

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Dialectology is a study of the way sounds, words and grammatical forms vary within a language (Britain, 2005). The term is usually used to describe the study of both accent (the varying sound used within a language) and dialects (the differing grammatical structures and words used). On the whole, dialectology focuses on the geographical distribution of different accents and dialects, though it is begun by investigating social factor such as (age, gender, and position in a society).

Each person has their own language variation called idiolect. According to Chaer (1995: 82) idiolect is the variety of colors idiolect voice, word choice, style, sentence structure and so on. Each idiolect has small differences in the use of language, but does not run from a rough outline of the language. The speakers in a dialect, though each has idiolect but they also have distinctive characteristics to indicate that they are in a dialect, for example, Lamahala, Nihaone and Hinga in Adonara island.

These three of dialects have similarities and differences in terms of lexical. Usually there is a tendency that, when the area adjacent dialects used relatively the same. However, in principle, every dialect has its own characteristic. Since every language has dialect, the dialect is used to distinguish it from other communities. This study also discusses the dialect or the language lexical variety

The main concern of the present study is on dialectological variation of Lamaholot language spoken in Adonara of East Flores Regency. It aims at identifying phonological features and lexical variations in three presumed sub-dialects of Adonara dialects among: Lamahala, Nihaone and Hinga because they are varied each other.

Based on the discussion above the writer is really interested to be the one of some pioneers in studying about dialectological variation of Lamaholot language focusing on dialects in Lamahala, Nihaone, and Hinga sub-dialects. The writer is interested in studying these phenomena under the title **‘A Study on Language Variation of Lamaholot Language Spoken in Three Districts In Adonara.**

1.2. Problem Statements

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 phonological features that are shared among the three Subdialects.
2. What are the lexical items that are shared among the three Subdialects.

1.3. Objective of Study

The specific objectives of this study are following. They are going in line with the problem statements.

1. To identify the phonological features that are shared among the three Subdialects
2. To identify the lexical items that are shared among the three subdialects.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The significant in conducting this study, in general is divided into two: Academic significance and practical significance : the detail explain follows.

1.4.1. Academic Significant

Academic significant in conducting this study is for the important of linguistic theory. They are as follow:

1. The result of this study can add the stock of linguistic theory ,especially dialectological variation in Lamaholot language of East Adonara dialect
2. The result of this study can give information about dialectological variation in Lamaholot language of East Adonara district.
3. The result of this study becomes scientific references for the related study for the coming research especially dialectology studies.

1.4.2. Practical Significance

Practical significance is the significance of the study is practicable of social life of the people in general of East Adonara especially the people of East Adonara district.

1. The study can motivate the researcher to study on how to conduct linguistic research and writing scientific writing.
2. To provide theoretical information for Lamaholot language speaker dealing with the different dialect among Lamahala, Nihaone, and hinga sub- dialect of Lamaholot language
3. To inform the people and the readers about the phonological system in East Adonara dialect of East Flores Regency of East Nusa Tenggara Province.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

This study belongs to dialectology. Dialectology covers two they are social dialectology and regional dialectology (Mesthrie et al,2000). In this study discusses about regional dialectology of Adonara dialect of Lamaholot language: Lamahala, Nihaone and Hinga dialect in term of phonological and lexical variation among the three dialects.

1.6. Definition of Term.

Dealing with this study, there are some important terms to be defined. Such terms include: dialectology, linguistic feature, phonological feature, lexical variation, Lamaholot language, Adonara dialect, Lamahala, Nihaone and Hinga. They are explained in the following.

1. Dialectology

Dialectology is the study of the way language, dialect, and accent vary from place to place, social group to social group, time to time. (Chamber &Trudgill, 1998). Dialect in this study focus on regional dialectology among the three sub- dialects Lamahala, Nihaone and Hinga.

2. Linguistic Feature

Linguistics feature are linguistic items consisting of vocabulary, sound, or relatively simple features of grammar (Mesthrie, 2000: 52). Linguistic feature in this study involve phonological feature that make the variation of the three-sub- dialects: Lamahala, Nihaone, and Hinga dialects.

3. Phonological features

Phonology features is a branch of linguistics feature concerned with the systematic organization of sounds in languages. It has traditionally focused largely on the systems of phonemes in particular languages. It means the systematic use of sound to encode meaning in any spoken human language or the field of linguistics studying this use (Clark *et al.*2007). Phonology also includes topics such as phonotactics (phonological constraints on what sounds can appear in what positions in a given language) and phonological alternation (how the pronunciation of a sound changes through the application of phonological sometimes in a given order which can be feeding or bleeding) as well prosody, the study of supra segmental and topics such as stress and intonation.

4. Lexical variation

Lexical variation is characteristic of language there is more than one way of saying same thing. Speaker may vary pronunciation (accent) and word choice (lexicon) (Labov 1963). Lexical variation in this study involved the characteristic between the three sub- dialects in pronunciation and word choice.

5. Lamaholot Language

Lamaholot language is one of language is used by the people in East Flores regency, and other group of people in Lembata island, East Nusa Tenggara province (Keraf, 1982).

6. Adonara dialect

Adonara dialect is Lamaholot language variation spoken by the people who live Adonara sub-district of East Flores Regency.

7. Lamahala

Lamahala is one of the villages in East Adonara region. It is located near the coastal of Waiwerang. Most of the Lamahala people are Muslim or *ata watan*, *ata* means person and *watan* means coast / coastal person.

8. Nihaone

Nihaone is one the villages in Ile Boleng region it is located at the foot of Boleng Mountain. All the people of Nihaone village are Catholic or *ata kiwang* (*.ata means* ' person and *'kiwang* means mountain/ *mountain person*.).

9. Hinga.

Hinga village is one of the villages in Klubagolit region. The people of Hinga village have two religions they are Muslim and Catholic.