

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Sumba Island is one of the islands in East Nusa Tenggara which is rich in natural resources, culture, and language which are still preserved to this day by the people of Sumba, especially in the West Sumba Regency area which is located in the middle between districts East Sumba, Central Sumba Regency, and Southwest Sumba Regency.

Language, as a system of communication, has its own structure and rules, including morphological processes. Morphology is a branch of linguistics that studies the internal structure of words and the processes by which words are formed. One of the most important morphological processes is affixation, which involves the addition of affixes to a base or root to form new words or to express grammatical meanings.

In *Tana Righu* language affixation is the process of forming words by adding affixes. For example, in *Tana Righu* language, we use the prefix *pa* dan *ma-*. The prefixes *pa-* and *ma-*, when attached to a certain basic form, then the meaning of the word will change, such as in the basic form *kedde*, 'build', and the basic form *wago* 'play', each of these basic forms when attached with the prefix *pa-* to the basic form *kedde* and *ma-* to the basic form *wago*, will become *pakedde* 'buy' and *mawago* 'play'. It can also be seen in the following example sentences:

(1) *Pa- kedde padou ma- batta?*

‘Build a place to sell’

(2) *Ne’e mi a= ma- wago ?*

‘You guys are playing’

There are several linguistic studies or linguistic sciences in the *Tana Righu* language that have been carried out previously, both phonology, syntax and pragmatics. The research conducted by Bulu (2019) focused on the phonology of the Wewewa language. The morphology of the *Tana Righu* language studied is Composition (Kartini, forthcoming) and word class (Bili, forthcoming), In relation to syntax, Sesi Bitu (2017) analyzed clitics in the Wewewa language. Kasni (2013) talked about modality in the Wewewa language. Typological syntax research, grammaticalization of the verb *beri* in the *Tana Righu* language and fifteen other languages in Nusa Tenggara, was conducted by Shibatani, Artawa and Ghanggo Ate (2015). In addition, Ate (2017:4) discussed the topic of pragmatics, namely greetings in the *Tana Righu* language.

Interviews conducted by researchers show that the *Tana Righu* language is in a sociolinguistic situation that can have an impact on the marginalization of the *Tana Righu* language. The *Tana Righu* language is experiencing a slow process of marginalization due to the influence of the Indonesian language through educational institutions, religious institutions and technology such as television and mobile phones that have spread to villages.

As a consequence, *Tana Righu* speakers become bilingual. On the one hand, this is good because Indonesian is important to compete in the modern world of work in Indonesia. On the other hand, this fact can have a negative impact if there is a language competition. And if the language competition is won by Indonesian, what emerges is a spirit of greater pride in using Indonesian. This then results in the *Tana Righu* language being marginalized. Currently, the *Tana Righu* language is considered as the main means of communication only in the realm of custom and family.

Based on the statement above, there are two important things that can be concluded why this research is important to do. First, in the studies that have been done, there has been no in-depth study of the affixation of the *Tana Righu* language. Therefore, this is one of the basic reasons why researchers raise the topic related to the affixation of the *Tana Righu* language spoken in *Lokory, Tana Righu* District.

Second, considering the unfavorable sociolinguistic situation of the *Tana Righu* language, this research is important in terms of maintaining and preserving the *Tana Righu* language. This research is one of the efforts made by researchers to maintain the *Tana Righu* language so that it does not become extinct or disappear in the face of massive language competition today. So this research was conducted as an effort to maintain regional languages, especially the *Tana Righu* language in *Lokory*.

This study is a preliminary study of the affixation process in the *Tana Righu* language in *Lokory*. In this study, the researcher conducted research in the field of morphology to be able to show the form and meaning of affixes and

affixation of the *Tana Righu* language. This study is limited to the study of affixation in the *Tana Righu* language in *Lokory*, *Tana Righu* District, West *Sumba* Regency.

Language is a unifying tool because language is a communication tool, so that a good relationship is established between humans and humans. Language has diversity in the world with various characteristics that differ in each region. Indonesia also has various regional languages. These languages are spread across various regions in Indonesia, one of which is the *Tana Righu* language in West Sumba, NTT.

According to **Rohmadi et al. (2009)**, **affixation** is the process of adding an **affix** to a base form to create a new word. This process is classified as one of the **morphological processes**, which involves forming new words by attaching bound morphemes such as **prefixes, suffixes, infixes, or circumfixes**.

In other words, according to Rohmadi, affixation plays an important role in word formation in a language, whether to form singular or plural word forms.

1.2 Research Problems

1. What are affixation process find in *Tana Righu* Dialect of Sumba?
2. What are types of affixes find in Tana Righu dialect of *waijewa*?

1.3 Aims of Study

1. To understand and describe affixation process find in *Tana Righu* Dialect of Sumba.
2. To describe the types of affixes find in the *Tana Righu* dialect of *waijewa*.

1.4. Significance of Study

1.4.1 Implication

The result of the study is expected to support and enrich the theory of morphemes. (Booij, 2015). It is hoped that this research can contribute and enrich the theory about morphemes in the field of morphology, as explained by Booij (2015). The morphological theory proposed by Booij focuses on the way morphemes, namely the smallest units in language that have meaning or function, work in word structures. This research seeks to expand understanding of how morphemes are used and interact in a particular language, provide concrete examples that enrich existing theories.

1. Enrichment of the Morpheme Concept: This research is expected to enrich Booij's (2015) theory about morphemes by adding new examples or findings regarding the use and role of morphemes in word formation. These findings can provide a clearer picture of the types of morphemes that exist, both free and bound morphemes, as well as how morphemes function in the formation of more complex words.

2. Development of Morphological Theory: This research can also open up space for the development of a more comprehensive theory of morphology, taking into account the variations that exist in the use of morphemes in various languages. This can provide new insights into morphological patterns that have not previously been widely discussed, so that morphological theory can be more adaptive to the variety of linguistic phenomena found in various world languages.

1.4.2 Application

The researcher hopes that the results of this research can be useful for the following things:

1. For English Teachers

Serves as a reference for English teachers in designing effective learning strategies related to students abilities and understanding of affixation.

3. For Students

This research can be used as a source for further research, especially regarding the use of affixation and open materials when becoming a teacher in the future.

4. For Other Researchers

This research is useful for readers or researchers to gain new knowledge about language in the affixation of the *Tana Righu* Sumba dialect, and is useful for parties who want to conduct further research on topics under the field of linguistics.