

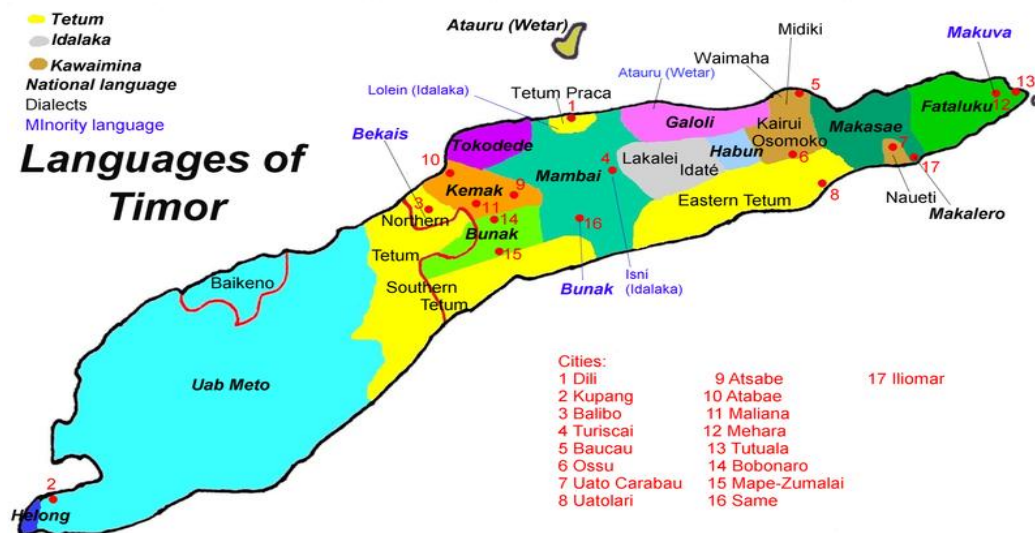
# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Tetun (tet) is a Central Malayo Polynesian (MP), a sub group of Austronesian language, spoken by about 400.000 speakers based on the statistics of 2011. It is one of the local languages spoken in Belu and Malaka districts of East Nusa Tenggara province. This language has four main dialects (Moris in Antoni, 2010: 2) namely Tetun Belu (spoken in the North West of East Timor and the North East of West Timor), Tetun Loos (spoken around the town of Soibada and the Kingdom of Samoro and along the coast between Alas and Luka), Tetun Terik (spoken in the South West of East Timor and South of West Timor) and Tetun Dili (known as Tetun Praca). In this study the writer focuses on Tetun Terik dialect of Tetun Language, spoken in Central of Malaka sub-district of Malaka regency. The main concern of this study is on ambiguities that exist in this dialect.

[En.wikipedia.org](http://En.wikipedia.org)



Bucaria (2004: 46) divides ambiguity into three types: lexical ambiguity, phonological ambiguity and grammatical ambiguity. Lexical ambiguity is caused by homonymy and polysemy. For example; “the bank”. The word “bank” has two meanings. It makes the sentence can be two meanings. They are bank is “river edge” and bank is “place where money is kept safety”.

Ambiguity in the level of phonological (phonetic) arises from the sound of language uttered, that is means phonological ambiguity does not arise in written form. Sometimes people speak too fast and make other people feel doubt about the meaning or message of the utterance so that people may interpret it in many ways. Example: “*I scream*” or “*ice cream*”. When the hearers hear the utterance above, the hearers may have the different interpretation whether the sentence is “*I scream*” that refer to the action “*scream*” or “*ice cream*” that refers to the kinds of “*drink*”.

Grammatical ambiguity happens because its words relate to each other in different ways, even though none of the individual words are ambiguous. For example; “*Japanese men and children are eating in the restaurant*” The first meaning is “*the men from Japan and children are eating in the restaurant*”. The second is “*the men from Japan and the children from Japan are eating in the restaurant*”. From the example the reader or the listener may be interpreted it in more than one meaning, because the reader or the listener confused in modifying the word “*Japanese*” whether it modifies the word “*men*” only or the word “*children*” also. This phenomenon exists in the Tetun Terik dialect. In what follows, I will present several examples.

### 1. Lexical ambiguity:

E.g. *Hau ko'I o*  
 '1sg. Scratch 2sg.'  
 "I scratch you / I do not like you"

### 2. Phonological

E.g. *Mosese? /Mose-se?*  
 'Compliment who? / with whom?'  
 "Who are you complimenting for? / with whom?"

### 3. Grammatical

E.g. *Ema nee mata roman*  
 'Noun Pron eye bright'  
 "These person eye bright/this person predictor"

All of these examples and the like may create misunderstanding in communication. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a descriptive study on this issue.

So, based on the phenomenon and explanation above, the writer is interested to conduct related to ambiguity. This research entitled "**An Analysis of Ambiguity in Tetun Terik Dialect of Tetun Language**".

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the research background, the researcher states the problems as follows:

"What are kinds of ambiguities in Tetun Terik dialect of Tetun Language?"

## 1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the research problem above, this research has one objective.

"To find out kinds of ambiguities in Tetun Terik dialect of Tetun Language"

## **1.4 Significance of Study**

There are two significances of this study is actually the useful roles or benefit of study for human beings. This study will be practically used for:

### **1.4.1 Academic Significance**

There is academics significance of the study. Such are as follow:

1. The result of this study can become contribution of ideas on linguistics theory, especially dealing with the semantic theory in the branch of language in interaction.
2. The result of this study 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 researcher, specially the local language researches.
4. The result of this study can become an additional source of the reference for the maintenance and the development of Tetun Language.

### **1.4.2 Practical Significance**

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 a research in scientific way.
2. To increase the skill and knowledge of the writer in Tetun Language specially an ambiguity in Tetun Terik dialect.
3. To provide good information about ambiguous sentences for the Tetun Terik dialect.

4. This study can give information to English Education Department of FKIP UNWIRA Kupang about local language, as the main element of culture.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

The research is focused on the case of ambiguity found in Tetun Terik dialect of Tetun language (the ambiguous phrases and sentences).

The data will be taken from the natural language and dialogues from 6 (six) native speakers of Tetun Terik dialect of Tetun language. All phrases and sentences in the 6 (six) native speakers of Tetun Terik dialect of Tetun language will become the data of this research.

### **1.6 Definition of Terms**

In this writing, the writer realizes that there are some difficult words or some technical terms that need to be well described again to make readers well understand. They are well explained in the following part:

#### **1.6.1 Ambiguity**

Ambiguity is a word or expression that can be understood in two or more possible ways. Based on the theory that said by Webster Dictionary, the first is the researcher defines ambiguity or equivocalness of information, in words, images, or other media, are the ability to express more than one interpretation. Ambiguity is generally different from obscurity.

#### **1.6.2 Tetun**

Tetun is a language used by people in Belu and Malaka Regencies that has background and similarity principle custom and technical terms of Belu and

Malaka that is Tetun language. In habitual life “Tetun” is equilibrium, harmonies, suitable it is “Tetu” means make something always equilibrium and not aslant. Automatically Tetun people are adherent understanding the equilibrium, UnBria (2004: 61).

### **1.6.3 Dialect**

According to Spolsky (1998: 33) dialect is something that concerns variations which are located regionally or socially.