

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of the Study

One of the characteristics of man as a social being is communication. Language takes a very important role in communication. Without language, man cannot interact. As a tool of communication, language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols (Wardhaugh in Mesthrie, 2000: 1). The symbols are arbitrary in the sense that the link between the sound and the meaning system varies from language to language.

“Bahasa sebagai alat untuk mengekspresikan diri, sebagai alat untuk berkomunikasi, sebagai alat untuk mengadakan integrasi dan beradaptasi sosial dalam lingkungan atau situasi tertentu, dan sebagai alat untuk melakukan kontrol social” (Keraf, 1997: 3). According to Pacific College Dictionary (1978: 423), language is the vocal sounds used in speech, or the written symbols for them; a special set symbols, rules used for transmitting information; the special words, phrases, and style of expression of a particular group.

Language is a system of communication, a medium for thought, a vehicle for literary expression, a social institution, a matter for political controversy, a factor in nation building (O’grady, 1987: 1).

With some of the reasons above, then language becomes a very important aspect in playing its role as a connecting bridge for humans in communication. Every nation has its own language; there are even so many languages.

To understand well about internal and external the structure of language, one of the special sciences about language is called Linguistics. In this field, there will be many things that are studied about language especially about the study that the writer chooses. Linguistics has two branches; Microlinguistics and Macrolinguistics. Microlinguistics is the branch of linguistics that studies internal structure of a language or languages directly which covers four grammatical aspects; Phonology, Morphology, syntax and semantic (Erom, 2017: 2). Meanwhile, macrolinguistics is the study of the structure or the grammatical aspects of language in general or of particular languages in connecting to everything existing outside the language. So far, there have been nine disciplines that are most closely related to grammatical aspects of language such as Psycholinguistics, Sociolinguistics, Philosophical Linguistics, Anthropological Linguistics, Stylistics, Language Teaching, Mathematical and Statistical Linguistics, Ecolinguistics and Cultural Linguistics (Erom, 2017: 21).

Every disciplines especially microlinguistics plays an important role in shaping the character of the language itself. One of branches that draw the attention of the writer is about internal structure of language especially about the words, morphemes, word formation, and inflection that commonly referred to as morphology. It plays an important role in the formation of words or morphemes in a language that has both grammatical and lexical meaning. As for morpheme, there are two types of morpheme, namely free morpheme, which is a morpheme that can

stand alone without the addition of other morphemes, or in other words, this morpheme becomes its own unit of words. Other morphemes, which are forms that cannot stand alone without being attached to other morphemes, in this case free morphemes, namely bound morphemes. This form is often known as affixes because this morpheme is not a word but is part of the word.

East Nusa Tenggara province is one of the provinces in Indonesia which has many local languages with various dialects such as Manggaraian Language, Dawan language, Sikka language, Tetun language, Lamaholot language, etc (Wokal 2017: 2). Manggaraian Language (ML) is the main local language spoken by people in three regencies: Manggarai Regency, West Manggarai Regency, and East Manggarai Regency, located in the most western tip of Flores Island, East Nusa Tenggara Province. These regencies are commonly called “Great Manggarai” (Erom, 2016).

The Manggaraian Language (Manggarai: *Tombo Manggarai*, Indonesia: *Bahasa Manggarai*) is the language of the Manggaraian people from the western parts of the island of Flores, in East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia. The Manggaraian Language is part of the Austronesian family, and is therefore related to Indonesian and other Malay varieties. It has 900.000 of Manggaraian native speaker (Wikipedia, 2014). Manggaraian Language consists of four major dialects such as Manggarai dialect, West Manggarai dialect, Manggarai dialect/S/>/H/ (MSH), phoneme /s/ has shifted to /h/, and East Manggarai dialect (Verheijen in Semiun, 1967: 16).

Manggaraian Language has its own characteristics and uniqueness that might not exist in other language. One of the characteristics of Manggaraian

Language can be found in form plural marking system. The previous writer has indeed found several linguistic features in plural marking system of Manggaraian Language and focused on several points (*so'o* and *sio*) (Ngagal, 2016) but in this writing, the writer tries to add some linguistics features (*no'os*, *nios*, *nitus*, *ho'os*, *hios* and *hitus*), in this case, it is different from the previous writer. That is why in this research, the writer tries to find out the plural marking system in Manggaraian Language. The examples are shown below:

1. Ini buku saya

ho.o buku daku

This book mine

“This book is mine”

2. Ini buku-buku saya

ho.os buku daku

This book mine

“These books are mine”

3. Simpan di sana buku-buku ini

Na'a **nios** buku so'o

Put there book these

“Put these books there”

The bold words from the examples above are the phenomenon of the Manggaraian Language that will be examined by the writer. Based on the discussion above, the writer is inspired to design and conduct a study entitled “**PLURAL MARKING SYSTEM IN MANGGARAIAN LANGUAGE**”.

The writer intends to investigate the linguistic features contributing to plural meaning and some grammatical consequences of forming pluralization system. The topic will be specified in the problem statement.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the explanation of the background above, the writer tries to answer the following question:

What are linguistic features in plural marking system of Manggaraian Language?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study is carried out to identify and describe linguistic features in plural marking system of Manggaraian Language.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be beneficial for the readers and the writer. The detail significance follows:

1.4.1 Academic Significance

1. The result of this study can give contribution of ideas on linguistic theory, especially dealing with the morphology theory.
2. The result of this study can become a scientific reference for the related study review for the next researchers, especially the local language researchers.

1.4.2 Practical Significance

1. To enrich the skill and knowledge of the writer on how to conduct and do a research in scientific way.
2. To provide good information about Plural Marking System of Manggaraian Language.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study belongs to linguistics that covers microlinguistics and macro linguistics. Microlinguistics covers phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Macrolinguistics covers many. Among them are Psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, cultural linguistics, ect.

Morphology is the branch of microlinguistics. Morphology is the study of systematic covariation in the form and meaning of words. This study focuses on the morphological process on the plural marking system of Manggaraian Language.

1.6 Definition of Terms

To avoid misinterpretation about the idea of this writing, the writer would like to define some terms, which are frequently used in this study, to help readers understand this writing.

1. Plural Marking System

Plural is grammatical form of a noun or verb, which refers to more than one person or thing (Hornby in Ngagal 2017: 5). Mark means to indicate. Mark is the act of marking or indicating something (Hornby in Ngagal 2017: 5). System is a group of things or parts working together or connected in some way to form a

whole (Pacific College Dictionary, 1978: 764). Plural marking system is a system of indicating plural of a noun. In this study, plural marking system is a system of indicating plural of a noun in Manggaraian Language.

2. Manggaraian Language

Manggaraian Language (ML) is the main local language spoken by people in three regencies: Manggarai Regency, West Manggarai Regency, and East Manggarai Regency, located in the most western tip of Flores Island, East Nusa Tenggara Province. These regencies commonly called “Great Manggarai” (Erom 2016).