

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Language is a dynamic and evolving system of communication, shaped by cultural, social, and historical influences. One of the essential aspects of linguistic structure is morphology, which examines how words are formed and structured. Among the various morphological processes, compounding is a productive method of word formation found in many languages, including Uab Meto. Compound words in Uab Meto provide insights into the linguistic patterns, semantic relationships, and syntactic structures of the language.

Uab Meto, a language spoken by the Atoni people of West Timor, is known for its rich morphological system. One of its unique characteristics is the use of compound words, which are formed by combining two or more lexical elements to create new meanings. These compounds play a crucial role in expanding the vocabulary of the language and reflecting cultural and environmental realities.

Linguistics is a scientific study about language. Language can be defined as the best communication tool for human to deliver any information. Besides, morphology is a field of linguistics that discusses internal structure of word and how the word is forming. Internal structure of language is morpheme. Morpheme is the tiniest part of the word that has grammatical rules and expresses some meaning. There are two kinds of morphemes. They are free morpheme and bound morpheme. Free morpheme is a word which can stand alone as a single word. Meanwhile, a

bound morpheme is a morpheme that cannot stand alone as a word. It needs another word to make the morpheme stand as a single word.

The study of compound words in Uab Meto is essential for several reasons. First, it helps to document and preserve the linguistic heritage of the Atoni people, especially as modernization and language contact influence Uab Meto. Second, understanding how compound words are structured provides valuable insights into the broader morphological processes at work in Austronesian languages. Third, analyzing the meaning and function of compound words can enhance linguistic theories on word formation, especially under represented languages like Uab Meto.

Moreover, in morphology there are some various methods in creating a new word, such as affixation, compound, blending, clipping and others. Hikmaharyanti (2020) defines a compound as ways to combine English word especially adjective and noun into compound structure that consists of more than one base which has grammatical and semantic functions as a single word. To create a new meaning or different meaning from the word it needs combining the lexical element such as noun, verb, adjective or preposition. In learning compound word many people have difficulties in finding the meaning.

The formation of compound word in UM often reflects a unique linguistic pattern that differs from other languages in the Austronesian family. This includes the syntactic rules that govern how words can be combined and the semantic shifts that occur when these words are joined. The compound word in UM are not merely linguistic tools, they also carry cultural significance, reflecting and worldview and traditions of the UM- speaking community. Given the growing concern over the preservation of indigenous languages, research into the structure of UM compound

word is also a key part of ensuring the sustainability and revitalization of the language. In addition to contributing to the field of linguistics, this research has the potential to serve as a resource for language teachers, linguists and those involved in the documentations and language revitalization efforts for UM.

In summary, the study of compound word in UM offers a window into the complex morphological, syntactic, and semantic features of the languages. Understanding how these compounds are formed, their meanings and how they are used in communication is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of UM linguistic structure. Furthermore, this research will help to document and preserve this important aspect of the UM language for future generation of speakers and scholars.

1.2 Research Problems

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

1. What are the structures of compound words in Uab Meto?
2. What are kinds of compound words in Uab Meto?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statements, the objectives of the study are presented in the following.

1. To describe the structure compound word in UM.
2. To identify kinds of compound word UM.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is significant for several reasons:

1. **Linguistic Documentation:** It contributes to the documentation of Uab Meto, helping to preserve its linguistic features.
2. **Theoretical Contribution:** The findings can provide valuable input to morphological theories, particularly in the context of Austronesian languages.
3. **Educational Application:** Understanding compound words in Uab Meto can aid language teachers and learners in developing more effective learning materials.

1.4.1 Academic Benefit

The study of compound words in Uab Meto has several academic benefits:

1. **Enhancing Morphological Studies:** This research contributes to the study of morphology by providing insights into the structural composition of compound words in Uab Meto.
2. **Cross-Linguistic Comparisons:** The findings help in comparing Uab Meto with other Austronesian languages, highlighting linguistic similarities and differences.
3. **Lexical Expansion:** By identifying compound word formation, this study aids in vocabulary development and language standardization.
4. **Linguistic Preservation:** This research supports efforts in preserving and maintaining Uab Meto as a minority language.

1.4.2 Practical Benefits

The practical benefits of studying compound word in UM extend beyond the realm of linguistics. They play a vital role in language preservation, education, cultural identify, and cross cultural communication. By documenting and analyzing these compounds, researches can ensure the longevity of the UM and contribute to wider goal of preserving linguistic diversity. This study provides not only a comprehensive understanding of UM linguistic structure but also aids in the revitalization of the language and the empowerment of the UM speaking community.