

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Language is a tool used by humans to interact with each other to be able to express their intentions, ideas, thoughts, and feelings. In the Big Dictionary of Indonesian (KBBI) edition IV (2008:116), it is written that: 1. Language is a system of articulation sound symbols, which is used as a communication tool to interact and express their thoughts; 2 Language is the words used by a nation (ethnicity, country, region, etc.); 3 Language is a good conversation, Manners, good manners. This means that language is very important for human life to interact with each other because humans are social beings who need to interact with each other in their daily lives. Apart from being a means of communication, language is also an inseparable part of the cultural system, because language itself is the main factor that causes or determines the formation of a human culture. Culture cannot be formed or occurs without language because language is a factor that allows the formation of a culture. So, language itself is a reflection of the culture of a community and is the identity of a region, each region has its own unique language, including rote language

*Rote language* itself is a regional language in East Nusa Tenggara province specifically in Rote Ndao regency, which is a language spoken by Rote people with different dialects. According to Manafe in Tamelan (2021:3), the Rote language has nine dialects there are: 1). Landu, Rikou, Oepao; 2) Bilba, Diu, Lelenuk; 3) Korbafo; 4) Termanu, Keka, Talae; 5) Bokai; 6) Ba'a and Lole; 7) Dengka and Lelain; 8) Tii; and 9) Dela and Oenale. In the narrative, each dialect has differences

from the other dialects in pronunciation, intonation, and also the use of vowels.

One interesting thing from the Ba'a dialect is the compound words. In the structure of the Ba'a dialect, there is the use of compound words. A compound word is a word formed by joining two or more words, expressing an understanding that forms a new meaning. Compounding is the formation of a new lexeme by adjoining two or more lexemes (Bauer, 2003:40).

Previous researchers by Lenggu et al., (2021), through their research entitled "Compound Analysis of Bilba Dialect in Rotenese Language", Nunuhitu (2015), in her undergraduate thesis entitled "A Descriptive Study on Compound Words in Tii Dialect of Rote Language", and Loe (2019), in his research entitled "Compound on the Name of Plant in Rote Language of the Dengka Dialect". They conducted research on compound words, but they focused on studying compound words in various dialect of Rote Language. However, the researchers have not found any research of compound words in the Ba'a dialect. Based on the observation in the use of Ba'a dialect, it was found that there is the use of compound words. For that, the researcher is interested in conduct research about compound words in Ba'a dialect. In addition, this research can provide benefits for those who are interested in conducting further research on the similar topic under the morphology field.

Here the writer gives some examples of the use of compound words in the Ba'a dialect. The first, is the word 'Fani oe' in the Ba'a dialect. The word 'Fani' means 'Bee' and 'Oe' means 'Water', when the two morphemes are combined, the word 'Fani oe' is formed which means 'Honey'. Another example is 'Uma hedis' which comes from 'Uma' means 'House' and 'Hedis' means 'Illness' this combination yields a new meaning 'Hospital'. Based on two of these examples, it can be shown that

there is indeed a use of compound words in the structure of the Ba'a dialect. In this case, the writer would like to conduct research under the title “**AN ANALYSIS OF COMPOUND WORDS IN THE BA’A DIALECT OF ROTE LANGUAGE**”

### **1.2 Research Problem**

The research question of this study is formulated as the following question:

1. What are the structures of compound words in the Ba’a dialect?
2. What are the semantic types of compound words in the Ba’a dialect?

### **1.3 Aim of Study**

The aim of this study is:

1. To find out and describe the structures of compound words in the Ba’a dialect
2. To find out and describe the semantic types of compound words in the Ba’a dialect

### **1.4 Significance of Study**

#### **1.4.1 Implication**

The result of this study is expected to support the theory about compound words that proposed by Cartairs-McCarthy (2002) and Bauer (2003).

#### **1.4.2 Application**

The result of this study is to provide more knowledge about compound words, this research will help the readers and also the researcher herself to get new knowledge of a language in terms of compound words in Ba’a dialect and also useful for those who are interested in conducting further research on the similar topic under the morphology filed.