

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language is one of the most important things in the world for human being. It happens, because language has an important role for human being to make interaction with each other in daily life. Through language people can easily communicate and interact and also understand one another.

However, each language is different from one society to another and it also has own characteristic. The differences between languages encourage people coming from different language backgrounds to know another language. Nida and Taber (in Banar 2013: 1) argue that each language has its own characteristic such as *word order*, *word building capacity*, *sentence pattern* and so on. It means that every language in the world has its own features to be different from one to another.

Language has three major components. They are the pronunciation, the grammatical structure, and the vocabulary. Grammar plays a very important role in language. Nasr (in Fallo, 2013: 1) 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 foreigner, not could people understand one another. Indeed, language without grammar is not language at all. In addition, (Nasr in Fallo, 2013: 2)) explains that grammar consists of the means by which relationship between words are shown. The relationship also comes from our

experiences. The means by which relationships are shown include (1) *inflection*, which is the changes in the forms of words, (2) *word order*, which in themselves signal grammatical relationships without having any lexical meaning.

East Nusa Tenggara Province is one of the provinces in Indonesia which has many local languages with various dialects. They are Dawan language, Tetun language, Lamaholot language, Manggarai language, Sikka Language, Alor Language, etc (in Fallo, 2013: 2). Lamaholot Language is a Language spoken by people living in East Flores and Solor Archipelago namely Adonara Island, Solor, and Lembata (Sanga, 2002: 2).

Some studies have been made on Lamaholot language by the students of the English of Widya Mandira Catholic University; for example study on taboo words of the speech community of Tanjung Bunga dialect of Lamaholot language, study on the degrees of comparison of Solor dialect of Lamaholot language, study on the segmental phonemes of Lewolere dialect of Lamaholot language in comparison with those of English, etc. The writer is interested to conduct a study on his mother tongue, the Lamaholot language spoken by people in Kalike village located in the South Solor Subdistrict.

Lamaholot language has many dialects that need analysis. Some of the dialects are Adonara dialect, Lembata dialect and the dialect of people who live around Larantuka Town (Boru-West part of East Flores Regency until Tanjung Bunga-East part of East Flores Regency).

Solor Dialect is a variety of Lamaholot Language used by people in Solor Island. Governmentally and politically Solor Island includes in East Flores

Regency. Solor Island is divided into three sub districts. They are West Solor Sub district, East Solor Subdistrict and South Solor Subdistrict. Solor Dialect is spoken by more or less 26.741 people (quoted in Belang 2013: 1).

As the society in the East Flores regency, people from Solor especially at Kalike Vilage use Lamaholot language as their mother tongue or first language in their daily life. Possibility, someone (with Lamaholot language background) will make a mistake when she or he speaks or learns English, if she or he uses the system of his or her mother tongue. It could happen because the grammatical system in Lamaholot language is different with English.

Lamaholot language has own characteristic and uniqueness that might not exist in other language. One of the characteristics of Lamaholot language can be found in form of its verbal. Some verbs in Lamaholot language usually get the change of its form that relates with the subject of a sentence or phrase. It means that some verbs in Lamaholot Language commonly get change form when the subject of its sentence or phrase is changed.

Here is an example of verbs that its form get change based on the subject of its sentence in Lamaholot language.

English	Lamaholot language	Meaning
Eat	Ka	Makan

- I eat rice.

Goe ka wata

- You (Singular) eat rice.

Moe go wata

- She/He eats rice.

Nae ga wata.

- We (exclusive) eat rice.

Kame me'ka wata

- We (inclusive) eat rice

Tite te'ka wata

- You (plural) eat rice.

Mio ge wata.

- They eat rice.

Rae re'ka wata.

The words above marked by italic words are the words in Lamaholot language that get change form because of the change of the subject on the sentences.

Based on the discussion above, the writer would like to conduct a study entitled: **“A Study on Conjugation of Subject-Verb Agreement of Solor Dialect of Lamaholot Language”**.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the explanation of the background above, the writer tries to answer the following question:

- a. What are the forms of Conjugation of Subject-Verb Agreement of Solor Dialect of Lamaholot Language?

- b. What is the time markers used in Conjugation of Subject-Verb Agreement of Solor Dialect of Lamaholot Language?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

This study is carried out to identify and to describe what are the forms of Conjugation of Subject-Verb Agreement of Solor Dialect of Lamaholot Language and also to find out what are the time markers used in Conjugation of Subject-Verb Agreement of Solor Dialect of Lamaholot Language.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be beneficial for the readers and the writer. The detail significance follows.

1. For the reader: the result of his study can help or inform the readers about the Conjugation of Subject-Verb Agreement of Solor Dialect of Lamaholot Language.
2. For the writer: the result of his study can increase the writer's knowledge about the Conjugation of Subject-Verb Agreement of Solor Dialect of Lamaholot Language.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study belongs to linguistics that covers micro linguistics and macro linguistics. Micro linguistics covers phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Macro linguistics covers many. Among them are psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, cultural linguistics, etc.

Morphology is the branch of micro linguistics. Morphology is the study of systematic co variation in the form and meaning of words. This study focuses on the morphological process on the Conjugation of Subject-Verb Agreement of Solor Dialect of Lamaholot Language.

1.6 Definition of Terms

To avoid misinterpretation about the idea of this writing, the writer would like to define some terms, which are frequently used in this study, to help readers understand this writing.

1. Conjugation

Conjugation is the changing or adaptation process of verb form that relates with the Time or Tense, Aspect, Mood, Diathesis, and Number, Person, and Sex (Chaer, 2014: 170).

2. Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-Verb Agreement is a word that refers to one person or thing is singular and a word that refers to more than one is plural in number (Warriner, J. E, 1977: 85). It means that Subject-Verb Agreement is the verb form in a sentence or phrase is formed based on the subject.

For example: Subject-Verb Agreement in Lamaholot Language are:

- I eat rice.

*Goe **ka** wata*

- You (Singular) eat rice.

*Moe **go** wata*

- She/He eats rice.

Nae ga wata.

- We (exclusive) eat rice.

Kame me'ka wata

- We (inclusive) eat rice

Tite te'ka wata

- You (plural) eat rice.

Mio ge wata.

- They eat rice.

Rae re'ka wata.

3. Dialect

Dialect is a variety of language used by one occupational group or one social class (Fallo in Fishman, 2013: 2).

4. Solor Dialect

Solor Dialect is a variety of Lamaholot Language used by people in Solor Island (quoted in Belang 2013: 1).

5. Lamaholot Language

Lamaholot Language is a Language spoken by people living in East Flores and Solor Archipelago namely Adonara Island, Solor, and Lembata (Sanga, 2002: 2).