

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

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**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 & Syafyahya, 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-*/, /*na-*/. The research problems are how 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 Moleong (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), 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-/

Prefix /ma-/, /la-/, and /na-/ in the *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: [[PREFIX-]+[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: [[PREFIX-]+[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?** lua.

‘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: [[PREFIX-]+[LB]→[CW]]. Example in part (2.b): [[ma-]V+[boa?]N → [maboa?]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 is 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: [[PREFIX-]+[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.

[4].

a. Jon nendi doi? juta lima

‘Jon bawa uang juta lima’

*Jon membawa uang lima juta*

*John brings money five million*

b. Jon *ma*-doi?

‘Jon **PREF**-uang’

Jon mempunyai uang

John has much money

The morphological process of prefix /ma-/ of the *Dengka* Dialect in an example of part (4.b) shows that it has a function to change the class and the meaning of lexeme base from noun to verb [N→V]. Its rule to produce a new word as follows: [[PREF-]+[LB] → [CW]]. Example in part (4.b): [[ma-]V+[doi?]N→[madoi?]V]. The grammatical meaning of prefix /ma-/ is (has in English, and *mempunyai* in Indonesia) which means ‘John has much money’. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.

Based on the morphological process of prefix /ma-/ in example of part (1b, 2b, 3b and 4b) shows that it has a function to change the class and the meaning of lexeme base from noun to verb [N→V]. The grammatical meaning of prefix /ma-/ in the *Dengka* dialect is ‘have’ or ‘has’ in English and ‘*mempunyai*’ in Indonesia. It shows that the grammatical meaning of prefix /ma-/ in the *Dengka* dialect has the same meaning of the grammatical meaning of prefix /ber-/ in Indonesia (*mempunyai*). These morphological cases are categorized into derivational morphology.

b. Prefix /la-/ and /na-/ to Form Verb from Noun [N→V]

After describing the function and grammatical meaning of prefix /ma-/ in *Dengka* dialect, in this part, the researcher wants to explain the function and grammatical meaning of prefix /la-/ and /na-/. The morphological process of prefix /la-/ and /na-/ are categorized into the derivational morphology, because they can change the word class from noun to verb (N→V) and also it can change the meaning of lexeme base. The grammatical meaning of prefix /la-/ and /na-/ to describe ‘a process is going on’.

[5].

a. Rina nendi *buna?* mbutu? lua ve Mamana.

‘Rina bawa **bunga** ikat dua untuk Mamanya’.

*Rina membawa dua ikat bunga untuk Mamanya*

*Rina brings two bunches of flower for her Mom.*

b. Suku? iala *la-buna?*

‘Nangka DET **PREF**-bunga’.

*Nangka itu sedang berbunga.*

*The jackfruit is blooming*

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 examples (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.

[6].

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 /la-/ in the *Dengka* dialect in example (6.b) shows that it 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 mbe?u *lo?*

‘Meri petik kacang **daun**’.

*Meri memetik daun kacang*

*Meri picks bean leaf*

b. Mbe?u ia *na*-lo?

‘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 /la-/ 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 /la-/ to produce a new word (see in 7.b) as follows: [[na-]V+[lo?]N→[nalo?]V]. The grammatical meaning of prefix /na-/ is to explain ‘this bean is leafing’. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.

[8].

a. Hengki etu ufi hau **mbetu?**

‘Hengki petik ubi kayu **pucuk**’

*Hengki memetik **pucuk** singkong*

*Hengki picks cassava **sprout***

b. Bonggo na **na-mbetu?**

‘Labu DET **PREF-pucuk**’

*Labu kuning itu sedang **berpucuk***

*The pumpkin is sprouting*

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+[mbetu?]N→[nambetu?]V]. The grammatical meaning of prefix /na-/ is to explain ‘The pumpkin is sprouting’. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.

[9].

a. Dedi tati hau **oka?**

‘Dedi potong kayu **akar**’.

*Dedi memotong **akar** kayu.*

*Dedi cuts areal **root**.*

b. Mbela? ia **na-oka?**

‘Jagung DET **PREF-akar**’.

*Jagung ini sedang **berakar**.*

*This corn is **taking root**.*

The morphological process of prefix /na-/ in the *Dengka* dialect in the example (9.b) indicating that it 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. Its rule to produce a new word, namely: [[PREF-]+[LB]→[CW]]. The uses of prefix /na-/ (see example 9.b), it is steps as follows: [[na-]V+[oka?]N→[naoka?]V]. Prefix /na-/ in the *Dengka* dialect has a grammatical meaning is to describe the situation of the ‘corn is taking root’. This morphological case is categorized into derivational morphology.

[10].

a. Au hasa manu **telo?** boa? lima ma Pasar.

‘Saya beli ayam **telur** butir lima di Pasar’.

*Saya membeli lima butir **telur** ayam di Pasar*

*I buy five eggs at the Market*

b. Manu ia **na-telo?**

‘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+[telo?]N→[natelo?]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-/, /la-/, /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-/, /la-/, /na-/ was found in the *Dengka* dialect have 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-i/ in the case: [[MeN-i-]+[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 about 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**

?	= Glottal
+	= Blend
→	= Become

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