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 details below.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a bridge which can pass anything it wants in written or in oral form. It means that language is an instrument of communication among the communities of human beings. It is primary spoken and it constitutes meaningful sound which enables to communicate. In this definition language primarily relates to communication. The existence of language can be found in the context of communication.

In spite of an instrument of communication, language is the system of sounds and words used by humans to express their thoughts and feelings (Hornby, 1995: 662). In order words, human beings use language to transfer their ideas and express our emotion, desire, and feelings. In this case, language is used as a core instrument in order to express what human beings think and feel.

According to Mariani and Mu'in (2007:3) that quote Finocchioro and Wardhraugh in Ramelan (1984) language is system of arbitrary, vocal symbols that permit all people a given culture, or other people who have learned the system of that culture, to communicate or to interact. A language is arbitrary system of articulated sounds made use of by a group of human as a means of carrying on the

affairs of their society. Gumperz in Mariani and Mu'in (2007: 3) add that language is a set of rules enabling speakers to translate information from the outside world into sound. In other words, the presence of language in reality important because it becomes a translator of the information outside into sound that can be understood either speakers or recipients.

Furthermore, Kracht (2007: 3-4) states that language it means to communicate, it is a semiotic system and a set and/or pairs of signs consisting in the words of Ferdinand de Saussure of a signifier and signified. Language differs from them only in its complexity. This explains why language signs have much more internal structure than ordinary signs. Therefore, language allows express virtually every thought that we have, and the number of signs that we can produce is literally endless. Although one may find it debatable whether or not language is actually infinite, it is clear that we are able to understand utterances that we have never heard before. The definition above exposes some characteristics of a language, such as language is a system that contains signs, its system is arbitrary it happens in social group and it is spoken by its speakers.

As a system, languages have four types of skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. These skills determine the skill of the person who is using the language. Moreover, every language has these skills in order to learn. Whether as a native speaker or as learner, these skills of language becomes the focus on learning process.

In term of learning a language there are three significant components that consist of three components of language they are pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. These things are important and fundamental because without a good

pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary, people cannot speak and understand the language. Furthermore, sometimes when people use grammar or pronounce a word incorrectly, it causes misunderstanding and misinterpreting. Therefore, it is compulsory and necessary for people who want to speak and use a language to learn these things.

Regarding the importance of grammar in language use (Nasr, 1984: 74) in this article "syntactic relation" pointed out that if a language had no grammar, no systematic ordering of its words in sentences, it could never be learned by a native speaker or by a foreigner. Indeed, a language without grammar is no language at all. Therefore, the ability in using grammar correctly is very important because knowledge of grammar will help us to understand how a language functions as a means of communication more effective.

Nida and Taber (1974: 40) argue that each language has its own characteristic such as word order, word building capacity, sentence pattern. It means that every language in the word has its own features to be different from one to another.

Based on the social role of language, each society has its own language. In East Nusa Tenggara Province there are many languages spoken by people in different places of different cultures and societies. Survey results that has been done by SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics 1997) which was also published in magazines" Etimology language of the word" 15th edition (Grimes, 2000), divided language in East Nusa Tenggara province into 61 languages, such us: *lamaholot language, Dawan language, Manggarai language*, *Tetun Language, Wewewa language, alor language, Laura Language.*

One of the local languages is Ende Language. Ende language belongs to Austronesian which is a branch of the Central-Malayo-Polynesian language family (Bima-Lembata). The number of speakers of all of its dialects is about 110.000 people in East Nusa Tenggara Province in South Central Flores in Indonesia (*https://www.ethnologue.com/language/ende*).In Ende there are two major languges that are spoken by people which known Ende-Lio and Ende. Ende language is the language used by the Ende tribe. The speakers of this language are in Ende district, south Flores Island. Ende language consists of two main dialects such as Ende itself that is usually called *Ja'o iwa* and *Nga'o* spoken by people who live in the west of Ende which is in Nangapanda sub district. Nga'o is combination dialect of Bajawa and Nagekeo people. It is understandable that people in Nga'o dialect use this language as their mother tongue because this place is the border between Nagekeo and Ende Regency.

In their daily communication, people of Nga'o dialect do not avoid of using questions in order to ask information. The question they use are questions words which cover *appa* (what), sai (who), *emba/ena'appa/pedha'emba* (where), *piyimay/pendia* (when), *bhidi'emba* (how), dhe'*appa* (why) *ta'emba* (which).These emphasizes that Nga'o dialect has Wh-questions.

Eastwood (2002: 27) states that Wh-questions are used to ask information get people to do things, and just to make rhetorical questions which do not need an answer. Furthermore Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1999: 141) assert that wh-questions are very important structures for English as a School Language/English as Foreign Language (ESL/EFL) students. Wh-questions are used to request specific information. For instance, Wh-questions are used in social

interaction *(what is your name?)*, for getting direction *(where is the post office?)*, in seeking explanations *(why is the plane late)*, for eliciting vocabulary *(what is this?)* and so on. Thus, Wh-questions are used when the speaker is missing one specific piece of information, for example: *who walked the dog.*

This Wh-Question becomes the main focus on this writing. The writer will focus on this writing and research on how the people of Nga'o dialect in their lives use the language particularly in asking questions. There are some question word examples that interest the writer to do this research, as follows:

Siapa nama kamu? (Kau ngaya sai?sai ngaya kau?)

Kemana kamu pergi? (phede emba miu mbana, miu mbana phede emba?)

Dimana kamu taruh buku? (ena'emba miu wedhu buku, buku miu wedhu ena emba?)

Siapa yang mengirim surat? (Sai ta kiri suya, ta kiri suya ke sai nu?

Kapan kamu pulang? (Miu bhade piyimai, piyimai miu madhe?)

Mengapa kamu berada di sini?(Miu ndiake dheapa?)

Based on the significance uses of Wh-questions, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled **"A Study on Wh-Questions in Nga'o Dialect of Ende Language".** It is hoped, this study is able to present the kinds, position, function and syntactic pattern of the Wh-Questions in Nga'o dialect or language to contribute to the teaching of grammar, particularly Wh-questions to the students who are learning English.

1.2 Problem Statements

  The problem of this research and study is specified from the topic that has been chosen. Moreover, the problem of this study is formulated in the following questions that should be answered in data analysis. The problem statements in details are presented:

1. What are kinds of Wh-questions used in Nga'o dialect of Ende Language?

2. What is the position of the Wh-Questions in Nga'o dialect of Ende language?

3. What is the syntactic pattern of the Wh-Questions in Nga'o dialect of Ende Language?

4. What is the function of the Wh-Questions inNga'o dialect of Ende Language ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

  Objective is actually the aim of doing the study that goes in line with the problem statement as stated in previous subchapter. The objectives presented in the following:

1. To describe and explain some kinds of Wh-Questions used in Nga'o dialect of Ende Language

2. To describe and explain the position of the WH-Questions in Nga'o dialect of Ende Language.

3. To describe and explain the syntactic pattern of the Wh-Questions in Nga'o dialect of Ende Language

4. To describe and explain the function of Wh-Questons in Nga'o dialect of Ende Language.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of 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 are some academics significance of this study. They are stated below.

1. As a contribution of ideas to the theoretical framework of linguistics on local language.

2. As an additional source and the development of Ende Language

3. As the scientific information for the enriching literature on the related study on the future.

1.4.2 Practical Significance

This study will be practically used:

1. To motivate and train the writer in doing research

2. To implement the writer's knowledge and to know more about the using of Wh-Questions in Nga'o dialect of Ende Language

3. To provide the theoretical information for Ende language in dealing with Wh-Questions in Nga'o dialect of Ende language

4. To promote the Ende Languagein Nga'o dialect as a local or regional language in Ende island

1.4.3 For the Students of English Education Study Program of Widya Mandira Catholic University.

The result of this study may give information of the local culture, local language, local cultural linguistics based on which pepertuation is done. It goes in

line with the vision and mission of the Teacher Training and Educational Sciences Faculty.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study belongs to linguistics that covers micro linguistic and macro linguistics. Macro linguistics covers cultural linguistic, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, anthropological linguistics, stylistics, language teaching, mathematical and statistical linguistics, philosophical linguistics and ecolinguistics. In addition, micro linguistics covers phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics.

The specification of this study is dealing with syntax. Syntax is the sentences pattern of language (Formkin et al, 1990:155). There are many syntactic pattern such as yes-no question, tag questions and Wh-questions. Here the writer limits her study on the use of questions words (what, where, when, why, who, whose, which, whom and how). This study focuses on the Wh-Questins used in interrogative sentences in Nga'o dialect of Ende Language in terms of its syntactic pattern.

1.6 Definition of Terms

This section presents the definitions of key terms used in this study as follows:

1. Questions

   It is a sentence which is addressed to a listener/ reader and asks for an expression of fact, opinion, belief, act (Richard 1985: 235).

2. Wh-Questions

Wh-questions are questions that ask for information starting with: what, when, where, who, whom, whose, which, why and how (Azar, 1989: 112)

3. Ende language

Ende language is one of so many local languages that exist in East Nusa Tenggara province. It is widely spoken by people in Nangapanda sub-district.

4. Nga'o dialect

Nga'o dialect is a dialect spoken by people who live in the west of Ende Regency which is in Nangapanda sub district.