



The Dominance of the ke-afo-an Ecolexicon Category

Mirsa Umiyati^(✉), Forisman Hulu, and Aron Meko Mbeté

Master of Linguistics Program, Warmadewa University, Denpasar, Indonesia
mirsa.umiyati2@gmail.com

Abstract. The Nias language that records the cultural richness of Nias is afo-ness. Ke-afo-an is a mixture of five entities originating from nature or the environment, which are often used as snacks or cigarettes by residents living in the Nias archipelago's geographical area. This research aim is to know the dominance of the ke-afo-an ecolexicon category. This study was designed with a mixed methods research approach (qualitative and quantitative). Based on the results and discussion above, there are three syntactic categories in the afo-an ecolexicon, and the most dominant category is the noun category, with a lexicon of 42 or 61%. Furthermore, based on environment, the noun lexicon that dominates is the biotic noun lexicon with 26 lexicons or 62% (flora = 23 or 55% and fauna = 3 or 7%). Finally, based on grammatical form, ecolexicon in the form of derivatives dominates with 46 or 67% of lexicons.

Keywords: Dominance of ke-afo-an · Ecolexicon · Ecolinguistic

1 Introduction

Humans will die without oxygen, as well as humans will die without language and environment [1]. It is believed that this analogy is not exaggerated when it refers to the functions of language, which are essential in the survival of humans of this nature. These functions include social functions, cultural functions, and ecological functions. Based on social function, language is used as a tool to interact with other human beings [2]. Furthermore, in terms of cultural function, language is used as a means of preserving culture from one generation to the next because it can store cultural values, including ethics and morals, which are stored in various forms of language, including vocabulary, rhymes, folklore, literature, legends, traditions speech and expression.

At the same time, its ecological function is to protect the environment. This ecological function is assumed to be born from the impact of language, which can influence human behavior and views, including towards the environment itself [3]. This assumption is confirmed by the view that language is not only a tool for interacting with other humans but also for talking about the world, both the outside world (inanimate objects, living things, and events) and the human inner world (thoughts, beliefs, and feelings), [4]. Another opinion supporting this assumption is that language can contribute to preserving the environment [1]. In addition to the crucial function of language itself, the existence

of language is believed to precede the presence of science [5]. The two descriptions of these statements are at least a strong reason for the language to be used as an exciting and crucial object to study.

So far, many studies on language have been carried out in the world of linguistics, both in the micro and macro branches. However, as usual in academic research contests that are familiar with mutually superior fields, linguistics is believed to be still inferior compared to physics, chemistry, biology, and technology when viewed from the parameters of the effectiveness of the products produced by each. Researchers from other disciplines assume that the products of linguistic research so far have been limited to helping correct human speech and accelerating social adaptation. The presence of ecolinguistics is a response to this criticism.

Ecolinguistics is a new interdisciplinary science that explores the reciprocal correlation between language and the environment. According to Mbete (2013), the close correlation between language and the environment can be described in two terms, namely the language environment (language ecology) and environmental language (ecological language) [6]. The language of the environment records and constructs the reality of the language environment. For example, green language (green speak) for the land environment and blue language (blue speak) for the marine environment. That is, the environment of human speakers of a particular language can determine the richness of the language lexicon of human speakers. Meanwhile, the language environment is the environment or place where the language lives, like humans, the natural environment, and the social environment of language [7]. For example, the Balinese language environment, ecologically, clearly exists on the island of Bali and in several other transmigration enclaves in various places.

Furthermore, language functions as an instrument representing the reality of life in the socio-cultural and natural environments (Mbete, 2015), while the environment contributes to the richness of the lexicon of a language that speaks it [8]. In addition Sidu (2017) explained that language could have positive and negative implications or other terms [9], namely constructive and destructive [10]. It is said to have positive or constructive implications if the use of language aims to preserve the environment. For example, the words in the language invite people to reduce plastic waste and prohibition throwing garbage in the sea and rivers. Conversely, it is said to have negative implications if it harms the environment. Apart from being a response to criticism from other sciences, ecolinguistics is also a language sensitivity to the environment, which humans themselves are increasingly damaging.

Indonesia has a national language, namely Indonesian. In addition, Indonesia is also rich in regional languages. According to the Ministry of Education and Culture (2018), the number of regional languages in Indonesia is 652, including dialects and subdialects. Meanwhile, according to the United Nations of Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the number of regional languages that have the vitality or vitality of languages in Indonesia is 143. One of the 143 languages is Nias. Nias language, known as Li Niha, is one of the regional languages belonging to the Malay-Polynesian, Austronesian language family, which is actively used by the people of Nias (Brown, 2001). As a minor or small language, the language must receive special attention from various groups, including linguists and their heirs [11]. The attention in

question is scientific research on regional languages. This regional language research is intended to respond to a critical issue in language education: the extinction of regional languages [12]. Environmental changes are one of the factors that threaten the existence of regional languages towards extinction.

The Nias language that records the cultural richness of Nias is afo-ness. Ke-afo-an is a mixture of five entities originating from nature or the environment, which are often used as snacks or cigarettes by residents living in the Nias archipelago's geographical area. The five main entities of afo's are fino (areca nut), gambe (gambir leaf), becuca (lime), tawuo (betel nut), and bako (tobacco). This afo-ness is a cultural heritage from the ancestors of the Nias people. Furthermore, afo-an is essential in Nias cultures, such as welcoming guests and wedding processions. However, along with the times, the existence of afo-ness began to be eroded by modern lifestyles. Some of the main factors are the domination of the existence of cigarettes and the complexity of its implementation in the wedding ceremony. The erosion of the afo tradition is assumed to impact the environment and language. The negative impact on the environment is the loss of the biological existence of the afo natural material. With the loss of this existence, there will automatically be a shift in the Nias language lexicon, which threatens the existence of the Nias language. Responding to the phenomenon of the shift in afo-ness culture and knowing that there is a reciprocal correlation between language and the environment, research on afo-ness in ecolinguistic studies is considered an appropriate and helpful measure for research.

This research has happened before in the history of ecolinguistic research. However, several previous studies have contributed to the perfection of this thesis both in terms of theory, methods, and other things. The following is one of the relevant studies formulated in chapter II to represent the others. In this section, theoretical aspects and rationality (reasons) need to be explained. Ndruru (2019), with his research entitled "Metaphorical Lexicon in the Text of Maena Marriage in Nias: Ecolinguistic Studies" [13]. Ndruru analyzes the metaphorical lexicon in maena text, while in this research, the present writer will analyze the afo-ness lexicon. In addition, another difference is the difference in the dialect of the study language. Ndruru analyzes Nias southern dialect while the author analyzes the Nias dialect of the middle. Besides that, Ndruru analyzes using Haugen's theory while the author puts forward the Bang and Døør theory. In addition, Ndruru does not analyze nouns based on modifier elements and functions. In contrast, in this study, nouns are classified not only based on the environment but based on functions and modifier elements by adopting the theory of Luardini et al. Furthermore, Ndruru does not analyze adjective ecolexicon based on semantic content.

In contrast, this study adopts Dixon's theory (2010) as a scalpel for analyzing adjectives based on semantic content. Another difference is that this study describes the domination of afo-an ecolexicon in syntax and grammatical form. In contrast, in Ndruru's research, no problem formulation was found regarding the domination of ecolexicon [14]. This research aim is to know the dominance of the ke-afo-an ecolexicon category.

2 Method

This study was designed with a mixed methods research approach (qualitative and quantitative). Mixed research combines qualitative and quantitative research [15]. This approach was chosen because it can answer the problem formulation that has been formulated

in the previous introduction section. A qualitative approach is used to answer the first, second, and third problem formulations, and a quantitative approach is needed to answer the fourth problem formulation. This study used a mixed-method strategy (sequential exploratory method). In this case, qualitative methods are used first and then followed by quantitative methods. Quantitative methods are used to strengthen the results of previous qualitative research. This research was conducted remotely online in Lahusa 1 Village, Lahusa sub-district, South Nias district, with the help of an android phone application, WhatsApp. This application enables researchers in Denpasar, Bali, to conduct direct interviews with informants at the research location, Lahusa 1 Village.

3 Result and Discussion

The dominance of the afo-an ecolexicon is described in detail. First, the dominance of the afo-an ecolexicon is described based on syntactic categories. Furthermore, for more detail, the dominance of the noun ecolexicon is described again based on environmental categories. Finally, the dominance of the most dominating grammatical forms is described in percentage terms. As previously explained, there are several ecolexicon used in the afo tradition. Some of this ecolexicon are classified into three major sections, namely, categories of nouns, verbs, and adjectives. In this section, we will explain in more detail the most dominant categories used in the afo-an tradition, as shown in Fig. 1.

Based on the diagram above, it can be explained that the most dominant category is the noun category, with ecolexicon totaling 42 or 61%. So on, the second place is occupied by the category of adjectives with a total of 15 or 22% ecolexicon. The most recent order is the verb category, with a dominance level of 17% or 12 ecolexicon.

Ecolexicon Domination of Afo-Ness Nouns by Environment

As previously explained, several noun ecolexicon words are related to the environment. Based on the ecological environment, the noun ecolexicon can be further classified into two parts: animate ecolexicon and inanimate ecolexicon. First, animate ecolexicon can still be divided into two small parts: flora biotic ecolexicon and fauna biotic ecolexicon. This section describes the percentage dominance of each category, as shown in Fig. 2.

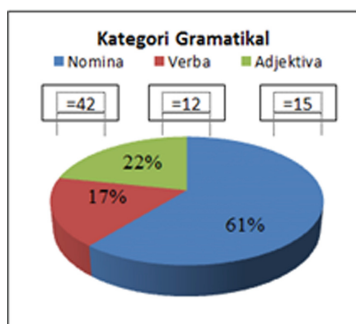


Fig. 1. Domination of afo-an Ecolexicon Based on Grammatical Categories

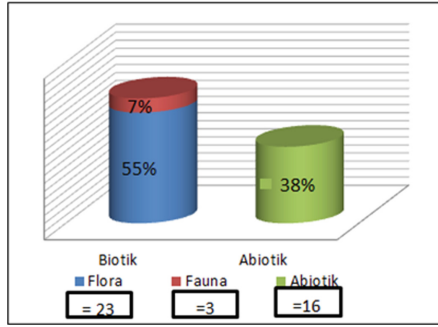


Fig. 2. Domination of noun ecolexicon based on ecological environment

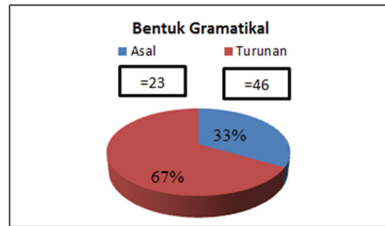


Fig. 3. Domination of the afo-an ecolexicon based on its grammatical form

The Fig. 2 shows that in the afo-an ecolexicon in the Nias language, the Middle Dialect, there are 42 noun ecolexicon. Of the 42 written ecolexicons, biotic ecolexicon is the most dominant, comprising 26 ecolexicon or 62% (flora = 23 or 55% and fauna = 3 or 7%). The last position is the abiotic category, with 16 words or 38%. These findings prove that the afo tradition involves more plants, so this stimulated the Nias language, the Middle Dialect speakers to give the names of plants. Furthermore, those names are the wealth of the ecolexicon of Nias Middle Dialect speakers in Lahusa 1.

The Domination of the Affo-Ness Ecolexicon Based on Grammatical Forms

In the previous section, it was explained that ecolexicon could be distinguished based on its grammatical form. Furthermore, to answer the formulation of the problem that has been formulated in this section, it is explained regarding the percentage of domination of the afo-an ecolexicon based on its grammatical form. This dominance can be seen in Fig. 3.

Based on the diagram above, it can be explained that of the 69 afo-an ecolexicon, the ecolexicon in the form of grammatical derivatives dominates with 46 or 67% of ecolexicon. Meanwhile, ecolexicon in the original form is 23 or 33%. These findings show that the tradition of afo-an has multiplied the treasures of the Nias Middle Dialect ecolexicon.

4 Conclusion

Based on the results and discussion above, there are three syntactic categories in the afo-an ecolexicon, and the most dominant category is the noun category, with a lexicon of 42 or 61%. Furthermore, based on environment, the noun lexicon that dominates is the biotic noun lexicon with 26 lexicons or 62% (flora = 23 or 55% and fauna = 3 or 7%). Finally, based on grammatical form, ecolexicon in the form of derivatives dominates with 46 or 67% of lexicons.

References

1. Nuzwaty. (2014). Keterkaitan Metafora dengan Lingkungan Alam Pada Komunitas Bahasa Aceh Di Desa Trumon Aceh Selatan: Kajian Ekolinguistik. Universitas Sumatra Utara.
2. Brown, L. (2001). *A Grammar of Nias Selatan*. Unniversity Sydney. D. Halliday, R. Resnick, and J. Walker, *Fundamental of Physics 9th Edition*, 9th ed. USA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 2011.
3. Jingxia, Liu., Na, S., & Qing, Z. (2015). Interpersonal Interpretation of Personal Pronoun in Marriage Advertising. *Research Journal of English Language and Literature*, 3(1), 18–25.
4. Thompson, G. (1994). *Emotion Regulation: A Theme In Search of Definition*. New York: ohn Willey sons, Inc
5. Kravchenko, A. (2016). Education: a value lost? Conference: Value and Valuation in Contemporary HumanitiesAt: Olshtyn, Poland.
6. Mbete, A. M. (2013). *Penuntun Singkat Penulisan Proposal Penelitian Ekolinguistik*. Penerbit Vidia.
7. Desiani, R. (2016). A Case Study of Teaching and Learning Speaking of The Eleventh Year Students of SMAN 1 Jatinom in The Academic Year 2015/2016. Universitas Widya Dharma.
8. Mbete, Aron Meko. (2015). *Khasanah Leksikon Bahasa Sabu: Sumber Pengetahuan untuk Pengembangan Ekonomi Kreatif*. Universitas Udayana.
9. Sidu, N. (2017). Ekoleksikon Ke-Kaghati-An Bahasa Muna. *RETORIKA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa*, 2(2), 328. <https://doi.org/10.22225/jr.2.2.64.328-349>
10. Astawa, I. P. (2019). Environmental Knowledge and Consumer Intention to Visit Green Tourism Village. Conference: Proceedings of the International Conference On Applied Science and Technology 2019 - Social Sciences Track (ICASTSS 2019).
11. Mbete, Aron Meko. (2009). Refleksi Ringan tentang Problematika Keetnika dan Kebahasaan dalam Perspektif Ekolinguistik. Makalah Seminar Budaya Etnik III. Medan: USU.
12. Laia, B. (1980). *Solidaritas Keluarga dalam Salah Satu Masyarakat Desa Nias di Indonesia*. Gajah Mada University Press.
13. H Ndruru, E. (2019). Struktur dan Peran Semantis Argumen Klausa Bahasa Nias Dialek Tengah. Uniiiversitas Warmadewa.
14. Dixon, R. M. (2010). *Basic Linguistic Theory. Volume 2 grammatical Topics*. Oxford University Press.
15. Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research Design*. SAGE Publications Ltd.

Open Access This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

