DISTRIBUTIONAL MORPHEMES IN ULI SOLEMATA LANGUAGE

Hayat M. Ohorella

Universitas Muhammadiyah Sorong

hayatohorella@gmail.com

Didi Suherdi

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia

Suherdi_d@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Ulisolemata language is the native language of the 3T villagers such as Tulehu, Tenga-tenga and Tial. This local language is a living language used by the those three villagers in Salahutu district of Central Maluku regency. The purpose of this study was to determine the distributional morphemes of Ulisolemata language and to explore its classes of word through morphological analysis. This research was held under descriptive qualitative method with grounded theory of morphology. The data were gained through interview and the distribution of words list to some native people who are educated and have the ability in writing the language. The results of this study found that the forms of morphemes were distributed through derivational and inflectional process most particularly through three affixation such as prefix, infix, and suffix. The distribution of morphemes through affixation process also showed some word classes. There were seventeen affixes consisting of two prefix, infix and twelve two suffixes. As for the two prefixes are / pa-/ma-, and two infix ie / la-/sa-, and thirteen suffixes are /in-/yi-/iyi-/ni-/are-/re-/i-/asa-/e-/n-/ka-/ni- /. Based on research and data obtained through interview techniques and words list, there are some changes of word class that occur in the process of affixation in Ulisolemata language. In derivational process, prefix pa- and ma- when attached to the root, they will change the word classes, such as noun → adjective, for example mahina (girl) [n] pamahina (girly) [adj], verb → adjective; ane (eat) [v] maane (greedy) [adj]. Noun → verb; iru (nose) [n] pairu (mock) [v], salai (broom) [n] pasalai (sweep) [v], and so forth. In inflectional process, prefix pa- and ma- play much on word class of verb to verb such as heta (cut) [v] paheta (fight) [v], nusu (enter) [v] panusu (input), and so on.

Keywords: *Affixation, Uli Solemata Language, Morphology*

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is made up of many tribes and each tribe has its own language which sets it apart from other tribes. The language used by each tribe, is called local languages. Language is a cultural aura of a nation, tribe or group as well as an identity. In a country that consists of thousands of island, we can find many regional languages of various tribes or groups in Indonesia. but most of the nearly extinct because their own people are not accustomed to using their local language.

Through language, the culture of a nation or region can be formed, and developed and handed down to next generation. Language also has a role in making social control, which language has a relation to the processes of socialization of a society, such as language is a conduit or trust and the nature of the children who are growing. This is what will be the successor culture to the next generation. The interest of language almost covers all areas of life, because everything that lives, experienced, felt and thought can only be known by others if it had been disclosed by both oral and written language. We cannot imagine what would happen if a man can not speak.

The ability to speak, write, listen and even read depends much on how much the language users provide themselves with sufficient vocabulary (a set of words). Thus, if ones recognize the function of each word as lexeme in a complex sentence, they can continually build their global communication which involves other linguistic features such as discourse. Accordingly,, there is a widely-held belief among classroom experts and researchers that learning morphology is a challenging part of vocabulary learning because it involves a mental system for which it is necessary to form a conscious awareness of and build a capacity for reflecting on and manipulating the morphemic structures of words (Kirby et al., 2012; Tunmer, Herriman, & Nesdale, 1988).

Ulisolemata language is the native language of the 3T villagers such as Tulehu, Tenga-tenga and Tial. This local language is a living language used by the those three villagers in Salahutu district of Central Maluku regency. Researches regarding this current issue; derivational and inflectional – most particularly the distribution of morphemes in Uli Solemata are really rare to find since all local languages in Maluku are traditionally spoken language, not written language. Acknowledging what has been pionered by Leurima (2007) with his dictionary *"Kamus Bahasa Uli Solemata"*, the writer constructs his own belief to at least investigate the distribution of morphemes in Uli Solemata. Theoritically, this might be exercising the living morphological theories and it is practically going to be an effort to preserve that

language within its present community who nowadays seem to be larger in number but small in quality of active speaker.

METHODOLOGY

This study was held under qualitative method and grounded theory of morphology was employed to display and analyze derivational morphemes in Uli Solemata language. To gain the data, both interview and distributing words list were done to 10 educated native speakers of Uli Solemata whom the researcher believes they are qualified in providing an accurate written and oral data.

ANALYSIS

From the interview and distribution of words list, this study found the forms of morphemes were distributed through derivational and inflectional process most particularly through three affixation such as prefix, infix, and suffix.

1. Derivational process

Richards (1985:77-179) stated that derivation is "formation of new words by adding affixes to other words or morphemes". Derivational morphemes modify base words or roots by changing the word class and/or meaning (e.g., *lucky* to *unlucky* or *art* to *artist*). When base words are transformed into derived words, there may be a shift in the phonological structure of the base word (e.g., *magic/magician*), the orthographic structure of the base word (e.g., *silly/silliness*), a shift in both types of structures (e.g., *admit/admission*), or neither (e.g., *friend/friendly*). Shifts in the phonological and/or orthographic structure between base and derived form may lead to additional effort in recognizing the relation of base words to their derived forms (e.g., Apel & Thomas-Tate, 2009; Carlisle, 2000).

Based on research data obtained through interview and words list, it shows the occurrance of affixation in Ulisolemata language, which is composed of the prefix (*pa-* and *ma-*). Prefixes ma- and pa- when attached to base/root or noun will change the word class, and vice versa, and the prefix pa- and ma- when attached to a verb will change the word class as well, as seen in the following examples:

Prefixes	Verb	Noun
	Oi (go)	*Maaoi* (walker)
Ma-	*Ane* (eat)	*Maane* (eater)
	Ninu (drink)	*Maaninu* (drinker)

The attachment of prefix *ma-* onto the verb changes the word class to Noun. To some particular verbs, after being attached, they will be added by infix *a*.

Prefix	Noun	Verb
Pa-	*Iru* (nose)	*Pairu* (mock)
	Salai (broom)	*Pasalai* (sweep)

Having attached to the base (noun), prefix *pa-* will automatically change the word class to verb. In this process, compared to the prefix *ma-,* there will be no infix.

2. Inflectional Process

Inflection is a process that produces morphological forms of words that differ from a same lexeme (Matthews, 1974: 38). Inflectional morphemes modify base words when they are attached, leading to changes in time, number, or aspect (e.g., *walk* to *walking* or *hat* to *hats*). Prefix *pa-* which attached to following verbs do not change the class of word, but then they will be differently used in the context of sentence.

Prefix	Verb	Verb
Pa-	*Heta* (cut)	*Paheta* (Fight)
	Nusu (enter)	*Panusu* (input)
	Wai'e (return)	*Pawai'e* (return)
Pa- + Infix *Na-*	*Totie* (cook)	*Panatoti* (cook)
Pa- + infix *Ma-*	*Hanu* (Wake up)	*Pamahanu* (Build)
	Pamana (eat)	*Palamana* (eat together)
Pa- + infix *La-*	*Pahoi* (Take a bathe)	*Palahoi* (Bathing the corpse
	Take a bathe	Bathing the corpse

Spencer (2000: 12) defines infix as an affix which is placed *inside* another morpheme (rather than beside a morpheme or between morphemes). In other words, it is capable of splitting up a single morpheme. The attachment of infixes (*na-, ma-, and la*) after prefix *pa-* to the roots of verb do not affect, neither change the basic word class attached to it. It means that the prefix (*pa-*) and those three infixes do not change the word class or they they hold inflectional function.

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the data, the researcher would like to conclude that there are two types of affixes found in Uli Solemata language, namely prefix and infix. Prefixes in Uli Solemata comprise *pa-* and *ma-,* while infixes are *a-, la-, na-,* and *ma-*. the earlier morpheme of infix only occures in derivational proces (verb to noun). Meanwhile, the last three morphemes occur in inflectional process (verb to verb) or in other words, they do not change the word class.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Complete Name	Institution	Education	Research Interests
Hayat M. Ohorella	University of Muhammadiyah Sorong	Bachelor, English Letters Department, Indonesian Moslem University Graduate Program, English Language Studies, Hasanuddin University	Morphosyntax Critical Discourse Analysis Second Language Acquisition
Didi Suherdi	Indonesian University of Education	S1. Indonesian University of Education S2. University of Melbourne S3. IKIP Bandung	TEFL, Curriculum Design, Syntax, SLA