

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language has an important role in conveying information, maintaining cultural identity, and facilitating social interaction. By using language, people can learn, share knowledge, understand history, and express themselves. The diversity of language structures and linguistic elements is something that is very complex and difficult to understand. However, it is a scientific necessity in the field of linguistics. In general, the scope of the linguistic system that binds each language is relatively the same, which includes the phonological system sound system, morphological system word formation, syntax sentence formation, and semantics meaning problems.

The focus of this research is morphology. It is a part of linguistics that studies word forms of words and the functions of changes in word forms, both grammatical and semantic. Morphology is the word structure of a language or a linguistic branch that studies the word structure of a language (Trask, 2007:178; Crystal, 2008: 314). This definition is based on the assumption that words typically have an internal structure consisting of smaller units that are the building blocks, which are commonly referred to as morphemes.

In linguistics, the process of creating a new word is known as word formation. It is occasionally contrasted between word formation and semantic change, or a change in a single word's meaning. It can be difficult to tell the difference between word formation and semantic change because a new use of an old term may be seen as a brand-new word with the same phonological structure as the original. For example, develop-ment, sing-er.

This research focuses on compound nouns. A compound noun is a combination of two words to form a noun, and the noun that is the main part of a compound noun without a head can be a noun, adjective, verb, or preposition (Plag,2003: 144). Compound words are words formed by combining root words and much smaller categories of phrase words. There are 3 types of compound

words: compound verbs, compound adjectives, and compound nouns. Compounds are often said to have a naming function, representing a category, whereas for phrases are often considered to have a primary descriptive function. For example, [greenhouse: compound], and [green house: phrase]. Nouns consisting of two or more words are known as compound nouns. There are many more combinations than [noun + noun] or [adjective + noun] that form compound nouns. Compound nouns require understanding and recognition. Adjectives and other nouns can be used to modify any compound noun that functions as a unit. The first word in a compound noun is often given more emphasis. Both terms in the sentence "pink ball" are stressed equally (adjectives and nouns are always stressed, as you know). Even though both terms in the compound noun "golf ball" are nouns and the noun is always emphasized, the first word in the compound noun is given more emphasis. Because "golf ball" is a compound noun.

In this study, the writer will analyze compound nouns in Bunak. The Bunak language is a regional language that is still used today. The Bunak language also functions as a communication tool used by the Bunak people in their daily lives. The Bunak language is used both orally and in writing. Oral use can be observed formally or informally, such as in traditional ceremonies and church. The written form can be found in song lyrics and literature. Noun class is a secret attribute of a noun that is reflected in the determiner and agreement of verbal prefixes, according to Antonnete Shachaper (2009: v). Nouns can be divided into two classes: animate and inanimate. Free pronouns lack grammatical role markings but are marked for person, number (singular, dual, plural), and clusivity. Six determiners and eight places make up the intricate set of deictic elements in Bunak. They are used to designate a variety of pragmatic meanings as well as to discover, recognize, and trace references in conversation. Between alienable and inalienable owners, Bunak makes a distinction. The owned noun is combined and marked immediately with the prefix person to express the inalienable possessor. Alienable owners are implied on the freeholder and articulated in terms. So, what differentiates this research from previous research is that the previous researcher presented a grammatical system that contained phonology such as noun phrases,

etc. Therefore, in this study the writer presents compound nouns and word-forming morphemes, namely morphology in the Bunak language.

This study aims to provide compound nouns in the Bunak language for readers and writer to increase their expertise, especially in linguistic studies. In addition, the Bunak language is also one of the languages that are almost extinct due to the development of Indonesian as the national language and the Tetun language which has a greater number of speakers than the Bunak language in the Belu Regency area. Thus, the writer is interested in conducting research on compound nouns in Bunak language as an effort to preserve the language. This research is entitled "**A Descriptive Study on Compound Noun in Bunak Language.**"

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background above, the writer identifies two problems, formulated in question below:

1. What is the morphological structure of compound nouns in the Bunak language?
2. What are types of compound noun in Bunak language?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research are:

1. To explain the structure patterns for forming compound nouns in Bunak language.
2. To identify and categorize the types of compound nouns in Bunak language.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of research is benefit to people, such as the next researcher.

1. To increase reader and writer expertise, particularly about linguistics study.
2. To help those who desire to learn languages, particularly the Bunak language.
3. To be utilized as supplemental reading for additional research on the morphological varieties of the Bunak language's compound noun.