CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Indonesia has so many kinds of languages spoken by different tribes spread all over the country. Keraf (1973:25) classifies those languages in two groups: The West Indonesian languages and the East Indonesian languages. According to Fox (1973). there are thirty five languages in East Nusa Tenggara province. These languages are classified into two language families: Sumba Bima and Ambon Timor. Sumba Bima languages include the languages spoken in the islands of Sumbawa, Sumba and Sawu, and the languages in western Flores districts include the langu ages spoken in the districts of Manggarai, Ngada, and Ende-Lio. While Ambon Timor languages include the langu-ages spoken in the islands of Timor, Sabu and Rote, and those spoken in central and eastern parts of Flores, some islands such as Adonara, Lembata, Alor, Pantar, etc.

Nagekeo language is one of the regional languages belonging to the Sumba Bima language family. Nagekeo language is spoken by the people of three districts: Mauponggo, Nangaroro and Boawae, in Ngada regency, a part of the East Nusa Tenggara Province. It has more or less nine dialects spread all over the three districts. They are Toto, Labo, Nage Tengah, Nage Utara, Boawae, Nage Barat, Mundemi, Maunori and Mauponggo (Pita:1984).

Boawae dialect is one of the dialects spoken by the people in Boawae districts. Most people who speak Boawae dialect are farmers. The language plays an important role for the society in most aspects of their life, especially in activities with cultural background like wedding ceremonies, planting and harvesting seasons, and traditional fiests. Even in religious ceremonies, there are some Catholic prayer books in Nagekeo or Boawae dialects such as Sua Budjungandji (= The Prayer Book) and Koo Ola Pea Agama Kathulik (= Catholic Cateschism).

Every language is unique. Francis (1958:10) says that the nature and form of every language is adapted to the social requirements of the the society that uses it. Regional language or 'Bahasa Daerah' is a symbol of regional identity. The regional language is also the symbol of regional prestige. It is used as a means of communication in the family and among the people of the speech community. An example in point is the Nagekeo language, the writer's vernacular, of which the basic statement types are the focus of the study under report.

Sentence is the fundamental unit of syntax (Bolinger, 1975). It is said that a phrase is understandable. However, a phrase alone may not be enough to show a complete idea of the speaker. It should be combined with another phrase to make the idea clearer. The discussion of phrase and clause is connected with their existence as

parts of sentence. The language system lies behind the structure of the sentence of the language (Gleason, 1965). In order to know the system of Nagekeo language, especially Boawae dialect, the Writer studied the basic statements or simple declarative sentences of this dialect.

Eventhough language, in communication, appears in more than one type of sentences like question, statement, exclamation, and command, the statement or declarative sentence is the basic type (Sidney, 1994 :15) . To be more spesific, the statement here is represented by kernel sentences which are affirmative, and simple; While interrogative, passive, imperative, negative, complex and exclamatory sentences are derived from the kernel sentences as the basic, elementary sentences (Paul Roberts: 1974).

It is assumed that a basic statement has the structure containing at least subject and predicate. Generally, languages such as English, Indonesian, Spanish, etc have nouns bassically taking the function of sentence subject examplified by the following sentences.

<u>The boy</u> ate an egg (English)
 S

<u>El muchacho</u> come un huevo (Spanish)
 S

<u>Tony</u> makan sebutir telur. (Indonesian)
 S

For the function of sentence predicate, languages take different classes of word. In English, the function of the predicate is bassically taken by a verb (phrase)

(Marcella Frank, 1972:1-2). In Indonesian, predicate function is taken by not only verbs but also by nouns, or adjectives, or another class of word as said by Samsuri:

> "kalimat dasar (pada BI) terdiri atas paduan-paduan wajib Gatra Benda dan Gatra Benda, atau Gatra Benda dan Gatra Kerja, atau Gatra Benda dan Gatra Sifat, atau Gatra Benda dan Gatra Depan, atau Gatra Benda dan Gatra Bilangan" (Samsuri, 1980:269).

The fact that English and Indonesian are different in their structure of basic statement has arisen the writer's curiosity to make the study under report.

Moreover, so far, there have been only two works dealing with the Nagekeo language. The first one entitled _Bahasa Nagekeo di Kabupaten Ngada - Sebuah Analisis Geografi Dialek_ is written by Pita Petrus (1984). The second one is under the title of _A Contrastive Study Between Boawae Dialect And English language on the Sentence Construction_ written by Sada Agapitus (1994). The first is about the dialects which are fonemically different, in Nagekeo language. While the second deals with the structure of modification, structure of predication and structure of complementation of Boawae dialect in comparison with those of English. These two works have also inspired the writer to involve herself in further studying the Nagekeo language as one of the regional language in Indonesia.

1.2 THE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In line with the background above, The problem inves-

tigated was formulated as follows: What are the basic statement patterns of Boawae dialect?

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

Under the lights of the study background and its formulated research question, the study under report intended to describe the basic statement patterns of Boawae dialect.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The finding of the study under report should: (a) preserve or document an aspect of one of Nagekeo dialects, in this case Boawae dialect, (b) encourage the native speakers of Nagekeo language so that they will be interested to in thinking and observing the nature and the problems of their language and (c) give input to the field of English language teaching especially in the teaching of structure, so that the teachers know the nature of the problems of Boawae students in learning English.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

Naekeo language has more or less nine dialects: Toto, Labo, Nage Tengah, Nage Utara, Boawae, Nage Barat, Munde-mi, Maunori and Mauponggo (Pita: 1984). All these dialects differ from one another mostly in phonemic variation. Because Nagekeo language has many dialects, the

writer chose only Boawae dialect to be the subject of her
study. As such, the study focused only on the patterns of
Boawae dialect basic statements.

1.6 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Nagekeo language is a language that is spoken by the
people of the following three districts:
Boawae, Mauponggo and Nangaroro in Ngada
regency, an area in Flores island, a
part of East Nusa Tenggara province.
(See map in appendix C)

Boawae dialect is a dialect of Nagekeo languages, spoken
by the people of some villages in Boawae
district. (See map in appendix C)

Descriptive study is a study which describes something, in
this case the basic statement patterns
of Boawae dialect.

Statement   is a type of sentences that commonly
consists of one structural pattern, that
is structure of predication, combined
with a falling sentence-final contour
(Francis, 1958:379).

Basic statement is the type of kernel sentences, which are
affirmative and simple. (Paul Roberts,
1970:38).

Gatra   is a word or phrase as a syntactic unit
which has a certain function, becomes a
constituent in a sentence (Samsuri,
1980:226).

Constituent   is a word or phrase which becomes the part
                of a larger syntactic unit or a larger
                structure (Samsuri, 1980:224).

1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I is the Introduction. Review of Related Literature is Chapter II. The next chapter, Chapter III presents the Research Methodology. Findings and Discussion are in Chapter IV. And the last chapter, Chapter V is the Conclusion and Suggestion.