

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of the Study

Languages always use words. The word is a linguistic unit that is used in all levels of our culture (Matthew, 1991: 3). Language is often defined as a means of communication. It offers an idea that when everyone or everything is conducting communication, language, then, takes place as the medium of communication among the participants. With language one can convey or receive information from others. As Finegan (2008) stated that “the language is often viewed as a vehicle of thought, a system of expression that mediates the transfer of thought from one person to another”. Language is very important for our life which take a part as a communication tool among human. People will get difficulty on expressing their ideas, opinions, and feelings without language. English is world-widely spoken to communicate each other in every fields, such as education, economy, technology, social and cultures. Therefore most countries make English as the first language

studied after their native language. Indonesia as a developing country sees that studying English as foreign language is very important to survive in this globalization.

Abui is one of the non-Austronesian language of Alor Island. The term 'Abui' is an Abui word that means 'mountains' or alternatively 'enclosed place'. This term is also used in local Malay to refer to Abui speakers who refer to their language as *Abui Tanga* 'mountain language' and they call themselves as *Abui Loku* 'mountain people' (Nicolspeyer, 1940: Djeki, 1986). The mountains also favour a number of important cash crops such as coconuts, coffee, cloves, cocoa, cashew nuts, candle nuts, vanilla and tobacco. These provide the farmers with additional income, which results in generally better living standards than people in the coastal areas. Abui speakers are mainly farmers, just like other inhabitants of Alor. This language is spoken by about 16.000 speakers on the island of Alor. Abui language is used for everyday communication spoken by ethnic of Abui in Alor island. It is used by people from children until adult (Grimes et al, 1997 and in BPS 2002).

Abui Language is spoken as a mother tongue by people who live in four subdistricts in Alor Regency. Abui Language also has morphological level concerning with word building, so the writer wants to know and investigate more about A Study on Subject-Adjective/Subject-Verb Agreement in Abui Language. For example, noun-adjective *No kaang* 'I am happy', *o kaang* 'you are happy', *ho kang* 'he, she, they/is, are happy', *pu kang, to kaang* 'we are happy', *nu kaang* 'we are happy', *ro kaang* 'you are happy', *John ya Mary hokaang* 'John and Mary are

happy', noun-verb *na nee* 'I eat rice', *a nee* 'you eat rice', *di nee* 'he,she eats rice', *pi nee* 'we eat rice', *ri nee* 'you eat' rice.

Based on the description above the writer wants to conduct a research under the title. **A Study on Subject-Adjective/Subject-Verb Agreement in Abui Language Spoken in Takalelang Village.**

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The topic of the study is specified into some problem statements. They are formulated in questions that should be answered in the data analysis later on.

1. What are the morphological form of Subject-Adjective Agreement in Abui Language Spoken in Takalelang Village?
2. What are the morphological form of Subject-Verb Agreement in Abui Language Spoken in Takalelang Village?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problems above, the objectives of the study are formulated in the following statements.

1. To identify and to describe the morphological form of Subject-Adjective Agreement in Abui Language Spoken in Takalelang Village.
2. To identify and to describe the morphological form of Subject-Verb in Abui Language Spoken in Takalelang Village.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has some significance for many sides. They are divided into kinds of significance: theoretical significance and practical significance. Such theoretical significances follow.

1.4.1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretical significance sounds theoretical dealing with linguistics. They are explained below.

1. This study can add the stock of theories of linguistics, especially A study on Subject-Adjective/Subject-Verb Agreement in Abui Language Spoken in Takalelang Village.
2. This study can give information on linguistics theory to linguistics experts and linguistics researchers that can be the materials for literature review in their studies.
3. This study can give information to the reader the result of her study can help or inform the readers about the morphological form of Subject-Adjective/Subject-Verb Agreement in Abui Language Spoken in Takalelang Village..

1.4.2 Practical Significance

Practical significance sounds practical for people, especially for Abui Language speakers. They are presented below.

1. Abui Language speakers will be informed about the linguistics features of their language.
2. English department students will be informed about linguistics features of Abui language based on which they can predict and solve the problems that might be encountered by the students of Abui in learning English.

3. The writer can increase her knowledge and skill on morphological form of Subject-Adjective/Subject-Verb Agreement in Abui Language Spoken in Takalelang Village. The English Education Department can get information about linguistics features of Abui Language, one of the local languages in East Nusa Tenggara Province.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study belongs to linguistics. Linguistics is the scientific study of the structure and the development of language (McIntosh, 2013: 902). Structure of language refers to the grammatical aspect of language covering phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. This study focusses on morphology and syntax. It is about Subject-Adjective/Subject-Verb Agreement in Abui Language Spoken in Takalelang Village.

1.6 Definition of the Terms

There are some terms used in the study that should be defined. The definitions may help the readers understand the study as a whole. The terms that should be defined in this study are as follows.

1. Agreement

Agreement is a phenomenon in natural language in which the form of one word or morpheme covaries with the form of another word or phrase in the sentence (Omer Preminger, 2013).

2. Subject

Subjects tell the listener and the reader whom or what the sentence is about. The subject is that part of a sentence which names a person, thing, or idea

(<http://www.grammarinenglish.com/subjectpredicate/>).

3. Predicate

The predicate is that part of a sentence which tells something about the subject (<http://www.grammarinenglish.com/subjectpredicate/>).

4. Adjective

An adjective is a part of speech that describes and modifies a noun, to make a writing or conversation more specific, relevant, and coherent

(<https://literarydevices.net/adjective/>).

5. Verb

Verbs are the action words in a sentence that describe what the subject is doing (<https://www.gingersoftware.com/content/grammar-rules/verbs/>).

6. Abui Language

Abui Language is one of the members of Trans New Guinea language groups which is spoken by 16,000 speakers in the central part of Alor Island in Eastern Indonesia, East Nusa Tenggara Province (Gordon, 2008). It is used in five districts in Alor Regency: South Alor (Kalaisi), South West Alor (Moru), Teluk Mutiara (Kalabahi), Lembur (Alemba), and North Central Alor (Mebung). Abui Language also has various dialect in each district. The native name is Abui tanga which is literally translated as 'mountain language' (Kratochv 1, 2008).

