

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is considered as an important part in our daily life because it has a great function as the medium of communication among community members. As the medium of communication, language is meaningful key to communicate among people or groups of people. By using language people can express their needs, feelings, ideas, emotion and thoughts.

Language is a system of sounds and words used by human beings to express their thoughts and feeling (Hornby, 1995: 662).

Besides as a medium of communication, language also functions as a social control, social integration and adaption, since language can be used to build cooperation with others. Language is used to regulate all social activities, to plan activities and to make them focused on social purposes, (Richard in Uma, 2012: 1). Furthermore, language is also defined as the system of communication either the structure arrangement or sound creating a large unit.

Based on social role of language, each society has its own language. Nida and Taber (1974: 46) argue that each language has its own characteristics such as word order, word building capacity, sentence patterns, et cetera. It means that every language in the world has its own features to be different from one another. In

addition, they say that to communicate effectively one must consider the genuine of language. The differences among language contribute to the difficulties in communications and interaction between people of different language background.

There are two characteristics of a language. Firstly, language operates in a regular systematic fashion. Secondly, language is basically oral and that oral symbol represents meaning as they are related to real life situation of any society that would probably not exist, (Nasar in Uma 2012: 1).

There are many languages spoken by the people in the different areas and scopes such as English as International language, Bahasa Indonesia as national language of the Indonesians and various local languages which are still surviving in every ethnic community especially in East Nusa Tenggara. The local languages that the writer means here are: Bajawa, Manggarai, Sabu, Tetun, Dawan, Lamaholot, Riung, Sikka, Nagekeo, Lio, Rote, and others. These languages have their own characteristics and uniqueness that might not exist in other languages. This uniqueness may become interesting phenomena to be studied.

Bajawa language is one of the two major local languages spoken by people in Ngada Regency. The other major language is Riung Language specifically spoken by the people in the north-western part of Ngada Regency.

Bajawa Language consists of 14 dialects. Such dialects include Ngadabawa, Susu, Naru, Kombas, Inerie I, Inerie II, Langa, Mangulewa, Wogo, So'a, Riung, Mbay, Nagekeo, and Ma'u dialects. Jerebu'u District speaks Ngadabawa dialect (Sawardo, et al, 1985: 2). It is interesting to conduct a study about Soa dialect of Bajawa language especially about its sentence patterns.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in conducting a study under the title :

“ A Study on Sentence Patterns of Soa Dialect of Bajawa Language “

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the problem described above, the writer would like to formulate the problems in the following questions:

1. What are the sentence patterns of Soa dialect of Bajawa Language?
2. What are the similarities and the differences of sentence patterns of Soa dialect in comparison with those of English?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study go in line with the problem having been stated:

1. To find out the sentence patterns of Soa Dialect of Bajawa Language.
2. To find out the similarities and the differences of the sentence patterns of Soa Dialect of Bajawa Language in comparison with those of English.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has some significance for the writer and the readers. They are explained below:

1. For the Writer

The writer wants to know more about the sentence patterns of Soa dialect and improve the writer's knowledge about linguistic aspect especially the

similarities and the differences of the sentence patterns of Soa Dialect and its comparison with those of English.

2. For the Readers

To help and inform the readers about the sentence patterns of Soa dialect in comparison with those of English.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this study, the writer want to make a study on Soa Dialect of Bajawa Language especially the similarities and the differences of Soa Dialect of Bajawa language with those English. In here the writer limits her study on identification of the sentence patterns of Soa dialect, especially on the statement patterns as stated by Shaw (1979: 160).

1.6 Definition of Terms

To avoid misinterpretation, the writer attempts to explain the meaning of some terms used in the title:

1. Sentence Patterns

In this study, the writer finds out the similarities and the differences of sentence patterns of Soa dialect. Sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought (Ackley, 1989: 25). Sentence patterns (in language teaching) is the structure which is considered as a basic grammatical pattern for sentence in the language being taught and which can be used as a model for producing other sentence in the language (Richard et al, 1985: 256).

2. Dialect

In this study, the writer find out the meaning of dialect. There are many definitions about dialect. Fishman (1970: 177) defines dialect as a variety of language used by one occupational group or one social class. Ronald (1977: 221) defines dialect as a variety of language associated with a particular group of speakers and mutually intelligible with other varieties.

3. Soa Dialect

Soa dialect is one of the dialect of Bajawa language spoken or used by the people who live in the area of Bajawa, particularly in the village of Bajawa and Riung.