

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Kupang Malay is one of the local languages in East Nusa Tenggara that is used by the people of Kupang city and its surrounding areas to exchange information. Around 150,000 people use Kupang Malay as their first language or mother tongue, while around 250,000 others use it as a second language or intertribal language. According to Jacob and Grims (2011), Kupang Malay Language (KML) is a creole language. In addition, Siga and Heni (2019) also stated that Kupang Malay is a creole language that has been used as a lingua franca on the western tip of Timor Island for a long time. Kupang Malay speakers come from various ethnic backgrounds, namely Rote, Sabu, Dawan, Helong, Flores, Sumba, Alor, Bali, Java, Bugis, Chinese, Arabic, Ambon, Manado, and other tribes in Indonesia Rafael (2019). This diversity of backgrounds shows how important the Kupang Malay language is in bridging inter-ethnic communication, strengthening social relations, and facilitating interaction among the various communities in the region.

In Kupang Malay, conjunctions are an important part of the word class that functions to connect elements in the sentence. Conjunctions are part of the task word that act as a link between two or more language units, such as words, phrases with phrases, or clauses with clauses Resgita (2022). Conjunctions in terms of the nature of their relationship can be divided into subordinative and coordinative conjunctions. Subordinative conjunctions are conjunctions that

function to connect two sentence elements whose positions are not equal, while coordinative conjunctions are conjunctions that function to connect two sentence elements whose positions are equal and equivalent Chaer (2015). Wahani et al (2021) concluded that coordinative or coordinating conjunctions can be divided into 4, namely 'and', 'or', 'for', and 'but'. For example, "I like tea and coffee", while subordinative conjunctions include 'after', 'although', 'as', 'because', 'before', 'how', 'if', 'once', 'since', 'then', 'when', 'where', 'whether', 'while', and 'until'. For example, "After I finish my homework, I will go to the shop". Understanding these conjunctions is very important, especially in the context of Kupang Malay's unique grammar, as it helps speakers to structure sentences more effectively and clarify the relationship between ideas being conveyed.

The author chose this topic because conjunctions play an important role in building coherence and meaning in sentences, conversations, songs, books, and the author was inspired by several studies that have been conducted on conjunction usage errors, one of which is from Belandina about 'Analysis of Conjunction Usage Errors in Chinese Language Learning by College Students'. The research shows that errors in the use of conjunctions can interfere with understanding and clarity in communication, which can affect the effectiveness of message delivery. With this background, the author feels it is important to explore how conjunctions are used in Kupang Malay.

One of the useful resources on Kupang Malay Language is Tuhan Pung Kata-Kata, a Bible written in the Kupang Malay language and published in 2016 by Unit Bahasa dan Budaya (UBB). This version reflects standardized

vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structures that represent natural language use among Kupang Malay speakers. It serves as a reliable source for linguistic analysis, especially in understanding conjunction usage. Among all the books in the Bible, 2 Timothy was chosen because it is relatively short only four chapters yet dense in meaning. It contains many complex sentences and diverse conjunctions, making it ideal for in-depth grammatical and functional analysis without being too broad for the study's scope.

Finally, this study aims to examine the Kupang Malay language, specifically analysing the form, function, and meaning of subordinative and coordinative conjunctions found in the Kupang Malay Bible. By exploring these aspects, the findings are expected to raise awareness of the importance of conjunctions in effective communication and provide valuable insights for language users and educators in Kupang City. With a deeper understanding of conjunctions, it is hoped that Kupang Malay speakers can be more proficient in constructing clear and coherent sentences, as well as being able to avoid common errors. This research is also expected to be a reference for further research on other linguistic aspects of Kupang Malay, as well as encouraging efforts to preserve and develop this rich regional language in the midst of increasingly strong globalisation.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the forms of conjunctions in Kupang Malay language found in 2 Timothy?
2. What are the functions and meanings of conjunctions in Kupang Malay language found in 2 Timothy?

1.3 Aim of Study

The purpose of this research is to introduce and promote awareness of the Kupang Malay language as one of the local languages in East Nusa Tenggara, through a focused linguistic analysis. Specifically, this study aims to examine the use of subordinative and coordinative conjunctions in the Book of 2 Timothy from the Kupang Malay Bible. By analyzing their forms, functions, and meanings within a sacred and standardized text, the study seeks to highlight how conjunctions contribute to sentence structure and meaning in Kupang Malay. It is hoped that the findings will provide valuable insights for language users, educators, and researchers, and contribute to efforts in documenting, preserving, and developing this unique creole language.

1.4 Significance of Study

Significance of the study consists of both implication and application as below:

1.4.1 Implication

In the context of the use of conjunctions in the Kupang Malay language, a deep understanding of these conjunctions is essential to strengthen communication between speakers. According to Nehe (2021),

conjunctions function as connectors that organize the relationship between ideas in a sentence, making it easier for speakers to convey information in a clear and structured way. By understanding conjunctions in Kupang Malay, one can see how this language structure reflects the way Kupang people think and interact.

1.4.2 Application

The results of this study can be useful for :

1. For educators

The findings of this study can be used to develop relevant teaching materials for teaching Kupang Malay.

2. Kupang Malay speakers

This research can be used to introduce and raise public awareness about conjunctions in the Kupang Malay.

3. For researchers and academics

The results of this study can be a reference for other researchers who are interested in linguistic studies, especially those related to the Kupang Malay.

4. The general public

It can increase the understanding of the importance of preserving local languages, including the Kupang Malay.