in different way.

3. Caste System in Bali

Balinese people get their caste since they were born and it followed their father's caste. Balinese people are divided into four caste system, there are Brahman, Ksatria, Waisya, and Sudra (Supratikno, 1998 in Silaban, 2019). Brahman is the highest caste, and people who have this caste are "Ida Bagus" and "Ida Ayu", Ksatria is the first middle caste which is consist of "Cokorda", "Anak Agung", and "Dewa". Waisya is the middle caste, and the name of people who have this caste is "Gusti", and Sudra is the lowest caste and it is also call "Jaba". The symbols of name determine how people in Bali use the language. According to Limarandani et al (2019), the three highest castes (*Brahman, Kshatriya, and Veisya*) or *triwangsa*, used their title of status as their name rather than their order name in family.

Method

This research uses descriptive qualitative method to describe the phenomenon about the use of address term in the society based on kinship system and caste. This research gives the explanation of the descriptive data of the address term in Kinship system used by Balinese people which is related

to their caste and compare with English kinship system. For the English kinship, the data are collected by reading previous researches. For the address term used in Balinese kinship, the data gathered by observing the address terms used in daily life conversation in Gianyar, as one of District in Bali, who still show the consistency of culture, and do interview to people who have difference caste, and used the interview guide as the instrument. There are fifteen participants that come from different caste, such as Brahmana, Ksatria, Waisya, and Sudra. Each of them gets the same questions about how they call their family or relatives. The data write in the table and translate to English to make the people who do not understand Balinese language know the meaning of the address term used in Balinese kinship system. Then, the data will be compared.

Findings and Discussions

There are many address term applied for addressing kin in Bali because each caste has its own way to address their family and relatives. According to Surono (2018), address term is used differently in each family. As well as in Bali, the address term used by Balinese people are really complex because of the caste. There are address term used by the highest caste to call the lowest caste, the lowest caste call the highest caste and also the address term in the same caste. There are also address term for woman who are from the lowest caste married with people who have the higher caste than her caste. The address term in Balinese Kinship system can be seen in the table below.

Table 1. Address Term in Kinship System Used in Balinese Culture Based on Caste

Kinship Term	Brahmana (The highest caste)	Ksatria (The second highest caste)	Waisya (The middle caste)	Sudra (The lowest caste)
Father	Ajik	Apah, Ajung, Ajik	Ajik	Bapak, Bapa
Mother	Biang, ibu	Ibu, Biang	Biang, ibu	Memek, Meme, Mamak
Grand mother	Niang	Gung Niang, Niang	Niang, Guti	Nini, Dadong
Grand father	Kakiang	Gung kak, pekak	Pekak	Pekak

Uncle	Jik + birth order name	Jik + birth order name	Jik + birth order name	Pak + birth order name
Aunt	Bu	Bu + birth order name	Bu + birth order name	Mek + birth order name
Older brother	Wi	Wi + nick name or birth order name	Wi + nick name or birth order name	Wi + nick name or birth order name
Older sister	Mbok	Mbok + nick name or birth order name	Mbok + nick name or birth order name	Mbok + nick name or birth order name
Younger brother or sister	Only call the nickname	Only call the nickname	Only call the nickname	Only call the nickname

Based on table 1, in Balinese culture, people have address terms in kinship term that used for addressing parents. The address term commonly used to address father is “Bapak” and “Bapa” used by the lowest caste, “Ajik” used by the middle class (I Gusti, I Dewa), and also the highest class (Ida bagus). “Apah” and “Ajung” used by the first middle caste, “Apah” used by “Cokorda”, and “Ajung” used by “Anak Agung”. Beside Father, they are also different in addressing mother. All the castes except the lowest caste use “Biang” and “Ibu”. In the highest caste it is used by “Ida Bagus”, and in the first middle caste it is used by “Cokorda”, “Anak Agung”, and “I Dewa”. While in the middle caste, it is used by “Gusti”. Now in this modern era “Ibu” is commonly used in addressing mother. The other way to call mother in Bali is shown by the lowest caste that used the address term “Memek”, “Meme”, and “Mamak” but in this modernity, the address term “Meme” does not exist again because people from the lowest caste commonly used “Memek” and now the new generations start to used “Mamak” as the address term in kinship.

Balinese people are also different in addressing their grandparents. In the highest caste which is “Ida Bagus” use “Niang” for grandmother and “Kakiang” for grandfather. In the first middle caste, such as “Anak Agung” use “Gung Niang” and “I Dewa” use “Niang”. “Niang” also used by the middle caste which is used by “Gusti” in addressing their grandmother. In the middle caste, there is also word “Guti” to address grandmother. Both “Niang” and “Guti” is commonly used by “Gusti”. The people, who have the lowest caste, call their grandmother by “Nini” and “Dadong”. To address grandfather, the first

middle caste has two terms such as “Gung Kak” used by “Anak Agung”, and “Pekak” used by “I Dewa”. The term “Pekak” also used by the middle caste, which are “Gusti”, and also the lowest caste or “Jaba”. So, most Balinese people use “Pekak” to call grandfather, and for exceptions indicated by “Ida Bagus” who use “Kakiang” and “Anak Agung” use “Gung Kak” to address their grandfather.

Besides that, Balinese people also show differences for addressing uncle and aunt. In the highest caste and in the middle caste, people use “Bu” and followed by birth order name to call aunt, and use “Jik” followed by birth order name to call uncle. While in the lowest caste, people use “Pak” followed by birth order name to call their uncle, and “Mek” followed by birth order name to call their aunt. There are four birth order name in Bali, there are “Putu” and “Wayan” for the first child, “Made” and “Kadek” for the second child, “Komang” and “Nyoman” for the third child, while “Ketut” for the fourth child. In addition, when the child is the fifth child in the family, the order name will be “Putu” or “Wayan”. The birth order name “Wayan” and “Kadek” only used in the lowest caste. So, the language used for giving birth order name is also different because it is determined by caste of each family.

In addressing their sibling, all caste do not show differences because they used “Mbok” followed by their sibling name or birth order name to call the older sister, while they used “Wi” followed by their sibling name or birth order name to call the older brother. In the other hand, to call the younger brother and younger sister, they just call their sibling’s name.

In the environment that the researcher observe, there are also some address terms used which are “Jero”, “Situt”, “Sibiang”, “Singurah”, “Siayu”, “Gung Aji”, “Gung Bian”, “Gungde”, and “Gunggek”. The term “Jero” is used for woman who married with a man in upper caste, so the caste of woman change because of her marriage. For example, she is in the lowest caste which is “Jaba” before she gets married, then she married with “Gusti” who is in the middle caste, so the other people call her by “Jero” because it is influenced by her marriages to the higher caste than its own before. In the other hand, woman who married with a man who has lower caste than its own caste, will also different in addressing. For example, in the environment the researcher found a woman comes from the middle caste which is “Gusti” married with a man in the lowest caste, so she does not call “Siayu” but it will change to “Situt” because she is the third child in her family and after married she has the lower caste than its own when she is in her house.

In addition, there is also difference in addressing people who have the higher caste than the speaker. For instance, in the environment the researcher heard that people in the lowest caste call the people in the middle caste by “Siaji” for male who have married, and use “Sibiang” for addressing female who get married and do not change the caste after married. Then, their son called by “Singurah” and their daughter called by “Siayu”.

There are also special terms used to address people in the first middle caste if they do not have relation in kinship. In the environment, the researcher observe that people use “Gung Aji” for married male, “Gung Bian” for married female, “Gungde” use for addressing the son, and “Gung Gek” for addressing the daughter. “Gungde” and “Gunggek” also used by parents in the first middle caste to call their children.

In comparison to English Kinship, Balinese and English kinship has differences in addressing of kinship system. English kinship is not as complex as Balinese Kinship. According to Surono (2018), in his research he explains that in English Culture, the people call her father and mother by “Daddy and Mummy or Dad and Mum”. Daddy and

Mummy commonly used by children, while dad and Mum commonly used by teenager. They do not show differences like Balinese culture who use address term in kinship based own the caste. Then, Yu & Ren (2013) explain in their research that some English people call each other by “brother and sister” and they call their friends’ parents by “Uncle and Aunt”. They say that address term “Uncle and Aunt” is used when the speaker and listener have close relationship. So, based on that explanation, there is no special difference for address term in kinship system for each family in English culture.

Conclusions

The researcher found that Indonesian in particular Bali, address their family based on caste. Balinese culture has variety of term in kinship system because they are divided into four castes. The difference of address term used is influenced by caste of each family. Brahmana caste has different address terms for their kin from Ksatria caste, Waisya caste, and Sudra caste. The similarities of the address term used by all caste is shown in term of addressing siblings which use “Wi” for older brother, and “Mbok” for older sister, while for addressing younger brother and younger sister, they call their sibling’s nickname. English kinship is not as complex as Balinese kinship because they do not differentiate themselves in caste system as Balinese do. They call their mother in the same way which use “Mummy or Mom” and call their father by “Daddy or Dad”. They are not differentiating in addressing people in family. English kinship and Balinese kinship are different because they come from different area which has different culture regarding the norm and rule used for addressing kin. Each culture has its own way to use the language in kinship system by addressing their kin based on the norms and rules in their culture. Therefore, in comparing two cultures, there will be difference between them.

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