Affix Ma-, La-, Na- in The Dengka Dialect

Efron Erwin Yohanis Loe
Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing Mentari Kupang
Kupang, Indonesia
erinhase74@gmail.com

Abstract—The research aims to examine the function and grammatical meaning of affix ma-, la-, na- found in the Dengka dialect. The study used a descriptive qualitative method and utilized the morphological theory by Katamba (1993). This theory was used to identify derivational affixes in the Dengka dialect, particularly to find out the function and grammatical meaning of affix ma-, la-, na-. Data were obtained by using the observation and interlocution method. The data were voice recordings taken from informants by interviewing and recording. The findings showed that the functions of affix ma-, la-, na- were to produce new words from the lexeme base in the Dengka dialect. The grammatical meaning of affix ma- when added to the lexeme base is ‘have or has’. Meanwhile, the grammatical meaning of affix la-, and na- when added to the lexeme base to describe a process is going on.

Keywords: affix, Dengka dialect, morphological process, prefix, Rote language

I. INTRODUCTION

Language as a communication tool is used by humans to convey messages to describe all phenomena that happen to the other it is produced of speech organ of humans that contain sounds and meanings. Human and language cannot be separated because without language human cannot do all daily activities and without human language is useless. As the tools of communication among the human, language has a power for human when it is used. Each word in a language has a function to describe a message to the readers or speakers regarding its meaning. Language consists of four elements, namely the sound of a phoneme, word structure, sentence structure, and meaning. The four elements of the language have a rule in using and operate according to the rule of each language to differentiate one to others.

Dengka dialect is one of sub variation dialects in the Rote language as a vernacular or local dialect that has spoken by Dengka society in Northwest Sub-district, Rote Island (Kridalaksana, 2008). Dialect is a different variant of the language used by its speakers and dialect is a specific characteristic in a group of society or individuals in using language (Aslinda & Syafiyah, 2007).

The type of typology morphology of Rote language is categorized into agglutination language. Grimes et al. (1997) state that the typology of Rote language is categorized into agglutinating language. In this case, Dengka dialect is one of the variant sub-dialects of Rote language has a morphological process to produce new word through affixation, compounding, and reduplication. Comrie (1981) states that in an agglutinating language, a word may consist of more than one morpheme, but the boundaries between morphemes in the word are always clear-cut; moreover, a given morpheme has at least a reasonably invariant shape, so that the identification of morphemes in terms in their phonetic shape is also straight forward. According to Aronoff and Fudeman (2011), affixation may involve prefixes, suffixes infixes, and perhaps circumfixes. Mulyono (2013) states that affixation is a word formation process through added affix to root and the other types of words.

The focused analysis of this article is derivational affix and the target is to show the rule of the use of derivational affix added to lexeme in the Dengka dialect to produce new words. The affixation will be analyse are affix /ma-/ /la-/ and /na-/. The three affixes as prefix have the function to change the word class and also the meaning of the lexeme base. According to Yule (1987), derivational affix is used to make new words in the language and often used to make words of a different grammatical category from the stem. Morphology as a prime knowledge of word-formation has the rule to produce new words covert affixation, reduplication, and compounding. According to Lieber (2009), morphology is the study of word formation, including the ways new words are coined in the languages of the world, and the way of words are varied depending on how they are used in sentences. Aronoff and Fudeman (2011), state that morphology refers to the mental system involved in word formation or to the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are formed. Morphology is the study of the internal of words (Katamba, 1993). Morphology is a unification between morphemes to be a word (Muslich, 2008; Samsuri, 1991).

The research problem will be analysed using the morphological theory by Katamba (1993) as the focus of the research are affixes in the Dengka dialect, particularly derivational affixes, namely affix /ma-/ /la-/ and /na-/ . The research problems how are the functions of affixes /ma-/ /la-/ /na-/ and how many grammatical meaning appear when affixes /ma-/ /la-/ /na-/ add to the root in the Dengka dialect?

II. METHOD

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method. According to Moeloen (2014), the data in the descriptive qualitative method were described by written statements rather than statistics. The data were obtained by using observation and interview methods. The data collected including writing and voice-recordings obtained from informants through interviews and observation.
There are some concepts by experts that have related to affixing and derivational affixes are used to support the theoretical approach in this research. According to Katamba (1993), affix is a morpheme which only occurs when attached to some other morpheme or morphemes such as a root or stem or base. Muslich (2008) states that affix is a bound lingual form that only has grammatical meaning, as the direct element of word, but it is not as root, and it has a function to produce new words. Gleason (1961) adds that affixes may be added directly to roots, or to constructions consisting of a root plus one or more other morphemes. Booij (2007) points out that derivational affixes may appear in a different order, with different interpretational effects According to Katamba (1993), affixes may appear in different order, with different interpretational effects According to Katamba (1993), affix is a morpheme which only occurs when attached to some other morpheme or morphemes such as a root or stem or base. Muslich (2008) states that affix is a bound lingual form that only has grammatical meaning, as the direct element of word, but it is not as root, and it has a function to produce new words. Gleason (1961) adds that affixes may be added directly to roots, or to constructions consisting of a root plus one or more other morphemes. Booij (2007) points out that derivational affixes may appear in a different order, with different interpretational effects According to Katamba (1993), derivational affixes which alter the meaning or grammatical category of the base.

The theoretical approach that is used by the researcher to analyse prefixes /ma-/, /la-/, /na-/ in the Dengka dialect by Katamba. He said that a prefix is an affix attached before a root or stem or base like re-, un- and in-. For examples re-make, re-read, un-kind, un-tidy, in-decent and in-accurate.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this part, the researcher wants to investigate the function and grammatical meaning of derivational affix /ma-/, /la-/, /na-/ in Dengka dialect to produce new words using the compatible theoretical approach.

1. The Function and Grammatical Meaning of Prefix /ma-/, /la-/, and /na-/ in Dengka dialect have the function to change the word class and to produce new words. Besides producing new words prefix /ma-/, /la-/, and /na-/ when added to a lexeme base, it can change the meaning of the lexeme base. The function and the grammatical meaning of prefix /ma-/, /la-/, and /na-/ will be described one by one their rules to produce a new word, namely: [[PREF-]+[LB]→[CW]].

a. Prefix /ma-/ to Form Verb from Noun [N→V]

The function of prefix /ma-/ is to form a verb from a noun (N→V). The morphological process of prefix /ma-/ is categorized into a derivational morphology because it can change the word class and the meaning of lexeme base. The grammatical meaning of prefix /ma-/ is ‘have or has’.

[1]

a. Robi ve Maya buna?
‘Robi kasih Maya bunga’
Robi memberikan Maya bunga
Robi gives Maya flower

b. Pao na ma-buna?
‘Mangga DET PREF-bunga’
Mangga itu mempunyai bunga.
The mango has blossom

The morphological process of prefix /ma-/ in the Dengka dialect (see example part 1.b) shows that, it has a function to change the word class of lexeme base from noun to verb [N→V] and also to change the meaning of lexeme base. Its rule to produce new word: [[PREF-]+[LB]→[CW]]. Example in part (1.b): [[ma-]V+[buna?]N→[mabuna?]V]. The grammatical meaning of prefix /ma-/ is (has in English, and mempunyai in Indonesia) that explain ‘the mango tree has blossom’. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.

2.

a. Andre etu delo? boa? luo.
‘Andre petik jeruk buah dua’.
Andre memetik dua buah jeruk.
Andre picks two fruit oranges

b. Delo? ia ma-boa?
‘Jeruk DET PREF-buah’.
Jeruk ini mempunyai buah
This orange has fruit

The morphological process of prefix /ma-/ in the Dengka Dialect in part (2.b) shows that it has a function to change the word class from noun to verb [N→V] and also to change the meaning of lexeme base. Its rule to produce new word: [[PREF-]+[LB]→[CW]]. Example in part (2.b): [[ma-]V+[boa?]N→[maboai]V]. The grammatical meaning of prefix /ma-/ is (has in English, and mempunyai in Indonesia) that explain ‘the orange tree has fruit’. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.

3.

a. Martha etu ufi lo?
‘Martha petik ubi daun’.
Martha memetik daun ubi
Martha picks cassava leaf

b. Ufi na ma-mbetu?
‘Ubi DET PREF-tunas’.
Ubi itu mempunyai tunas
The cassava has sprout

The morphological process of prefix /ma-/ of the Dengka Dialect in example of part (3.b) shows that it has a function to change the word class and the meaning of lexeme base from noun to verb [N→V]. Its rule to produce new word: [[PREF-]+[LB]→[CW]]. Example in part (3.b): [[ma-]V+[mbetu]N→[mambetu?]V]. The grammatical meaning of prefix /ma-/ is (has in English, and mempunyai in Indonesia) that explains ‘the cassava tree has sprout’. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.
The morphological process of prefix /la- in the Dengka dialect in part (5.b) shows that it has a function to change the word class from noun to verb (N→V) and also it can change the meaning of lexeme base. Its rule to produce a new word as follows: [[PREF-]+[LB]→[CW]]. For example (see in 5.b): [[la-]V+[buna?]N→[labuna?]V]. The grammatical meaning of prefix /la- is to explain that ‘The jackfruit is blooming’. This morphological case in example (5.b) is categorized into derivational morphology.

a. Debi etu delo? boa?
   ‘Debi petik jeruk buah’.
   Debi memetik buah jeruk.
   Debi picks orange fruit

b. Delo? nala la-boa?.
   ‘Jeruk DET PREF-buah’.
   Jeruk itu sedang berbuah.
   The orange is fruiting.

The morphological process of prefix /na- in the Dengka dialect in example (6.b) shows that it is has a function to change the word class from noun to verb (N→V) and it also change the meaning of lexeme base. Its rule to produce new word, namely: [[PREF-]+[LB]→[CW]]. The uses of prefix /la- (see example 6.b) it is steps as follows: [[la-]V+[boa?]N→[laboa?]V]. Meanwhile the grammatical meaning of prefix /la- is to describe the situation of the ‘orange is fruiting’. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.

[7].

a. Meri seu mbeʔu loʔ.
   ‘Meri petik kacang daun’.
   Meri memetik daun kacang
   Meri picks bean leaf

b. Mbeʔu ia na-loʔ.
   ‘Kacang DET PREF-daun’.
   Kacang ini sedang berdaun.
   This bean is leafing

The morphological process of prefix /na- in the Dengka dialect in example (7.b) above shows that prefix /na- has a function to change the word class from noun to verb (N→V). It also has a function to change the meaning of a lexeme base. Its rule to produce a new word, namely: [[PREF-]+[LB]→[CW]]. The steps of the use of prefix /na- to produce a new word (see in 7.b) as follows: [[na-]V+[loʔ]N→[naloʔ]V]. The grammatical meaning of prefix /na- is to explain ‘this bean is leafing’. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.
The morphological process of prefix /na-/ in the Dengka dialect in example (8.b) shows that it has a function to change the word class from noun to verb (N→V). Prefix /na-/ also has a function to change the meaning of a lexeme base. Its rule to produce a new word, namely: [[PREF-]+[LB]→[CW]]. For example, the uses of prefix /na-/ (see in 8.b) above is as follows: [[na-]V+[mbetuʔ]N→[nambetuʔ]V]. The grammatical meaning of prefix /na-/ is to explain 'The pumpkin is sprouting'. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.

b. Manu ia na-teloʔ.

‘Ayam DET PREF-telur’.

Ayam ini sedang bertelur.

This hen is laying eggs.

The morphological process of prefix /na-/ in the Dengka dialect in example (10.b) indicating that prefix /na-/ has a function to change the word class from noun to verb (N→V) and it also has a function to change the meaning of lexeme base. The rule to produce a new word, namely: [[PREF-]+[LB]→[CW]]. The steps of using of prefix /na-/ (see example 10.b), is as follows: [[na-]V+[teloʔ]N→[nateloʔ]V]. Prefix /na-/ in the Dengka dialect has a grammatical meaning is to describe the situation of the 'hen is laying eggs'. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.

Based on the result analysis of the morphological process of prefix /la-/ and /na-/ in example (5b, 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b and 10b) shows that they have a function to change the word class of lexeme base from noun to verb [N→V]. Meanwhile, the grammatical meaning of prefix /la-/ and /na-/ in the Dengka dialect is to describe 'a something is going on'. Prefix /la-/ and /na-/- so uniqueness because they have the function like prefix /ber-/ in Indonesia but they have a different grammatical meaning. These morphological cases are categorized into derivational morphology.

The use of Katamba’s theory to analyse prefix /ma-/ and /la-/ or /na-/- that added to lexeme base in the Dengka dialect is compatible because this theoretical approach can overcome the research problems. This theory so compatible with the characteristics and the rules of Dengka dialect, particularly to analyse affixes cases found in the Dengka dialect.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

Based on the data findings and discussion result, the researcher concludes that the using of affix /ma-/ and /la-/ was found in the Dengka dialect has two functions, namely: 1) to change the word class of lexeme base from noun to verb (N→V) and 2) to change the meaning of the lexeme base. The grammatical meaning of prefix /ma-/ in the Dengka dialect has the same meaning of Indonesia’s confix /MeN-ii/ in the case: [[MeN-ii+[punya] → [Mempunyai]]. Meanwhile, the grammatical meaning of prefix /la-/ and /na-/- so uniqueness, even though they have the same meaning to prefix /ber-/ in Indonesia (see the case [[ber]V+[bunga]N→[berbunga]V]) but the grammatical meaning of prefix /la-/ and /na-/- in the Dengka dialect to describe something or a process is going on.

The result of this research can become an input and reference for the reader and the next researcher through the data and theoretical approach that want to make an analyses of linguistics, especially in morphological cases.
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

**DET** = Determiner

**N** = Noun

**V** = Verb

**PREF** = Reduplication Partial

**LB** = Lexeme Base

**CW** = Complex Word

SYMBOLS

ʔ = Glottal

+ = Blend

→ = Become

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author wishes to thank all those who have made valuable contributions to this research so that the results can be disseminated through publication, especially to the author lecturers Prof. Dr. Fransiscus Bustam, M.LIB, Prof. Dr. Ni Luh Sutjiati Beratha, M.A; Prof. Dr. I Ketut Darma Laksana, M.Hum; Prof. Dr. I Wayan Pastika, M.S; Prof. Dr. I Nengah Sudipa, M.A; Prof. Drs. Ketut Artwa, P.hd; Prof. Dr. Aron Meko Mbete; Prof Dr. I Wayan Simpen, M.Hum; Dr. Ni Made Danaway, M.S; Dr Made Sri Satyawaty, S.S., M.Hum; Dr Jeladu Kosmas, M.Hum for their advice to deepen the analysis and presentation of appropriate research results. The author thanks the committee of ICOLLITE for giving the chance to present the manuscript.

REFERENCES

Aronoff, M., & Fuderman, K. (2011). *What is morphology* (2nd edn). Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Aslinda, & Syafyahya, L. (2007). *Pengantar sosiolinguistik*. Bandung: PT Rafika Aditama.

Booj, G. (2007). *The grammar of word: An introduction to morphology*. Oxford University Press.

Comrie, B. (1981). *Language universals and linguistics typology* (2nd edn). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Grimes, C. E., Therik, T., Grimes, B. D., & Jacob, M. (1997). *A guide to the people and languages of nusa tenggara*. Kupang: Artha Wacana Press.

Gleason, H. A. (1961). *An introduction to descriptive linguistics*. London: Hartford Seminary Foundation.

Kridalaksana, H. (2008). *Kamus linguistik: Edisi keempat*. Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pusat Utama.

Katamba, F. (1993). *Morphology*. London: The Macmillan Press Ltd.

Lieber, R. (2009). *Introducing morphology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mulyono, I. (2013). *Ilmu bahasa indonesia morfologi teori dan sejumput problematik terapannya*. Bandung: Cv Irama Widya.

Muslich, M. (2008). *Tata bentuk bahasa indonesia: Kajian ke arah tata bahasa deskrptif*. Jakarta: PT Bumi Aksara.

Moleong, L. (2014). *Metodologi penelitian kualitatif*. Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya.

Samsuri. (1991). *Analisis bahasa: Memahami bahasa secara ilmiah*. Jakarta: Erlangga.

Yule, G. (1987). *The study of language: An introduction*. Cambridge University Press.