

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Semantics is a sub discipline of linguistics which focuses on the study of meaning. Linguistic semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings (Kreidler,1998). Semantics tries to understand what meaning is as an element of language and how it is constructed by language as well as interpreted, obscured and negotiated by speakers and listeners of language (Wikipedia).

The metaphor study is also meaning study, focusing first on the literal and then on the idiomatic meaning, thus forming a gradual process. If most of the languages in the world are metaphorical, then we are in a position to say that the metaphorical essence of language is the reflection of human nature (Ma&Liu, 2008).

Oral literature of Eastern Sumba is the cultural heritages that has utility area and play an actives role, so it can be used as instructions and guidelines for people especially the Eastern Sumba. Therefore, the oral literature of East Sumba is needed to be saved, stored, and maintained by local communities of East Sumba. One of the oral literatures in East Sumba is *Hamayang*. *Hamayang* is one of the verbal traditions that are used death ceremony.

Hamayang is a pray to ancestor in the death ceremony ritual, wedding ceremony and harvest time of *Marapu* religion of East Sumba people. In this

research focus in *Hamayang* in the death ceremony ritual. *Hamayang* in the death ceremony ritual has three steps, first pray to give human corpse to ancestor. Second, pray for giving his/her lunch or dinner, third pray on burial time.

And also *Hamayang* has three parts for delivery depend on social class in east Sumba there are three classes on social stratification, they are nobility (*maramba*), middle (*kabihu*) and slave (*ata*) class. For these social class have different language when delivery *Hamayang* in nobility class we can't mention their name but we mention their slave's name cause in their everyday life they have slave's name to call and in middle and slave class we can call their name because they haven't slave's name to call.

Based on the explanation above, therefore the researcher conducted this research under the title. *A descriptive study of Metaphor used in Hamayang (a ritual prayer) of East Sumba people.*

1.2 Research Question

There two questions in this study :

1. What is the metaphor used in *Hamayang (a ritual prayer)* of East Sumba people?
2. What are the literal and metaphorical meaning found in *Hamayang (a ritual prayer)* of East Sumba people?

1.3 Aims of the Study

There are two aims find of this study.

1. To find the metaphors used in *Hamayang (a ritual prayer)* of East Sumba people.
2. To find literal and metaphorical meaning used in *Hamayang (a ritual prayer)* of East Sumba people.

1.4 Significance of the Study

1.4.1 Implication

- a) Semantics is a sub discipline of linguistics which focuses on the study of meaning. Linguistic semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings (Kreidler,1998).
- b) Metaphor as the figure of speech in which a name or descriptive term is transferred to some object different from, but analogous to, that to which it is properly applicable (Gibss, 1997).
- c) Literal meanings and metaphorical meanings are of the same kind, and second, literal language is not open-ended in the same way as metaphors are. The open-endedness of metaphorical meaning is guaranteed by the fact that it is derived from literal meaning(Masaryk, 2012).

1.4.2 Application

- a) The finding this study can add available Metaphor theory that is applied in studying language.

- b) The finding of this study can become the source for the related studies for the next coming studies, especially those applying the theory of Metaphor.
- c) Conducting this study can become good information for the people of East Sumba about Metaphor used in *Hamayang (a ritual prayer)*.