

## Prefixes In Tontemboan Language

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**Abstract.** Local language belongs to the culture of its speaker. Research might be one of the efforts of perpetuating it. Tontemboan language is one of the local languages in Minahasa. The purpose of this study is to describe one side of morphological process of Tontemboan language, which is focussed on the prefixes of the language, their arrangement and combination with the other morphemes to forms words and their function. In conducting this research, the writer uses the qualitative approach by implementing descriptive method. In collecting the data she uses several techniques: observation, interview, analysing recorded text. the informants are chosen according to certain criteria. They come from Raanan baru. In fact, the prefixes in the language are productive forming words, they are ma-, paka-, ta-, ka-, maka-, and meki-, these prefixes change the word categories.

**Keywords.** Prefixes; Tontemboan; Language

### 1. Introduction

Language is very important in human life and therefore, it cannot be separated from men. Moreover, it seems to be a partner of human beings which has never been left from morning till evening even when someone is sleeping at night. People use it as a tool for communication. In all their activities, language is used as a medium of interaction.

Every country in the world has its own language likewise Indonesia has its National language called the Bahasa Indonesia. Indonesian language has an important role in unifying the various ethnic groups in Indonesia which each of them have their local language. The number of local languages in Indonesia recorded by Badan Pengembangan Pembinaan Bahasa Kementrian Pendidikan Kebudayaan reached 652 local languages which are spoken among the ethnic groups. They use these languages in nonformal situation. People use their local languages when they communicate with those from the same ethnic groups to show intimacy and respect. This condition proves that local language still function as a tool of communication. That is why, they should be maintained and developed in order not be extinct everlasting.

The Tontemboan language is one of the local languages in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. It belongs to the group of Minahasa languages. Tontemboan language is still used by those who live in subdistricts of Sonder, Kawangkoan, Tompaso, Langoan, Tareran, Tumpaan, Tenga, Motoling, part of Modinding, Tombasian and Tompaso Baru. But the condition of using this language has decreased. Formerly, this language was still actively used in people-s daily intercourse both by families and the younger people.

The communication among families was done by means of this language. Moreover, in formal situation meeting sermons, meeting and speeches were performed by using this language. Nowadays, most of elderly people speak the language but only a few of the younger can use it in daily communication. This is caused by the potential use of the Manado Malay and Bahasa Indonesia. When the language is rarely used or not spoken any more it is possible that the existence of this language will gradually be extinct. It might happen that the coming generation will not speak it any more.

Based on this fact, the writer will take part in maintaining language by conducting a research. The writer is interesting in analysing the Tontemboan language which focuses on the prefix of the language. In conducting the research writer has some question to guide the analysis: a) what prefixes build the language?, b) what function the prefixes of the language fulfil, and, c) How these affixes are organized with other morphemes to form word.

## 2. Method

In carrying out the research, writer bases her description on qualitative approach by implementing descriptive method. In order to get the data for the research the writer uses the following techniques: a) observation: the writer visits the location. b) interviewing and recording and c) analysing the secondary data. The population of this research is Tontemboan Language, specifically The Makela'I dialect which is spoken by those who live in the subdistrict of Tompaso, Langoan, Motoling and Tompaso Baru. The sample is the speaker who live in Raanan Baru. The informants are chosen according to the following criteria: a) native speakers, b) adults who still actively speak the language, c) speaking and understanding the Bahasa Indonesia, d) having no speech defect.

## 3. Discussion

Tontemboan language has two dialects namely Matana'i and Makela'i. The Matana'I dialect is spoken by people who live in the subdistricts of Sonder, Kawangkoan, Tareran, and Tombasian. The Makela'I is spoken by people who live in subdistricts of Tompaso, Langoan, Amurang, Motoling, Tompaso Baru. The difference as well as variation of these two dialects occurs in the uses of consonants. This can be clarify seen in the following steps :

Matana'i	Makela'I	Meaning
/wele/	/weren/	'eye'
/se'da/	/sera/	'fish'
/alem/	/arem/	'hungry'

Although there are differences in pronunciation of the dialects, this does not necessarily bring about difficulties and undesirable excesses. In everyday conversation those speak the Matana'i dialect and Makela'i dialect do have no difficulties or clumsiness in communication

Every language has its own uniqueness. The same as true as Tontemboan language especially morphology. One branch of study of morphology is Prefiks. Prefix is a letter or group of letters added to beginning of a word to make a new word, examples; de-, die-,ex-, im-, in-, pre-, re-, un-, mis-, etc. and in Indonesia there are several prefixes, they are ber-, me-, per-, di-,ter-, se-, dan ke- [1]. In Tontemboan language also has prefixes, like ma-, maka-, pa-,mapa-, sang-, .

Morphology is the study of morphemes and their arrangement in forming word[4]. Morphologically, the uniqueness of the prefixes in tontemboan language as the attraction to know more about the prefixes in the Tontemboan language. Understanding morphology according to Verhaar states that the morphology is the branch of linguistics that identifies the basic units of language as grammatical units[2]. Morphology according Samsuri defining morphology as a branch of linguistics that studies the structure and forms of words[3].

Badu also said that morphology was the study of forms of morphem[5]. Providing an understanding o morphology, namely the part of linguistics that specially discusses the structure of word and the effect of changes in the structure of words to the meaning of words[6]. From these definitions the writer concludes that morphology deals with morphemes and words and the effect of changes in word form on groups and the meaning. Morphemes are the smallest individually meaningful elements in the utterances

of language[7]. It may be defined as the minimum unit of spoken speech that can convey meaning. A word is a unit of language consisting of a single morphemes or a group of morphemes. While Bloomfield states that a word is a minimum free form that is the smallest form that can occur by itself. Further, Keraf divides word according to its form[8] ;

- a). base
- b). affixed word which can be dived into four parts ; prefix, infix, suffix and confix,
- c). Reduplication,
- d). Compounding word.

Morphological process is a way that is used to classify the form of the word constituents into a paradigm[9]. Morphological process, according to Ramlan is a word formation process in which the word may be derived from another basic form[10]. Thus morphological process is a way to form by connecting morphemes to another. He also classifies morphological process into three forms;

- 1). Affixation, a process in which bound morphemes are added to free morpheme.
- 2). Compounding word of combination of two independent words.
- 3) reduplication or doubling words.

### Prefix

Prefixes are those bound morphemes that occur before a base[11]. 'prefix is the affix which is added to the front of a base'. Thus, prefixes are adding bound morpheme to a base with or without a change of word class[12]. Below are example of prefixes in English:

	<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Base</b>
Replay	re-	play
Misunderstand	mis-	understand
Disagree	dis-	agree
Preelection	pre-	election

The following are examples of prefixes in Indonesian:

	<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Base</b>
Bermain 'to play'	ber-	main
Memasak	'to cook' me-	masak
Ditulis	'to write- di-	tulis

Example of the prefixes in Tontemboan language are

	<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Base</b>
Masiwo	'to cook'	ma-siwo
Karua	'second'	ka-rua
Iwali	'to be brought'	i-wali

### The Pefixes In Tontemboan Language

Prefixes are bound morphemes that are attached in front of a base or in the left of a base. The prefixes of the Tontemboan Language consist of ma-, i-, paka-, ta-, aica- ka-, maka-, meki-. These are discussed below.

#### 1. Prefix ma-

- a) Prefix ma- is used to form verbs to denote progressive aspect. This strategy occurs to indicate an activity or an action is happening when the speaker utters it.

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Base</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Ma-	kantar	'sing'	makantar	'singing'
Ma-	lele'	'bath'	malele'	'taking a bath'
Ma-	kemes	'wash'	makakemes	'washing'

(1) Sera matawoy am waleku  
 3pl work at home.1sg  
 'they are working at my home'

b) This prefix can be attached to adjectives and it will change the word class. The word becomes verb indicate causative notion.

Prefix	Base	adjective	Verb	Meaning
Ma-	wuling	'black'	mawuling	'to blacken'
Ma-	wola	'blind'	mawola	'to blind'
Ma-	wangker	'large'	mawangker	'to large'

(2) Si Alo maworung lantaran sumakit  
 PART Alo thin because sick  
 'Alo becomes thin because of sickness'

## 2. Prefix 'aica-'

The prefix aica- can be attached to a verb, but it does not change the category of the word it is attached to. It expresses something that happen in a sudden or something which is not deliberate.

Prefix	Base	Verb	Verb Meaning
aica-	ke'os	'slip'	aicakeos 'be slipped'
aica-	edo	'move'	aicaedo 'be moved'
aica-	wangkil	'fall'	aicawangkil 'be thrown'

(3) Nene na aicalukud ang kamar mandi  
 Grandma 3sg sit prep. Room bath  
 'Her grandma was sat in the bath room'

## 3. Prefix 'i-'

The prefix i- is used to form a verb to indicate a passive meaning. It is attached to a base beginning with a consonant.

Prefix	Base	Verb	Verb	Meaning
i-		Cua	'say'	icua 'to be said'
i-		Topok	'prick'	itopok 'to be pricked'
i-		Sing	'sing'	ikantar 'to be sung'

(4) Karai nitu iteles papana  
 Dress that buy father3sg  
 'That dress is bought by her father'

When this prefix is attached to a base beginning with a vowel , it will be replace by /aiy/.

Prefix	Base	Verb	Meaning
i-	ema	'make'	aiyema 'to be made'
i-	engket	'flame'	aiyengket 'to be flamed'
i-	ento	'stop'	aiyento 'to be stopped'

(5) Wale ku aiyema i om Alo  
 House 1sg make by Mr.Alo  
 'My house is made by Mr.Alo.'

## 4. Prefix 'Paka-'

- a) The prefix paka- can be attached to a verb and a numeral. When this prefix is attached to a verb, it expresses 'process' or 'way'.

Prefix	Base	Verb	Verb	Meaning
paka-	waya	'walk'	pakawaya	'walking'
paka-	roma	'speak'	pakaroma	'speaking'
paka-	kuman	'eat'	pakakuman	'eating'

- (6) Pakawaya i Unggu kele kawayo.  
 Walk OF Unggu like horse  
 'Unggu's walking is like a horse'

- b) When the prefix paka- is attached to numbers, the notion expressed is the situation of a base meaning 'times'.

Prefix	Base	Numeral	Verb	Meaning
Paka-	'rua'	'two'	pakarua	'two times'
Paka-	'telu'	'telu'	pakatelu	'three times'

- (7) Pakaru oka kamo tumawoy am bii  
 Two only you work in here  
 'you will only work two time in here'

### 5 The Prefix 'ta-'

- a. The prefix ta- can be attached to a verb and a noun. This prefix takes the form of 'tang-' when it is attached to a base beginning with the velar stop /k/, /t/, /s/ and it takes the form of 'tam-' when it is attached to a base beginning with the consonants /b/, /p, /, /w/. when the prefix is attached to verbs, it changes the verbs to adjectives expressing 'hobby' or 'habit'. The following is the prefix attached to verbal bases :

Prefix	Base	Verb	Adjective	Meaning
ta-	ame	'cry'	taame	'like cry baby'
ta	waya	'walk'	tawaya	'like walking'
ta-	kantar	'sing'	tangkantar	'like singing'

- (8) Papa i Pitor taelep keli captikus.  
 Father of Pitor drink very alcohol  
 'Pitor's father likes drinking alcohol very much'.

- b. The prefix ta- can also attached to a noun and expresses a hobby or habitual action. The word class changes to an adjective. This is shown below :

Prefix	Base	Noun	Verb	Meaning
ta-	kawok	'mice'	tangkawok	'like to eat mice'
ta-	seda'	'fish'	tangseda'	'like to eat fish'
ta-	tuama	'boy'	tangtuama	'like to change partner'

- (9) Mama i Betsi tangkawok keli .  
 Mother of Betsi mice very  
 'Betsi's mother likes eating mice very much'.

### 6. The prefix 'ka-'

- a) The prefix ka- can be attached to noun, numerals and adjective. When it is attached to noun it expresses the notion 'similarity' as indicated by the base.

Prefix	Base	Noun	Noun	Meaning
Ka-	ngaran	'name'	kangaran	'have same name'
Ka-	namo	'face'	kanamo	'have similar face'
Ka-	wanua	'village'	kawanua	'have same village'

- (10) Si wewene andiornu kangaranku  
 Part. Woman front.2sg name 1sg  
 'the woman in front of you has the same name as me'.

- b. This prefix has ability to be attached to numerals and functions to express ordinality

Prefix	Base	Numeral	Ordinal	Meaning
Ka-	rua	'two'	karua	'second'
Ka-	esa	'one'	katare	'first'
Ka-	telu	'three'	katelu	'third'

- (11) Toyaangna karua mamualim dokter.  
 Child. 2sg second **become** dokter  
 'Her second child has become a doctor'

- c. This prefix can be attached to adjective and functions to express the condition and quality of the object being attribute.

Prefix	Base	Adjective	Adjective	Meaning
Ka-	lo'or	'good'	kalo'or	'how good'
Ka-	repet	'fast'	karepet	'how fast'
Ka-	sia	'rich'	kasia	'how rich'

## 7. The Prefix 'pa-'

The prefix pa- can attached to a verb and it has the function of forming a noun. In this strategy it denotes 'tool'. The following words show this process:

Prefix	Base	Verb	Noun	Meaning
Pa-	teles	'buy'	pateles	'a tool which is used for buying'
Pa-	wuas	'wash'	pawuas	'a tool which is used for washing'
Pa-	pokol	'cut'	papokol	'a tool which is used for cutting'

- (12) Icuana sia cawana pateles  
 Say.3sg 3sg. Neg. buy  
 He said that he did not have money'

## 8. Prefix 'maka-'

- a) The prefix maka- can be attached to a verb, noun and adjective. When this prefix is attached to a verb, it express an activity in report sentence.

Prefix	Base	Verb	Verb	Meaning
Maka-	tawoy	'work'	makatawoy	'be worked'
Maka-	tekel	'sleep'	makatekel	'be slept'
Maka-	ema	'make'	makaema	'be slept'
Maka-	useb	'plant'	makauseb	'be planted'

- (13) Si Utu makatekel ang kamar  
 Part. Utu sleep in badroom  
 'Utu is slept in the bedroom.'

b) When the prefix *maka-* is attached to a noun, it changes the noun into a verb to express 'ownership'.

Prefix	Base	Noun	Verb	Meaning
Maka-	oto	'car'	makaoto	'own a car'
Maka-	toya'ang	'child'	makatoya'ang	'Own a child'
Maka-	cingke	'clove'	makacingke	'own cloves'

- (14) Om Inyo makata'be ang Tolok  
 Uncle Inyo own a wet rice field in Tolok  
 'Uncle Inyo has a wet rice field in Tolok'.

c) Besides that, the prefix *maka-* can be attached to an adjective, and the word class is also change into a verb. It indicates 'causative' with the meaning of becoming or 'turning'. The following words show this process.

Prefix	Base	Adjective	Verb	Meaning
Maka-	lengey	'poor'	makalengey	'to become poor'
Maka-	rindang	'red'	makarindang	'to become redder'
Maka-	worong	'thin'	makaworong	'to become thin'

- (15) Makabiongo si Utu lantaran ca maajar.  
 Stupid Part.Utu because not study  
 'Utu becomes more stupid because he does not study'

### 9. The prefix 'meki-'

The prefix *meki-* can be attached to a verb, but it does not change the word class. It indicates 'causative', 'request' or 'order'.

Prefix	Base	Verb	Verb	Meaning
Meki-	kemes	'wash'	mekikemes	'wash'
Meki-	tawoy	'work'	mekitawoy	'work'
Meki-	teles	'buy'	mekiteles	'buy'

- (16) Sia memikemes karaina a yaku  
 3.sg wash dress.3sg prep. 1sg  
 'She makes me wash her dresses'

When this prefix is attached to a base beginning with a vowel, it is replaced by /y/.

Prefix	Base	Verb	Verb	Meaning
Meki-	ampun	'forgiveness'	mekiyampun	'forgive'
Meki-	ali	'bring'	mekiyali	'bring'
Meki-	ema	'make'	mekiyema	'make'

The use of such a verb can be seen in the following sentence:

- (17) Maman mekiayli komantes a yaku  
 Mother.2sg bring tomatoes prep. 1sg.  
 'Your mother makes me bring tomatoes'.

#### 4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis and discussion in the Tontemboan language, it is concluded as follows: the prefixes are productively used in this language. The prefixes in Tontemboan language as found in this study are ma- : Prefix ma- is used to form verbs to denote progressive aspect. This prefix can be attached to adjectives and it will change the word class. The word becomes verb indicate causative notion. The prefix aica- can be attached to a verb. It expresses something that happen in a sudden or something which is not deliberate. The prefix i- is used to form a verb to indicate a passive meaning. It is attached to a base beginning with a consonant. When this prefix is attached to a base beginning with a vowel , it will be replace by /aiy/. The prefix paka- can be attached to a verb, it expresses 'process' or 'way'. When the prefix paka- is attached to numbers, the notion expressed is the situation of a base meaning 'times'. The prefix ta- takes the form of 'tang-' when it is attached to a base beginning with the velar stop /k/, /t/, /s/ and it takes the form of 'tam-' when it is attached to a base beginning with the consonants /b/, /p, /, /w/. when the prefix is attached to verbs, it changes the verbs to adjectives expressing 'hobby' or 'habit'. The prefix ta- can also attached to a noun and expresses a hobby or habitual action. The word class changes to an adjective. The prefix ka- can be attached to noun, numerals and adjective. When it is attached to noun it expresses the notion 'similarity' as indicated by the base. The prefix pa- can attached to a verb and it has the function of forming a noun. In this strategy it denotes 'tool'. The prefix maka- can be attached to a verb, noun and adjective. When this prefix is attached to a verb, it expresses an activity in report sentence. When the prefix maka- is attached to a noun, it changes the noun into a verb to express 'ownership'. Besides that, the prefix maka- can be attached to an adjective, and the word class is also change into a verb. It indicates 'causative' with the meaning of becoming or 'turning'. The prefix meki- can be attached to a verb, it indicates 'causative', 'request' or 'order'. When this prefix is attached to a base beginnig with a vowel, it is replaced by /y/.

#### 5. Acknowledgment

Like most other languages, the Tontemboan language has a complex morphological system and characteristics which are interesting to be analysed. However, the writer realizes that there are various linguistics problems in the language, which cover many aspectS. This study only includes some limited discussion to the topic; therefore it is expected that such a research wold be conducted in more thorough one.

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