

# Numerals of the Sawai Language

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## ABSTRACT

Sawai is one of the regional languages in North Maluku. This language is spoken by the people of Lelilef Village and Sagea Village in Central Halmahera Regency. This language has uniqueness and diversity in the numeralia system. This study aims to describe the forms and types in basic numerals and the position of the main numerals of the Sawai language in phrases. This qualitative research uses descriptive methods in data analysis. The main numerical forms in the Sawai language are monomorphemic and polymorphemic. Numerals one to ten and multiples of tens, one hundred, and one thousand are monomorphemic numerals, while numbers after ten and multiples of tens, one hundred, and one thousand are polymorphemic numerals. The basic numerals in the Sawai language are divided into four types, namely: numerals for fruits, numerals for fish and humans, numerals for plants, and numerals that accompany nouns to classify objects (rolls/bundles/sheets). The location of Sawai numerals in a phrase is after the noun it describes.

**Keywords:** numerals, Sawai language, phrases.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Sawai language is used by most speakers who live in Central Halmahera Regency, North Maluku Province. Based on historical linguistics, Sawai languages are related or in a subgroup with five other languages, namely Buli, Maba, Gebe, Gane, and Taba languages, which are called the South Halmahera Subgroup (Burhanuddin, 2017). If it is traced further, the Sawai language is classified into the East-Central-South Halmahera Subgroup along with Buli, Maba, and Gebe. Although the Sawai language is related to five other languages, which means that it marks similarities in various linguistic aspects, including phonological and lexical aspects, in its development it is possible to experience changes that distinguish it from the other five languages. Changes that cause differences that are possible occur because of the uniqueness of the Sawai language, namely a language that phonologically, morphologically, syntactically, lexically, and semantically has a uniqueness that distinguishes it from other languages, including the five other languages that are related to it.

Research or studies on the Sawai language are still extremely minimal. The Language Agency conducted a mapping of regional languages in 2016. The result of the study stated that Sawai is a language. In addition, Erinita (2017) compiled a "Picture Dictionary of the

Sawai Language". This dictionary contains parts of the body/*badan*, family, counting/*reneten*, color/*warna*, house/*iim*, fruit and vegetables/*yawelu*, activity/*pe yabe*, disease/*pisek*, expression/*n'gaya*, animal/*haiwan*, time/*saat*, traditional games/*emonge*, livelihood, as well as clothing and jewelry. Sianipar et al. (2017) carried out revitalization for the Sawai language because it was considered extinct and was a precautionary measure against extinction. This revitalization activity hopes that the younger generation of Sawai speakers will help maintain the vitality of their mother tongue by using the Sawai language every day in various areas of communication. Research on morphological and syntactic aspects has not been carried out, especially studies on numeralia in the Sawai language.

## 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

There have been many opinions from linguists about numeral, or number words. According to Hasan et al. (2007:788), numeral or numbers are words or phrases that indicate numbers or quantities, stating the number of objects or their order in a series. According to Bussmann (2006), numeral is a word class whose main functions are as an adjective (e.g. six months), also as a substantive (e.g. a dozen eggs), indefinite pronouns (e.g. all, both, a lot, a little), and as an adverbial (e.g. he has called twice). Based on this definition, numerals can be in the form of words or phrases, so Ramlan (2005)

states that as words, numerals have the same distribution as the word numerals, namely (1) accompanying nouns in syntactic construction, (2) having the potential to accompany numerals, and (3) cannot be combined with *no* or *very much*. Based on Bussmann's definition, it can be seen that numerals can be in the form of words or phrases. There are two numeral word systems found in various languages in the world, namely the decimal system and the quinal system. The decimal system is a calculation system that will return to the first unit after the tenth calculation, and the quinal system is a calculation system that will return to the first unit after the fifth count (Sanjoko, 2013:180-181). Many grammarians have conveyed an understanding of numeralia (numbers) that has been conveyed by many. Numerical is a word or phrase that denotes a number or quantity and states the number of objects or their order in a row (Alwi, et al., 2003). Bussmann (2006) explains that numeral is a word class that functions primarily as an adjective (e.g. *enam bulan*) as well as a substantive (e.g. *selusin telur*), indefinite pronouns (e.g. *semua*, *berdua*, *banyak*, *sedikit*), and as an adverbial (e.g. *Dia telah dipanggil dua kali*). Ramlan (2005:162) reveals that the phrase "numeral" is a phrase that has the same distribution as the word "numeral." For example, the phrase "dua in dua buah rumah" This phrase has the same distribution as the word *two*. The distribution equation can be seen clearly from the range: *dua buah rumah*, *dua-rumah*. The second word includes numerals; therefore, the two phrases are included in the number phrase group. Number phrases consist of two types, namely (1) numeral phrases which consist of numeral elements followed by a cursive word, for example, *tiga ekor (ayam)*; and (2) numeral phrases consisting of numeral words accompanied by added words, for example, *hanya satu*, *cuma dua belas*, *sepuluh saja*.

There are two kinds of numeral systems in various languages in the world, namely the decimal system (*sistem desimal*) and the quinal system (*sistem kuinal*). The decimal system is a calculation system that returns to the first unit after the tenth count, and the quinal system is a calculation system that returns to the first unit after the fifth count. Indonesian uses a mixed decimal system because there are two words, namely *delapan* (eight) and *sembilan* (nine), which are not natural numbers. The word *delapan* is formed from *dua alapan*, which means two are taken (out of ten), while the word *sembilan* means *satu ambilan*, which means one is taken (from ten). From this definition, it is clear that numeral can be in the form of words or phrases. Ramlan (2005) states that numeral phrases have the same distribution as numeralia, namely (1) accompanying nouns in syntactic construction, (2) having the potential to accompany other numerals, and (3) cannot be joined with neither with *tidak* (not) nor with *sangat* (very).

To determine whether a word is a numeral, syntactic valence is used because the set of morphological categories that make up the framework for the numeral morphological system is characterized by the same syntactic valence that can be combined with nouns (Verhaar, 2010). However, in the case of Indonesian and (perhaps) some regional languages in Indonesia, a numeral phrase can stand alone as a predicate in a sentence and is not part of another phrase (Soedjarwo, 1991). Based on the subcategorization, numerals are divided into defined numerals and non-descript numerals. Definitive numerals, namely numerals that express a definite number, for example, two, one-quarter, fifth, and thousands. Undefined numerals, namely numerals that express an indefinite number, for example, *beberapa* (some), *tiap-tiap* (each), and *semua* (all). Descriptive numerals are subdivided into:

- Cardinal numerals, namely numerals which are the basic form, are used in counting and are used to express how many or the number of certain objects being discussed, which answers the question "how much?" for example, half, seventh, and so on.
- Multiplicative numerals, namely numerals that state how many layers or how many times the action occurred, for example, once, twice, and so on.
- Level numerals (ordinal numerals), that is, numerals that indicate positions in a specific sequence or sequence, or numerals that answer the question "to how much?"
- Partitive numerals or numeral fractions are numerals that express a fraction or fraction, for example, half, one third, and so on.
- Distributive numerals or collective numerals are numerals that express a certain group of numbers, for example, dozen, pairs, and so on (Bussmann, 2006).

According to Hudford (via Corbett, 2004:31), before starting research on the relationship between language and numbers, it must be realized that the evolution of the development of an understanding of numbers is a continuation of the development of the speech system. In everyday reality, linguistic competence in children is almost complete before the child is able to master the numeral system, even at the most elementary level. In many languages of the world, numerals are often used to modify nominal. Crump (2004:32) states: "Number, as an abstract concept, cannot exist without numerals, in the sense of words representing different numerical quantities. In other words, a numerical lexicon is essential to any conceptualization of number. Numbers, as an abstract concept, cannot exist without numerals, in the sense that words represent different numerical quantities. In other words, the numerical lexicon is important in any conceptualization of numbers.

In relation to numbering, Corbett (2004) says that many people underestimate numeral in the grammatical category because it looks very simple. However, upon closer examination, it was realized that it was not as easy as counting 1, 2, 3, and so on. In relation to the difficulties in numeralization as stated above, Crump (2004) admits that there are no general rules in determining numerals, nor how numerals are related lexically or arithmetically. This is why there is no single answer to the question "how is numeral vocabulary formed?". Crump (2004) asserts that the relationship between numerals and language depends on the function or purpose for which numerals are used in the language domain. At least according to Crump (2004), there are two functions of using numerals in a language, namely nominative and operational functions. What is directly related to linguistics is in its nominative function, while in operational functions it is closer to calculus or counting.

### 3. RESEARCH METHODS

This research is qualitative research with three stages, namely data collection, data analysis, and presentation of the results of data analysis. Data collection was carried out in Sagea Village, Weda Tengah District, Central Halmahera Regency. Data collection instruments were in the form of questionnaires, interview guides, recording devices, and field notes. Recorded language activities are language activities that occur naturally. In the data collection, the interview method with the note-taking technique was used. The collected data was then analyzed using the intralingual equivalent method, differentiating linkage technique, and matching-comparing technique. The

analyzed data is then presented using formal and non-formal methods (Mahsun, 2010).

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The numerals in Sawai are a word used to express the number of objects (people, plants, animals, goods, and concepts). In the Sawai language, there are four types of numerals, namely: (1) basic numerals, (2) collective principal numerals, (3) indeterminate basic numerals, and (4) distributive numerals.

### 4.1 Basic Sawai Numerals

In the Sawai language, there are 10 basic numerals that become the basis of calculation, namely 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. The basic numerals are one to ten, multiples of tens (20, 30, 40), 50, 60, 70, 80, and 90), one hundred, and one thousand consist of one morpheme each, and each has its own basic form. The basic numerals after the number 10 and other multiples of ten are polymorphemic. The basic numerals in the Sawai language consist of several types, namely numerals for fruits, numerals for fish and humans, numerals for plants, and numerals that accompany nouns to classify objects (rolls, bundles, sheets). In the following, the basic numerals of the Sawai language will be presented from 1 to 10, including multiples of ten, one hundred, and one thousand. Other basic numerals are the numbers 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, and 90, which are calculated by calculating the base number 10 multiplied by the base number 2 to 9 (or a multiple of 10). The following shows the Sawai language numbers from the numbers 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, and 90.

Basic Numerals	Numerical for fruits	Numerals for fish and humans	Numerals for plants	Accompanying numerals noun classifier (roll/bundle/sheet).
one	puso	iso	aiso	abeneso
two	whistle	always	ailu	abenlu
three	petele	set	aitele	abentel
four	pefote	sefot	aifote	abenfot
five	pelime	selim	aiime	abenlim
six	woman	sewonem	aiwoneme	abenwonem
seven	pefite	fit	aifite	benefit
eight	wale	rent	aiwale	abenwal
nine	pepopete	sepoppet	aipopete	abenpopet
ten	yofeso	wolenco	flotenco	abenyofeso
twenty	yofelue	wolenlu	flotenlu	abenyofelu
thirty	yofetele	wolentel	flotentel	abenyotele
forty	yofefote	wolenfot	flotenfot	abenyofot
fifty	yofelime	wolenlim	flotenlim	abenyolim
sixty	yofewoneme	wolenwonem	flotenwonem	abenyowonem
seventy	yofefite	wolenfit	flotenfit	abenyofit
eighty	yofewale	wolenwal	flotenwal	abenyowal
ninety	yofepopet	wolenpopet	flotenpopet	abenyopopet
one hundred	witenco	witenco	witenco	witenco
one thousand	calenco	calenco	calenco	calenco

According to the informant, the next basic numerals are numbers 11 to 19. The calculation is done for these numbers by combining the basic number of 10 with the number 1, accompanied by the conjunction *re* 'and' between the two, and so on.

- (1) *yofeso re iso* 'eleven
- (2) *yofeso repelee* 'twelve'
- (3) *yofeso re petele* 'thirteen'
- (4) *yofeso re pefote* 'fourteen'
- (5) *yofeso re pelime* 'fifteen'
- (6) *yofeso re pewonem* 'sixteen'
- (7) *yofeso re pefit* 'seventeen'
- (8) *yofeso re pewale* 'eighteen'
- (9) *yofeso re pepopete* 'nineteen'

The next basic numerals are the numbers 21 to 29. The calculation is done by adding the number twenty plus the numbers 1 to 9. Likewise, the calculation method for numbers 31 to 39, numbers 41 to 49, numbers 51 to 59, numbers 61 to 69, numbers 71 to 79, numbers 81 to 89, and 91 to 99 is the same. In the following, Sawai language numbers from 21 to 29 will be presented.

- (10) *Yofeluw re puso* 'twenty one'
- (11) *Yofeluw re petele* 'twenty two'
- (12) *Yofeluw re pefote* 'twenty three'
- (13) *Yofeluw re pelime* 'twenty four'
- (14) *Yofeluw re pewoneme* 'twenty five'
- (15) *Yofetel re pelime* 'thirty five'
- (16) *Yofefit re pewale* 'seventy-eight'
- (17) *Yofewal re pelime* 'eighty five'
- (18) *Yofepopet re pefit* 'ninety-seven'

The basic numeral in Sawai is behind the noun it describes. More details will be presented in the following example.

*Lalit Puso*  
mango one  
'one mango'

*In selim*  
fish one  
'one fish'

## 4.2 Sawai Language Collective Numerical

In the Sawai language, to express the collective root numeral, it is stated by placing the main numeral behind the noun being explained. More details will be presented in the following example.

*Ami fairy tale lue pasarelo selima*  
They are both markets from  
'They are both from the market'

## 4.3 Indeterminate Basic Numerical Sawai

The numerals that are also found in Sawai are the basic indeterminate numerals. This type of numeral in the Sawai language refers to an indefinite number and generally does not answer the question 'how much'. This indefinite root numeral is placed after the noun it describes. The position of indefinite numerals in the Sawai language is the same as the position of the main numerals, namely after the noun. The indeterminate numerals are *fele* 'a lot', *cici* 'a little/a few', *kyat* 'all', and *direnco* 'a few'. For more details can be seen in the example below.

*Manu Fele*  
birds many  
'many birds'

*Loke cici*  
bananas a few  
'a few banana'

*Kyat farime*  
all people  
'everyone'

*um direnco*  
house some  
'several houses'

## 4.4 Distributive Numeralia Sawai language

Distributive numerals mean groups or turns consisting of a certain number. The formation of these numerals is the same as that of Indonesian distributive numerals, namely by repetition of the main numerals. This distributive numeral is placed after the noun it describes. The position of distributive numerals in the Sawai language is the same as the position of the main numerals, after the noun. For more details, see the following section.

*'sir petel petel fan'*  
They go three by three

## 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the entire description above, there are several conclusions that can be stated as follows: The Sawai language numerals are monomorphemic and polymorphemic. Monomorphemic numerals from "one" to "ten" are monomorphemic. Numbers after 10 are polymorphemic numerals. Sawai numerals have a base of ten. The basic numerals after the number 10 and other multiples of ten are polymorphemic. The basic numerals in the Sawai language consist of several types, namely numerals for fruits, numerals for fish and

humans, numerals for plants, and numerals that accompany the word classifier (roll/bundle/sheet).

The location of the Sawai language numeral in the phrase is before and after the noun it describes. For example, *manu fele* means “many birds” (*manu* means “birds” and *fele* means “many”) and *um direnco* means “several houses” (*um* means “houses” and *direnco* means “several”). The Sawai language has not found any level numerals or fractional numerals.

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