

The Analysis of Synonym in Wakatobi Language: A Morphosyntactic Study

Suhalni¹, Syamsul Una², Juamdan Zamha Zamihu³

^{1,2,3} English Education Postgraduate Study Program, Dayanu Ikhsanuddin University

e-mail: suhalni589@gmail.com

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan sinonim yang terdapat dalam Bahasa Wakatobi, yang meliputi: bentuk-bentuk sinonim, jenis sinonim, dan penggunaannya dalam Bahasa Wakatobi. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan dalam tiga tahap, yaitu wawancara, observasi, dan dokumentasi yang mana peneliti berinteraksi langsung dengan masyarakat setempat, bahan data berupa kata-kata yang sering digunakan dalam aktivitas sehari-hari. Tekni analisis data dilakukan melalui reduksi data, penyajian data, penarikan kesimpulan dan verifikasi. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan morfosintaksis dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat empat bentuk sinonim dan dua jenis sinonim dalam Bahasa Wakatobi. Empat bentuk sinonim tersebut, yakni: kata benda, kata kerja, kata sifat, dan kata keterangan. Sedangkan, dua jenis sinonim yang terdapat dalam Bahasa Wakatobi yaitu absolute sinonim and near sinonim. Hasil analisis data menunjukkan bahwa bentuk-bentuk sinonim dalam Bahasa Wakatobi di dominasi oleh kata benda dan kata kerja. Sedangkan, jenis sinonimnya lebih banyak ditemukan pada kata sifat dan kata keterangan.

Kata Kunci: *Sinonim, Morfosintaksis*

Abstract

This study aims to describe the synonyms found in Wakatobi Language, which include: synonym forms, types of synonyms, and their use in Wakatobi Language. Data collection techniques are carried out by interviews, observations, and documentation where researcher interact directly with local communities, the data materials are words that often used in daily activities. Data analysis techniques are carried out through data reduction, data display, conclusion and verification. This study used a morphosyntactic approach using qualitative descriptive methods. The results of this study show there are four forms of synonyms and two types of synonyms in Wakatobi language. The four forms of synonyms, namely: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Meanwhile, two types of synonyms are absolute synonyms and near synonyms. The results of data analysis show that synonymous forms in Wakatobi language are dominated by nouns and verbs. Meanwhile, the types of synonyms are more commonly found in adjectives and adverbs.

Keywords: *Synonym, Morphosyntactic*

INTRODUCTION

One of the main indicators in conveying information well is language. Isphording & Otten (2014) provides two meanings of language. First, language is a tool used to shape thoughts and feelings, desires and actions, tools which is used to influence and be influenced. Second, language is a clear sign of good and bad personalities, a clear sign of family and nation, a clear sign of human dignity.

Rindflesch & Fizman (2003) argues that language is a system that expresses and reports what happens to the nervous system. The other definitions of language were expressed by Canagarajah & De Costa (2016) that language is a means of spiritual connection which is very important in living together. As a term in linguistics, it defines language as a system of arbitrary sound symbols, which are used by members of a society to cooperate, interact, and identify themselves. Language is a system of arbitrary sound symbols, used to exchange thoughts and feelings between members of the language community group (Ullman & Pierpont, 2005; Fedorenko & Thompson-Schill, 2014).

Like in other areas, Wakatobi Regency has a language used by local people to communicate with each other. Wakatobi Regency is one of the districts in Southeast Sulawesi province with a population 92.995 people and Wakatobi Regency is divided into four large islands, namely, Wanci, Kaledupa, Tomia, and Binongko, so the use of the term Wakatobi is an abbreviation of the four big islands.

Wakatobi language is one of the regional languages used by the people of Wakatobi Regency. The term Wakatobi language is a term used to represent the languages found on the four large islands. Basically, the language used by the Wakatobi people have almost the same vocabulary and there are also several different vocabularies. This difference is based on the idiolects and dialects found on the four big islands in Wakatobi Regency. According to the Wakatobi Central Statistics Agency, long before it became an independent district, before the 2000s Wakatobi Regency was known as the Blacksmith Island. That is why, in those years the language used in Wakatobi Regency was better known as the language of the Blacksmith Islands. According to Susiati (2018: 110) the language of the Tukang Besi Islands or now known as the Wakatobi language is the language used by the people of Wakatobi Regency. Wakatobi Regency is an acronym of four big island, namely Wanci, Kaledupa, Tomia and Binongko islands.

Over the last decade, the language in Wakatobi Regency has continued to change, until now the term Wakatobi Language has emerged as a term for the languages in Wakatobi Regency. Wakatobi Language is included in the Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Western Malayo-Polynesian language families. The statement above is strengthened by Blust's research (2013) that Malayo-Polynesian divided into two primary branches, Western Malayo-Polynesian (WMP) and Central Eastern Malayo-Polynesian (CEMP). He stated that there are some 500-600 WMP languages reaching from Yami through the Philippines, the Greater Sunda Islands of Indonesia (Including Sulawesi).

The determination of the title in this research is based on previous phenomenon found by researcher, namely when several Wakatobi people were having a conversation. As

a Wakatobi community, the researcher observed the conversation, then researchers found several words that had the same meaning in the context of its use. These words are: *Moaro*, *Mo'ommuru*. According to that conversation the word *Mo'aro* and *Mo'ommuru* share the same core in meaning, which is the meaning of *Mo'aro* and *Mo'ommuru* are hungry.

Based on the short phenomenon, the researcher has an interest to examine the synonym more deeply in Wakatobi Language using morphosyntactic approach. The researcher chose the term synonym in this research, because it was based on the phenomenon found, namely analyzing words that have similar meanings in Wakatobi Language, so the term synonym is more relevant to use in this research, where basically synonym examine the similarity of meanings in words.

According to Djajasudarma (2013: 124) synonyms are used to express similar meanings. He states that synonymous used for similarity of meaning or words that have the same meaning. It means that, the synonym is sameness of meaning that two or more words or lexeme have. The sameness of meaning in words or lexemes can be seen in how they are can replace and how they can use in any context.

Furthermore, Alwasilah (1993: 164) specifies that synonyms are a number of different words (lexemes) that have the same meaning, in other words a number of words (lexemes) that refer to the same semantic unit. Synonyms are linguistic forms that have a similar or identical meaning to another; This similarity applies to words, word groups, sentences, and words that are often considered synonyms are just words (Kridalaksana,2008: 222).

METHODS

This research was qualitative research which this research analyze by on morphosyntactic approach and qualitative method was to support it. The place to conduct research located in Wakatobi Regency, which is Researcher would focus on representation of four big island (Wanci, Kaledupa, Tomia, Binongko) in Wakatobi Regency. The subjects to be examined in this research refered to the local community who of course have extensive knowledge of regional language in Wakatobi Regency, Such as: tradition leaders, language observers, and local people who have good in wakatobi language. The research instrument was the researcher itself as the first instrument and the subjects in this research as the second instruments. Technique of data collection devided into three parts, including: Interview, Observation, and Documentation. The technique of data analisys in this research used descriptive analysis, namely: data reduction, data display, conclusion and verification.

RESULT AND FINDINGS

The following explained the forms of synonyms and types of synonyms, and also their use in Wakatobi Language. The range of words used as data in this research are words that often used in everyday or the words often appear in conversation. Apart from the word coverage, the area was also limited into 7 from 8 sub-districts in Wakatobi Regency. Togo Binongko sub-district is not selected because, it is generally used Cia-cia Language. Synonymous words studied based on their usage so that the type of synonym and dimensions contained in each word can be determined.

Table 1 The forms of synonym in wakatobi language

No	Form of Synonym	Requency
1.	Verb	10 data
2.	Noun	10 data
3.	Adverb	2 data
4.	Adjective	8 data
Total		30 data

The table below is the form of synonym in wakatobi language. Synonymous words are describe using the term *data*, where each data contain several synonymous words.

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that there are four forms of synonyms in the daily conversation in the Wakatobi Language, namely verbs, nouns, adverbs and adjectives. It can also be seen that the pairs of synonymous word are dominated by verbs and nouns.

Table 2 The types of synonyms in wakatobi language

No	Name	Types of Synonyms		Frequency
		Absolute Synonym	Near Synonym	
1.	Verb	8 data	2 data	10 data
2.	Noun	8 data	2 data	10 data
3.	Adverb	-	2 data	2 data
4.	Adjective	4 data	4 data	8 data

Based on the description of the pairs of synonymous words above, both from the same or from different part of speech, it can be concluded that there are two types of synonyms in the daily conversations of Wakatobi Community, namely absolute synonyms and near synonyms. The use of absolute synonyms has been seen based on the ability of words to used interchangeably in any linguistic context. Meanwhile, near synonyms are seen based on whether or not the word can be used in any context. Besides that, near synonym is more found in adverb and adjective.

Table 3 The synonymy patterns in wakatobi language

No	Pattern	Explanation
1.	V → V	Verb to Verb
2.	N → N	Noun to Noun
3.	ADV → ADV	Adverb to Adverb
4.	ADJ → ADJ	Adjective to Adjective
5.	V → ADJ	Verb to Adjective
6.	ADJ → ADV	Adjective to Adverb
7.	N → ADJ	Noun to Adjective

Based on the tables above, several examples of synonymous words in the Wakatobi Language can be illustrated. Synonymous words are classified into part of speech categories where each data contain two or more synonymous words. Those examples are as follows:

Example Data 1 the synonymous word between verb to verb in Wakatobi Language

Word: *Honoha, Toha, Fufu'i, Fu'i*

Meaning: Indonesian (Mencuci)

English (Wash)

Explanation: *Honoha, Toha, Fufu'i, Fu'i* are words used by the Wakatobi people, where these words are used when someone wants to wash objects/items. The meaning of these four words is washing. These four words cannot replace each other because they have different usage functions. The distinguishing characteristic of these four words lies in the objects referred to. The words *Fufu'i* and *Fu'i* are specifically used for household items such as plates, spoons, glasses, while the words *Honoha* and *Toha* are used for objects in the form of clothing. The word *Honoha* can be found in the conversations of the Kaledupa, Tomia and Binongko people, while the word *Toha* is more often used by the Wanci people. *Honoha* and *Toha* are near synonym with *Fufu'i* and *Fu'i*.

Example Data 2 The synonymous word between Noun to noun in Wakatobi Language

Word: *Kekeru, Folanga, Pansi*

Meaning: Indonesian (Panci)

English (Saucepan)

Explanation: Based on the example above, *Kekeru, Folanga, Pansi* are words that have the same meaning. The similarity in meaning of these three words is absolute because they can be used in any linguistic context. In other words, these three words can change positions in their use because their meaning does not change. Based on the context of its use, the word *Kekeru* can be found in the conversations of the Kaledupa, Tomia, Binongko people, while the words *Folanga* and *Pansi* are more dominantly used by the Wanci people.

Example Data 3 The synonymous word between adverb to adverb in Wakatobi Language

Word: *Aro, Mbula, Rope*

Meaning: Indonesian (Depan)

English (Front)

Explanation: *Aro, Mbula, Rope* are three words used by the Wakatobi community to explain the whereabouts of an object or also explain the location of someone. The meaning of three words is Front. The words *Aro* and *Mbula* can replace each other. However, this does not apply to the word *Rope* because the word *Rope* is usually used by the Wakatobi people when someone mentions the direction. It means that *Aro* and *Mbula* are near synonym with *Rope*.

Example Data 4 The synonymous word between adjective to adjective in Wakatobi Language

Word: *Mokossa, Mandafulu*

Meaning: Indonesian (Cantik)

English (Beautiful)

Explanation: *Mokossa* and *Mandafulu* are words that almost have the same meaning. These two words are often used by the Wakatobi people to describe beautiful objects and people.

Mokosossa is basically used to describe someone who has a beautiful face, while the word *Mandafulu* is often used to describe beauty not only in the face but in all parts of an object and etc. The word *mokossa* can be found in conversations of Wakatobi community, namely in Wanci, Tomia, Kaledupa, and Binongko. Based on the explanation, it can be concluded that *Mokossa* and *Mandafulu* are near synonym because they differ in the context of their use.

Example Data 5 The synonymous word between verb to adjective in Wakatobi Language

Word: *Tokossa, Mokossa*
Meaning: Indonesian (Tokossa = Tumpah)
English (Spill)
Indonesian (Mokossa = Cantik)
English (Beautiful)

Explanation: *Tokossa* is one of the words found in Tomia Dialect, Wakatobi Regency. The word *Tokossa* is near to the word *Mokossa*. It can be seen that these two words almost have similar forms, because there are *Kossa* word in both word and they are only differentiated by the prefixes, namely the prefixes *To* and *Mo*. Basically, the word *kossa* is free morpheme which have clear meaning. The meaning of *Kossa* word is beautiful(unformal). In the two examples above, the *kossa* word combined with the different affixes, namely /To/ and /Mo/ which is when it puts, they have different meaning. *Tokossa* word is include in verb, while *Mokossa* word is include in adjective. Based on the explanation, it can be said that *Tokossa* and *Mokossa* are near synonym.

Example Data 6 The synonymous word between adjective to adverb in Wakatobi Language

Word: *Mo'aro, Aro*
Meaning: Indonesian (Mo'aro = Lapar)
English (Hungry)
Indonesian (Aro = Depan)
English (Front)

Explanation: Based on the two examples above, *Mo'aro* and *Aro* are two words that have different meanings. The *Aro* word means Front, while the word *Mo'aro* means Hungry. Even though that two words almost have the same form but they are differentiated by the prefix *Mo* in one of the words. The *Aro* word is a free morpheme which can stand alone. The *Mo'aro* is a morpheme that have two morphemes, namely /mo/ and /Aro/. Based on the explanation, it can be mentioned that *Mo'aro* and *Aro* are near synonym because they have differences in meaning even though they almost have the same form.

Example Data 7 The synonymous word between noun to adjective in Wakatobi Language

Word: *Ommuru, Mo'ommuru*
Meaning: Indonesian (Ommuru = Umur)
English (Age)
Indonesian (Mo'ommuru = Lapar)
English (Hungry)

Explanation: The word *Ommuru* is a word found in the conversations of the Wakatobi community. The meaning of *Ommuru* is age. It is Different with *Mo'ommuru*, *Mo'ommuru* is used to express the condition of someone who is hungry. These two words almost have the

same form, they are only differentiated by the prefix *Mo*. *Mo'ommuru* means hungry. The word *Ommuru* is a free morpheme, whereas the *Mo'ommuru* word is a morpheme which consist of two morphemes namely the prefix /*mo*/ and /*ommuru*/ so that when they put together, they have different meaning. So, they are included into the category of near synonym.

Discussions

This research is a morphosyntactic study that examines synonyms in Wakatobi Language. The words used as data in this research are words that appear or more often used in daily conversation. Based on the previous chapter, the researcher found four forms of synonymy, namely verb, noun, adverb, and adjective and there are two types of synonyms they are absolute synonym and near synonym. Based on the results of data analysis, the forms of synonym are dominate in verb and noun. Meanwhile, the types of synonyms are more found in adverb and adjective. Absolute synonyms are words that have the potential to replace each other or can be used in any context. The synonymous words in daily conversation in the Wakatobi community can formulate the pattern as follows: Verb to Verb, Noun to Noun, Adverb to Adverb, Adjective to Adjective, Verb to Adjective, Adjective to Adverb, Noun to Adjective.

These findings are supported by Edmond and Hirst (2002) who said the absolute synonym and near synonym. In their research, they said that absolute synonym is quite rare. Absolute synonyms would be able to be substituted one for the other in any context in which their common sense is denoted with no change to truth value, communicative effect, or meaning (however meaning is defined). They also said absolute synonym is limited mostly to dialectal variation and technical terms. In their line, Philosophers such as Quine (1951) and Goodman (1952) argue that true synonymy is possible, because it is impossible to define, perhaps unintentionally, dismiss all other forms of synonym. Even if absolute synonym were possible, pragmatic and empirical arguments show that it would be very rare. In Edmonds and Hirst line, the words that are close in meaning are near synonym. The words that almost synonym but not quite or very similar but not identical in meaning, not fully intersubstitutable but instead varying in their shades of denotation, connotation, implicature, emphasis, or register (DiMarco et al: 1993).

The dimensions in different meaning of absolute synonyms and near synonyms in Wakatobi Language are based on the dialectical and emotive aspects, the overlap meaning, function of each word when combined with another words, and based on the affixation process that occurs in word. All of the aspects contained was triggering the differences in the meaning in each word. Correspondingly, synonym have several dimensions according to possible synonymy can differ; dialectical, stylistic, emotive, collocational, and overlap (Handke:2020). Besides that, in Edmonds and Hirst line (2002), in general Near Synonyms can differ with respect to any aspects of their meaning; denotational variation (denotation), stylistics variation (dialect and register), expressive variations (emotive and attitudinal aspects), and structural variation (collocational, selectional, and syntactic variations).

Based on the results of the description, it can be concluded that synonymous words found in daily conversations in the Wakatobi language have differences and similarities with

several reference definitions from some experts above. The difference is that synonymous words in the Wakatobi language are more dominantly found to be absolute synonyms than near synonym, which is a finding that is inversely proportional to Edmonds and Hirst's theory that absolute synonyms are quite rare. Meanwhile, the similarity is found that synonymous words or lexemes have similarities in several dimensions according to possible synonym. Lastly, it can be concluded the Wakatobi language also has a synonym dimension process that is almost same as other languages.

CONCLUSION

The sameness of meaning in words or lexeme that can be used in same context of linguistics is called as a synonym. Although, there is no two words or lexemes have the exact meaning or sometimes a pair of words or lexemes have the difference context in their use. This difference can be seen based on the dimension and aspect contain in words or lexemes. Based on the findings and discussion in the previous chapter, the researcher outlined that there were 30 pairs of synonymous word data. It included absolute synonym and near synonym forms. The pairs of synonymous words are divided into parts of speech; verbs have 10 synonym data, nouns have 10 synonym data, adverbs have 2 synonym data, and adjectives have 8 synonym data.

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