

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the concluding remarks of the study, summarizing the main findings and interpretations derived from the analysis of numeral structures in the Rikou dialect. It revisits the key linguistic features discussed in the previous chapters, covering cardinal and ordinal numerals, patterns of quantification, and the absence of grammatical classifiers, while highlighting their structural, semantic, and cultural significance.

5.1 Conclusions

This study analyzed the numeral system of the Rikou dialect of the Rote language, focusing on the structure, function, and meaning of cardinal numerals, ordinal numerals, and numeral classifiers. The findings reveal that the Rikou numeral system reflects an analytic typology characteristic of Austronesian languages and demonstrates a close interaction between linguistic structure and cultural expression.

Cardinal numerals in Rikou function as direct markers of quantity without affixation or morphological agreement, while ordinal numerals are derived productively through the prefix **ka-** to mark sequence or order. The language does not employ grammatical numeral classifiers; instead, quantification is achieved semantically through direct numeral–noun constructions or with optional measurement and container terms. Moreover, certain nouns display dual countability depending on context.

Overall, the Rikou numeral system is not only a grammatical mechanism for expressing quantity and order but also a medium that reflects cultural, moral, and spiritual values. It encodes concepts of unity, hierarchy, and completeness that mirror the worldview of the Rikou-speaking community.

5.2 Numeral System

This section presents an overview of the structural and semantic features of numerals in the Rikou dialect, encompassing both cardinal and ordinal forms.

The discussion highlights how these numerals function syntactically in noun phrases, how they are derived morphologically, and how their meanings extend beyond numerical reference to convey cultural and symbolic values. Through these descriptions, the section illustrates that the Rikou numeral system reflects the analytic typology of Austronesian languages while maintaining distinctive semantic and cultural characteristics.

A. Cardinal Numerals

Cardinal numerals in Rikou indicate exact quantity and serve as nominal modifiers that precede the nouns they modify. They are morphologically simple and do not require affixation or classifiers. The numeral alone expresses number, while the noun remains morphologically unmarked.

The following examples illustrate the use of cardinal numerals in the Rikou dialect. Cardinal numerals indicate the exact quantity of countable entities and typically combine directly with count nouns without requiring plural marking or classifiers. These examples demonstrate how Rikou speakers express discrete numbers clearly and systematically in natural discourse.

29. *Ana dua*

child two
“two children”

30. *uma telu*

three house
“Three houses.”

31. *batu lima*

five stone
“Five stones.”

In addition to literal counting, some numerals—particularly *esa* (“one”)—carry figurative and symbolic meanings. *Esa* is used metaphorically to denote unity, singularity, or completeness, as in *ita esa nai Yesus Kristus* (“we are one in

Jesus Christ”). This demonstrates that numerals in Rikou extend beyond quantitative reference to convey spiritual and communal values.

B. Ordinal Numerals

Ordinal numerals express order, rank, or sequence and are derived by prefixing **ka-** to a base numeral (e.g., *ka-esa* “first,” *ka-dua* “second,” *ka-telu* “third”). The prefix **ka-** functions as a consistent and productive ordinal marker.

The following examples illustrate the use of ordinal numerals in the Rikou dialect. Ordinal numerals indicate the position or rank of an entity within a sequence and are formed by combining a numeral with an ordinal marker. These examples show how Rikou speakers use ordinal constructions with count nouns to express order clearly and systematically.

32. *ana ka-esa*
ORD-one child
“First child.”

33. *uma ka-telu*
ORD-three house
“Third house.”

34. *batu ka-lima*
ORD-five stone
“Fifth stone.”

Beyond literal sequence, ordinal numerals also appear in figurative or symbolic contexts, as seen in *ka-hitu* (“seventh”) in the expression *Fo Manetu ala inde de ana i fai ka-hitu* (“God rested on the seventh day”). Here, *ka-hitu* symbolizes divine completion and perfection, demonstrating how linguistic forms in Rikou reflect theological and cultural interpretation.

5.3 Numeral Classifiers

This section examines how the Rikou dialect expresses quantification in the absence of grammatical numeral classifiers. It explains the strategies used to quantify count nouns, non-count nouns, and dual-count nouns, emphasizing that classification in Rikou is realized semantically rather than morphologically. The section further explores the use of measurement or container words—many of which are borrowed from Indonesian—as tools for expressing quantity and mass. Through this analysis, the semantic flexibility of the Rikou numeral system

becomes evident, showcasing how meaning and context govern quantification.

A. Count Nouns

Count nouns in Rikou refer to discrete entities that can be individually enumerated, such as humans, animals, or concrete objects. In this dialect, these nouns combine directly with cardinal numerals without the use of classifiers or plural markers, as the numeral itself adequately encodes quantity. This structural pattern reflects the general tendency in Rikou to avoid overt morphological marking when semantic information can be inferred from syntactic arrangement. As a result, numeral–noun constructions remain relatively simple and transparent, facilitating clear interpretation of numerical meaning in everyday discourse.

The following examples illustrate how cardinal numerals combine with count nouns in the Rikou dialect, demonstrating the basic structural pattern and its application in natural usage.

35. *Anadua*

child two
“two children”

36. *uma telu*

three house
“Three houses.”

37. *batu lima*

five stone
“Five stones.”

This pattern indicates that plurality is semantically inferred rather than morphologically marked, reflecting an analytic structure typical of Austronesian languages.

B. Non-count Nouns

Non-count nouns in Rikou denote substances or materials that are not inherently divisible into discrete units, such as liquids, granular materials, or other mass-like referents. To quantify these nouns, speakers typically employ optional measurement or container terms, many of which are borrowed from Indonesian. These terms provide a unit of measurement that allows the otherwise uncountable noun to be quantified. The use of such expressions illustrates how Rikou speakers adapt external lexical resources to express quantity while maintaining the semantic characteristics of non-count nouns.

The examples below show how numerals interact with classifiers to quantify non-count nouns, highlighting the role of classifiers in specifying measurable units.

38. *Telu liter oe.*

three liter water

“Threelitersofwater.”

39. *Dua kilo ikan.*

two kilogram fish

“Twokilogramsoffish.”

40. *Esa botol moke.*

one bottle palm.wine

“Onebottleofpalmwine.”

41. *Dua karung padi.*

two sack rice

“Twosacksofrice.”

These measurement terms (*liter, kilo, botol, karung, takar*) function as semantic quantifiers rather than grammatical classifiers, showing that classification in Rikou is based on meaning rather than morphology.

C. Both Count and Non-count Nouns

Some nouns in the Rikou dialect can function as either count nouns **or** mass (non-count) nouns, depending on the context in which they are used. When such a noun appears without any additional specification, it is typically interpreted as a countable entity, and can combine directly with cardinal numerals to indicate discrete quantities. However, the presence of a measurement term or classifier shifts the interpretation toward a mass reading, allowing the same noun to be quantified in terms of portions, containers, or other standardized units. This flexibility illustrates how Rikou speakers exploit syntactic and semantic cues to convey different types of quantity and how the language systematically differentiates between countable and uncountable interpretations within the same lexical item.

The examples below show how numerals combine with both count and non-count nouns in the Rikou dialect, highlighting the structural and semantic distinctions between the two noun types and the role of classifiers in specifying measurable units for non-count nouns.

42. *Ikan dua.*

fish two

“Twofish.”

43. *oe-manas mea lima*

hot.water unit five

“Five liters of hot water.”

44. *Jagung lima.*

corn five

“Five ears of corn.”

45. *Jagung dua karung.*

corn two sack

“Two sacks of corn.”

This context-dependent flexibility underscores that countability in Rikou is determined semantically and pragmatically rather than by morphological distinction.

5.4 Suggestions

This section provides recommendations and implications derived from the findings of this study. The suggestions address several domains, including linguistic research, language documentation, pedagogical application, and future scholarly inquiry. The purpose of this section is to guide subsequent studies and practical efforts that may further develop the understanding, preservation, and educational use of the Rikou dialect, particularly in relation to its numeral system and cultural significance.

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be proposed:

1. For Linguistic Research

Further comparative studies should be conducted between the Rikou dialect and other Rote or Austronesian varieties to explore cross-dialectal patterns in numeral formation, metaphorical use, and quantification strategies.

2. For Language Documentation

Since Rikou is a minority dialect, continued documentation is essential. Recording and analyzing local narratives, rituals, and biblical translations will help preserve the dialect’s linguistic and cultural heritage.

3. For Pedagogical and Community Application

The results of this study may serve as a reference for developing educational materials and language revitalization programs in local schools or community-based learning settings. Awareness of numeral usage can also strengthen understanding of cultural concepts such as unity and order within the Rikou-speaking community.

4. For Future Researchers

It is recommended that future research extend beyond numerals to examine related grammatical categories such as quantifiers, classifiers, and measure expressions in order to build a more comprehensive description of the Rikou dialect's grammar and semantics.