CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background of the study, statement of the problem, purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the key terms. Each section is presented as follows.

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is important in our daily life to interact with others and to survive in our life. It assists us in building and sustaining personal relationship and participating in social activities. People use language in communication. Therefore, language has an important role for human daily life in society. It can be imagined how difficult this life is without language.

Language is defined as a system of arbitrary conventionalized vocal, written, or gestural symbols that enable members of a given community to communicate intelligibly with one another (Brown, 2000:5). By language, people not only get information, but also use it to express feeling. Sometimes, when people describe a person as a good communicator, they are likely thinking of the way he/she speaks and feels their expression. Further, in the practice, language has its variety, as Wardaugh (2006) explains that each language exists in a number of varieties including register.
According to Wardaugh (2006), registers are sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social groups. It means register is the terms which are in certain social groups. For example, doctors, airline pilots, bank managers, and sales clerks employ different registers which sound unfamiliar for common people. The terms related to health, disease, medicine are familiar and well understood by the group of doctors. The terms related to loan, interest, credit in the bank are familiar and well understood by the bankers.

Related to the definition of register, Ferguson (in Wardaugh, 2006) explains that the special terms for recurrent objects and events, and formulaic sequences are used to facilitate speedy communication. It means that register is purposed to make speed communication for certain social groups. For example, skateboarding community has term such as Homies, which means skateboarder from surrounding area. Hommies term is quoted from (Pramadya, 2012).

In this study, the writer is interested in conducting a research on register because it will discuss special language in certain community so that it can be understood the objects or the events which they mean. In this study, the writer wants to investigate register used by the skateboarding community, exactly at University of Muhammadiyah Malang, because skateboarding community gathering builds social skill and reduces criminal activity or other negative activities. Skateboarding community also can create positive impact on their mental health. Based on the interview conducted with Kiki, a member of skateboarding community at University of Muhammadiyah Malang, the writer got the information that this community is under Malang Skateboard Scene (MSS) and joined by the students of Muhammadiyah
University of Malang, Brawijaya University Malang, students of other universities, and surrounding communities who just by chance like playing skateboard. So, their agenda suit MSS. Skateboarding community of University of Muhammadiyah Malang usually gather beside Fachrudin Mosque in the afternoon until by evening. They are playing skateboard while waiting Maghrib time. They have special schedule for exercise once a week depends on the situation and condition. This community also can be attracted for other students to see when they are playing skateboard. The writer is interested in investigating the registers they used because there are some registers that make common students do not understand.

Related to this study, there was previous study which was conducted by Ulfah (2009) entitled Register Analysis in English Movie Advertisements of www.21-cineplex.com (A Sociolinguistics Study. She intended to find out the characteristics of register in English movie advertisements. The results found that linguistic factors have special characteristics in the register of English movie advertisement that can be differentiated from other types of register because the varieties used according to use, non-linguistics factors have characteristics too which were shown by the types of films.

The previous study above is different with this study because the previous study focused on the characteristics of register in English movie advertisements, while this study focuses on the registers used by skateboarding community and their meaning.
Based on the explanation above, it is important to conduct the study entitled “A Study on Registers Used by the Skateboarding Community at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.”.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the writer formulates the problems as follows:

1. What the registers are used by the skateboarding community at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

2. What are the meanings of the registers used by the skateboarding community at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

Based on the statements of the problem above, the purposes of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. To identify the registers used by the skateboarding community at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

2. To investigate the meaning of the registers used by the skateboarding community at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, this study will be useful for the readers to be a reference about the theory of register with
its examples. Practically, this study presents the example of facts about using registers in communication which can be seen in skateboarding community at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is register used by skateboarding community. The limitation of this study is only on skateboarding community at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

Register is a set of language items associated with discrete occupational or social groups (Wardaugh, 2006).

Skateboarding is sidewalk surfing because it is used by surfers to do something when they could not surf. The skateboard is wooden board which roller skate wheels had been attached (abcteach.com. 2010).