PHONOLOGICAL VARIATION OF TALIABU LANGUAGE DIALECTS

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Abstract: This research aimed to describe the phonological variation of Taliabu language dialects. This research used a qualitative descriptive method. The technique of data collection was obtained by taking notes, records, and interviews. Data obtained was analyzed by the stages of reduction, presentation, conclusion, and verification data. The result of the research showed that Taliabu language had three dialects, namely Kadai, Siboyo, and Mange. Phonological variations of Taliabu language occurred in the three dialects comprise of vowel variations, namely /e/, /a/, and /o/. Beside the vowel variation, there is also variation of consonants such as /g/, /y/, /h/, /t/, /d/, /m/, /ŋ/, /b/, /p/, /k/, and /r/ phonemes. Among the three dialects, one of them has high innovation namely Mange dialect, meanwhile, dialects have high phonological differences between Kadai and Mange dialects.

Keywords: dialects, phonology variation, Taliabu language

Mother tongue is one of the local cultural identities that must be preserved. Besides to be preserved, mother tongues need to be researched, developed, and constructed (Sugono, 2008). This is in line with Law Number 24 of 2009, article (42) that the government (including regional government) is obliged to develop, constructed, and protect mother tongue and literature in order to continue to fulfill their position and function in community life in accordance with the times and to remain part of from Indonesia's cultural riches; Article (43) Development, guidance and protection will be carried out gradually, systematically and continuously by the regional government under coordination of languages institution.

Taliabu language as one of the languages spoken on Taliabu Island, North Maluku Province is also an asset of nation that needs to be protected and preserved. The function of Taliabu language is as a symbol and regional identity that reflects a variety of local wisdom in society. There are three Taliabu dialects in Taliabu Island Regency, namely Kadai, Mange, and Siboyo dialects. These three dialects are spoken by their speakers in their daily activities.
Researches on mother tongue have been conducted by some previous researchers, especially in North Maluku, Masinambouw (1976), conducted research on the patterns of languages use in Kao gulf from an ethno-linguistic perspective. Besides that, the Summer Institute of Linguistics is a language institution that concentrated on the care and rescue of mother tongue in the world, including in North Maluku in 1980. The result of that research, in the 1990s, published a map of North Maluku language called the Atlas of Moluccas land in collaboration with Pattimura University.

The atlas contains some languages, an estimated number of speakers, and areas of use in North Maluku languages (Faculty of Literature and Culture: 2008). Related to research had also been conducted by Nirwana, et al (2015) about the strategy of preserving Talai and Padisua languages as minority ethnic languages in West Halmahera. Their result of the research showed the importance of the role in preserving regional languages in family, community (society), school, and government. Furthermore, Marafad (2007) in his paper entitled "Revitalization of the Codeoha Language" stated that Codeoha language was threatened by extinction so it needed to be pursued revitalization in bilingual dictionaries and the development of the language in mass media now.

Taembo (2016) conducted research on Indonesian phonological social dialects. The result of his research that the ethnic Lombok was more dominant or more prominent in causing variation of the pronunciation of phonemes /ʌ/ in Indonesian, while the ethics Muna and Batak tend to preserve the original sound of phonemes /ɛ/. Dewi (2010) conducted research on the geography of Madurese dialect in the coastal area of Probolinggo. The result found that Madura in coastal area of Probolinggo was not a separate dialect, but it is part of a Mandarin dialect that is more outward. Besides, Jamil (2015) conducted research on the analysis of Kedah dialect deixis. The result of his research found that Kedah dialect highlighted specific characteristics as a marker for aspects of the use of the depiction of people, times, and places. Whereas Jalaluddin (2018) conducted research on Malay dialect in Perak: a genolinguistic. The result of research found that non-linguistic factors such as migration, history and sociocultural factors contributed to the spread of Malay dialects in Perak. In line with Dewi (2017) conducted research on dialectology study of Madura dialect in Bangkalan. The result of the research found that vocabularies were belonging to differences in phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Phonological differences included dissimilation, phoneme differences, phoneme removal, syllable differences, phoneme addition, and different sound variation which include the release and addition of sounds.

Other researches that are somewhat different have also been conducted by Gay and Hanafi (2015). Their research on the context of speech acts of people in Ternate, North Maluku. The result of the study indicated that the context of speech acts of Ternate community included the context of language and social context which included social status, age, gender, and relationships in a family. Rinawati (2016) conducted research on the level of threat and extinction of Gayo language. The result of her research indicated that the Gayo language is seriously at risk of extinction-level due to the amount of usage is reduced and the use of Gayo language in the domestic was replaced by other languages with wider communication capacity.

Researches in North Maluku were also conducted. Their research was titled Gamkonora and Waioli: Language in the Construction of Ethnic Identity. This research compared Gamkonora and Waioli languages from a linguistic perspective. The comparative result showed that language variation had a significant role in constructing ethnic identity.

One of mother tongues that concerning is Taliabu language. Taliabu is one of the Regencies in North Maluku Province. Local people of Taliabu Island are communicated by using the language of Taliabu in everyday life. Taliabu language speakers numbered 2000-4000 speakers (Ibrahim, 2009). Taliabu language is related to the languages in Buru and Ambelu. Therefore, the Taliabu language belongs to a branch of Malay-Central Polynesia (Collins, 2016).

The native inhabitants of Taliabu are Kadai, Siboyo, and Mange tribes. The three tribes when communicating every day to understand each other because of some common vocabulary. It is found that Taliabu has one language namely Taliabu, but there are three dialects, namely Kadai, Siboyo, and Mange dialects.

Taliabu dialect language is used by Kadai people when dealing with fellow groups. The
distribution of Taliabu dialect in Kadai follows the geographical distribution of the speakers. Some villages that are considered as speakers of Taliabu dialect of Kadai language on Taliabu Island are Mantarara, Air Kadai, Penu, Samuya, Kabuno, Sofan, Kawadang, and Parigi. Besides that in Taliabu, Kadai dialect is also spoken on Mangoli Island, Sula Island Regency. There are also villages where residents speak Kadai dialect, namely Leko Kadai, Wainanas, and Pancoran.

Taliabu language of Siboyo dialect is used by several villages on Taliabu Island. Siboyo dialect is spoken in Ratahaya, Talo, Dufo Hamlet, Holbota, Hudon Hamlet, Sampe Hamlet, Busa Hamlet, Goli, Baho, Kilo, Ndefak Hamlet, Kayu Banggai Hamlet, Sumbong, Nggaki, Kabuno, Sofan, and Kawadang. Taliabu language Mange dialect spread out in Wahe, Mbono, Mananga, Tanjung Una, Hai, Dege, Gela, Wayo Nabi, Mintung, Padang, Ufung, Aer Bulan, Rumah Empat, Balohang (Liang Sia Hamlet), Air Fangu (Manarang Fangu), Tolong, Nunca, Onemai, Fayau Nana, Peling Padodong, Kataga, Wayo Panga Hamlet, and Wayo Koding Hamlet (Ridwan et al., 2017).

Many Taliabu dialects spoken in Taliabu Regency cause many variations that are caused by the three dialects. Variations arising from the three dialects include phonological and lexical variations. Phonological and lexical variations are variations in language level. If the phonological variation looks language variation in phonological level which includes sound and phoneme variation, then the lexical variation aims to look the differences of languages or dialects based on differences in pronunciation and form that have the same meaning.

Crystal (1997), looked at mother tongue as useful for, (1) realizing cultural diversity, (2) preserving ethnic identity, (3) enabling social adaptability, (4) psychologically increasing safety for children, and (5) increasing linguistic sensitivity. Then, to realize these five things, variations in language need to be traced, one of which is dialect.

The definition of dialect was stated by Chaer (1995: 82) as a variation of language from a group of speakers whose numbers are relative, different in one place, region, or a certain area. In line with of Chaer’s opinion, Kridalaksana (1993: 42) defines dialect as a form of variation language whose appearance is motivated by a certain place (regional dialect) and certain groups (social dialect). So, dialect is a variation of one language that can distinguish one group from another group. Ayatrohaedi (1979) defines dialect as a form of speech from a language with a language see the difference from the phonological level, morphology, lexicon, syntax, and semantics. According to him, a form of speech can not be stated to be a dialect if the form of speech has not been studied. The term. This research is focused on the phonological variation of the three dialects used in Taliabu. This research is important to be conducted considering the uniqueness contained in these three dialects. Also, this research can describe the uniqueness of each dialect as part of mother tongues in Indonesia that needs to be preserved.

Research in Taliabu language or Taliabu people is almost not conducted by them. Even if there is only limited mention of the number of speakers and language kinship (Ibrahim, 2009; Collins, 2016) as previously stated. So far, there have been no studies to conduct dialects found in Taliabu language, and specifically examining the phonological variations of the languages. The research has been carried out largely examined the languages of non-Austronesian language families and from different points of view and analysis, whereas language studies from the Austronesian family are still less.

This research aims to describe Taliabu dialects as an effort to collect mother tongues in North Maluku and their dialects as a language preservation effort so that Taliabu language does not experience extinction. Taliabu language is one language that has never been described. Hence, this research is the basis for other research studies.

**METHOD**

This research used a descriptive qualitative method by using a referral technique. The research location was conducted in Taliabu North Maluku and involved eight informants, four informants from the village that represented Kadai dialect, two informants were from the village that represented Siboyo dialect, and two informants were from villages that represented Mange dialect. The informants were selected based on general informants criteria proposed by
Mahsun (2005: 105), including the indigenous Taliabu, aged between 30-60 years, they could speak and understand Indonesian, complete articulation tools, and clear hearing. Data collection was conducted by using the field directional method consisting of direct recording, recording, and interviews. This research used 200 basic Swadesh vocabularies that were asked to informants as speakers of Taliabu language that spoke Kadai, Siboyo, and Mange dialects. Then, data were recorded and analyzed to see phoneme variation found in the three Taliabu dialects.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Taliabu language has five vowel phones, namely /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, /o/ (two high vowels: /i u/), one low vowel (/a/), and two central vowels (/e o/): The vowel position of word can occupy the front, central and the back positions. Therefore, Taliabu language is classified as a vocal language.

Taliabu consonant consisted of consonants b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, w, y, ŋ, ɲ, and (’). In these consonants generally occupied the front and central positions. Only consonants in the form of sound, /ŋ/ are in the back position.

It can be seen from the canonical pattern of Taliabu language, it has seven canonical patterns namely, V (vowel) pattern, KV (consonant-vowel), VK, (vowel-consonant), KVK (consonant vowel consonant), KKV (consonant consonant vowel) vowel-consonant and KKKV (consonant consonant consonant vowel). Therefore, based on the result of research conducted it was found that Taliabu language had 95.5% open syllables with a closed structure syllable of 4%, and there are words in the language Indonesian is not found in Taliabu language as many as 0.5% (Ridwan, 2017) The vowel and consonant positions can be seen in the following words.

Based on Table 1 Taliabu vowel distribution was found that the vowel /a/ occupied the front, central, and back positions. Besides, vocal /i/ also occupied the front, central and back positions. In vowel /, u/ experienced the vowel distribution at the front, central and back. Another case with vowel /e/ only occupied the central and back position, vowel distribution /e/ at the front was not. While the vocal distribution / o / is in the front, central and back position.

Based on Table 2 the distribution of Taliabu consonants, some consonants did not occupy the front position as consonant /c/, /j/, /y/, /l/, whereas, there was no sound /ny/ in the central position. The consonant distribution is in the back position, it was only occupied by sound /ny/.

Besides, dialects which are variation of Taliabu language namely Kadai, Siboyo, and Mange, and naming of these dialects refer to the names of tribes that are the island of Taliabu. However, most of the residents who come from the island of Taliabu call the language they use is Taliabu language. To kow the differences between the three Taliabu dialects, the following examples are given on Table 3.

| Vocal | Front Position | Central Position | Back position |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| /a/   | ala ‘take’    | danata ‘lift’   | bia ‘safety’  |
|       | anamei ‘child’| tengada ‘way’   | kusa ‘charcoal’|
| /i/   | isi ‘delete’  | bia ‘great’     | bei ‘printed’ |
| /u/   | ihi ‘yes’     | rica ‘chili’    | ngasi ‘beat’  |
|       | usu ‘take a bath’ | mamahu ‘tired’ | limu ‘lemon’  |
| /e/   | ute ‘worm’    | luku ‘sleep’    | tolu ‘three’  |
| /o/   | odi ‘bring’   | dele ‘forbid’   | mene ‘men’    |
|       | -              | lea ‘plate’     | Fine ‘women’  |
|       | ogo-ogo ‘silent’ | fong ‘shoulder’ | wayo ‘water’  |
Table 2. The Distribution of Taliabu Language Consonants

| Consonants | Front position  | Central Position | Back position |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| /b/        | bonu ‘in’       | boboy ‘weak’    | -            |
| /c/        | -              | bonci ‘bean’    | -            |
| /d/        | dadi ‘life’     | pangadasong ‘withered’ | - |
| /t/        | folituha ‘friend’ | kofo ‘bunch’     | -            |
| /g/        | gasia ‘content’ | togu ‘stop’     | -            |
| /h/        | ha ‘arrive’     | buhu ‘perforate’| -            |
| /j/        | -              | popoje ‘pocket’ | -            |
| /k/        | karabesi ‘rough’| naki ‘patient’  | -            |
| /l/        | lulu ‘chase’    | mangilu ‘acid’  | -            |
| /m/        | ma ‘long’       | tuma ‘flea’     | -            |
| /n/        | ndehe ‘sago’    | mene ‘men’      | -            |
| /p/        | pakalilu ‘wild’ | gohompo ‘toothless’ | - |
| /r/        | rumpi ‘diarrhea’| bakara ‘stain’  | -            |
| /s/        | sia ‘one’       | basengi ‘lazy’  | -            |
| /t/        | takino ‘mosquito’| mantoro ‘desire’| -         |
| /w/        | want ‘honey’    | bawa ‘mango’    | -            |
| /y/        | -              | boya ‘play’     | -            |
| /’/        | -              | ba’ba ‘trap’    | -            |
| /ng/       | ngo ‘nose’      | mangilu ‘acid’  | rekeng ‘count’|
| /ny/       | nyawa ‘soul’    | -              | -            |

Table 3. The Differences Among the Third Taliabu Language Dialects

| Kadai     | Siboyo | Mange | Gloss  |
|-----------|--------|-------|--------|
| dumu      | tunu   | tunu  | burn   |
| dutu      | tutu   | tutu  | fist   |
| dusu      | tusu   | tusu  | puncture |
| dibu      | tiba   | tiba  | throw  |

Table 4. Nasal Addition to Taliabu Dialect

| Kadai     | Siboyo | Mange | Gloss | English |
|-----------|--------|-------|-------|---------|
| to folu   | tofoluŋ| to folu| asap  | smoke  |
| haŋu      | haŋiŋ  | yaŋu | bangun | get up  |
| nfara     | nfaraŋ | fara | bara  | ember  |
| kawi      | kawi   | mata kai | hook |
| fo        | foŋ    | bahu | -     | shoulder |

From the four examples in Table 3, it can be seen that among Kadai, Siboyo, and Mange had similar forms and meanings. There was a phonological correspondence between Kadai, Siboyo and Mange. Mange, although in Mange dialect often switches places with Kadai dialect. In addition, every word ending in a vowel in Kadai dialect will experience the addition of the nasal /ŋ/ in Siboyo dialect as in the Table 4.

As stated previously, there are three dialects that used in Taliabu Island, namely Kadai, Mange, and Siboyo. These dialects were interconnected, both in a diachronic or synchronic sense. Diachronically, that dialect came from a proverb or the same proto language. Synchronously Taliabu language can be looked based on a certain time limit having three dialects variation that are phonologically and lexically related.
This research investigated the phonological variations found in the third Taliabu dialects, namely Kadai, Siboyo, and Mange dialects. Therefore, this research needed to describe Taliabu dialects first.

There are some examples of the phonological variations of Taliabu dialects language: Kadai, Siboyo, dan Mange as on the Table 5. The examples in table 5 shows that the phoneme variations between the three dialects. First, /b/ in Kadai dialect ~ /p/ in Siboyo and Mange dialects, as in the word of beta ~ Peta ‘step on’. Second, phonemes /d/ in Kadai dialect and Mange ~ /t/ in Siboyo dialect as indicated in the word of ndoya ~ ntoyaŋ ‘hanging’. There are also phonemes /d/ in Kadai dialect ~ /t/ in Siboyo dialect and become /l/ in Mange dialect. Third, phoneme /g/ in Kadai dialect ~ /k/ in Siboyo and Mange dialects. Fourth, phoneme /g/ in Kadai dialect ~ /k/ in Siboyo and Mange dialects. The example can be seen from the word gofo ~ kofo ‘ikat’/tie it up.

**Discussion**

Based on the result of research, it was found that there were three Taliabu dialects, namely Kadai, Siboyo, and Mange dialects. These three dialects raise phonological variation sounds related to sounds of language. Data in the field showed that there were several variations among Kadai, Siboyo, and Mange dialects. They have very high differences; it can be seen in Kadai dialect which had different variations from the other two dialects. For example, this dialect was more likely to raise the voice phonemes /b/ bilabial, /d/ dental, and /g/ velar compared with Siboyo and Mange dialects which tend to bring up the voiceless bilabial phoneme /p/, dental /t/, and velar /k/. Besides, the process of adding sounds at the end of words is also found in Kadai dialect. The process of adding sounds at the end or back of this word is called paragog (Campbell, 1996: 35). For example, the word kabali> gabalik ‘return’, Thus, this article is in line with Campbell’s opinion. Factors that influenced this difference based on finding in the field were geographical factors considering the location of Kadai village which is so far from Siboyo and Mange.

Besides consonant phonemes, there were also vocal phonemes that showed variations between the three dialects. For example, /a/ in Kadai and Mange dialects on the contrary those will experience the addition of /ŋ/ in Siboyo dialect in ultima position. This can be seen in the word of ndoya ~ ntoyaŋ ‘hanging’. In addition, the vowel phonemes /e/ in Kadai dialect ~ /a/ in Siboyo and Mange dialects. For example, bertindi ‘vibrate’ in Kadai dialect became baratindi in Siboyo and Mange dialects. There was also vocal phoneme /o/ in Kadai and Siboyo dialects experiencing addition of phoneme /h/, as in the word odi ~ hodi ‘carry’ in Mange dialect. Otherwise /h/ in Kadai and Siboyo dialects ~ /r/ in Mange dialect in ultima position, such as word of fohu ~ foru ‘new’. These three dialects understood each other (mutually intelligible). There were many similarities between Siboyo and Mange dialects. So as between Kadai and Siboyo dialects, while there are more differences or more varied phonemes between Kadai and Mange dialects. Innovation occurred in many phonemes found in Mange dialect, for
example phoneme variation /m/ ~/ŋ/, /h/ ~ /r/, /y/, /d/ ~/ /b/.

Other finding that Mange dialect was part of Taliabu language; in other words, it was a dialect of Taliabu language and not a language. The finding showed that the difference with the result of research conducted by North Maluku language office in 2014 which stated Mange is an own language next to Taliabu language. The result of this research strengthened the finding of research that conducted by Collins (1989) that Mange was only one of Taliabu dialects in Taliabu Island. This dialect was experiencing a lot of innovation, for example raises the phoneme /y/ which correspondent to phoneme /h/ in two other dialects, namely Kadai and Siboyo. Likewise, there was a sound change called apoptosis by setting up vowels among consonant sounds, such as word perbesi> parabesi 'sideburn'. This was the same with the definition stated by Campbell (1998) that anaptyxis was an additional vowel inserted between two consonants. In this word the vowel lowering process of /e/ → /a/ also occurred. Both of these vowels were the same environment, the front vowels. But the vocal classification was based on high and low position tongue against the palates (Verhaar, 2010: 38). Vowels [a] include lower vowels compared to [e] as central vowels.

Siboyo dialect rises the phenomenon of adding consonants in the end or back of words. Adding nasal consonants in the end or back of words, such as word of kawi> kawiŋ 'hook'. The phenomenon of the addition of consonants in the end or back of word is known as the paragog as stated (Campbell, 1998), the addition of a nasal sound in the back of word follows the previous vowel sounds.

CONCLUSION

Taliabu Island is one of the new regency and a part of North Maluku Province that has a language called Taliabu. There are several villages that speak Taliabu with different dialects. These dialects can be divided into three dialects, namely Kadai dialect, Siboyo, and Mange dialects. Kadai dialect is spoken in Mantarara village, Air Kadai, Penu, Samuya, Kabuno, Sofan, Kawadang, Parigi Leko Kadai, Wainanas, and Pancoran. In addition in Taliabu, Kadai dialects were also spoken in Mangoli Island, Sula Islands Regency. Siboyo dialect is spoken in villages of Ratahaya, Talo, Dufo Hamlet, Holbota, Hudo Hamlet, Sampe Hamlet, Busa Hamlet, Goli, Baho, Kilo, Ndefak Hamlet, Kayu Banggai Hamlet, Sumbong, Nggaki, Kabuno, Sofan, and Kawadang. Mange dialect is spoken in Wahe village, Mbono, Mananga, Tanjung Una, Hai, Dige, Gela, Hamlet Wayo Nabi, Mintung, Padang, Ufung, Aer Bulan, Rumah Empat, Balohang (Liang Sia Hamlet), Air Fangu (Manarang Fangu), Tolong, Nunca, Onemai, Fayau Nana, Peling Padodong, Kataga, Wayo Panga Hamlet and Wayo Koding Hamlet.

The three Taliabu dialects arise the phonological variations, such as vowels /e/, /a/, and /o/, and consonant variations, such as /g/, /y/, /h/, /t/, /d/, /m/, /ŋ/, /b/, /p/, and /r/, /h/, in Kadai dialect ~ /p/ in Siboyo and Mange dialects; phoneme /d/ in Kadai dialect and Mange ~ /t/ in Siboyo dialect. There is also phoneme /d/ in Kadai dialect and Mange ~ /t/ in Siboyo dialect. The three dialects have the same form and meaning. Among the three dialects that have the highest innovation is Mange dialect, while dialects have the highest phonological differences, namely Kadai and Mange dialects.

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