

Chapter One

INTRODUCTION

MILIK PERPUSTAKAAN
UNIMED

Language lies at the central part of human existence and social process and it has so many other functions to perform in the life of human beings. Through language we can improve our knowledge. In other words, there are almost no human activities they can perform without language.

Language as communication is something inevitable in and to our lives. No group of people without a spoken language has ever been discovered. We cannot imagine this life could have been without language, no matter which one is used to communicate. Language, however, is recognized as the most perfect instrument of communication.

Language plays an important role in our lives, as it functions to convey information as its communicative function, to maintain social relationships with others on certain things; and for language to function, it has to have a setting. To people who use it no matter if they belong to a race, religion, creed or ethnicity, each has its own different uniqueness from one another.

Besides its social conventional aspects, we know that a race or races could not exist without it, and indeed for some, it is a defining characteristic of

the human race itself. Different cultures or ethnic groups divide reality into different semological units, different semantic, phonological and syntactical features.

There are about 5000 living languages today as there are as many nations, countries or ethnic groups. As we said before, each ethnic group has its language no matter how we define it. Indonesia, for example, has over four hundred ethnic languages as there are as many ethnic groups, such as the Bataks, the Javanese, and others. (Llamzon, 1972)

The Toba Batak language belongs to Malayo Polynesian (Gleason, 1961; 470) with other four subdivisions; Simalungun, Karo, Pakpak and Angkola Mandailing, all are found in North Sumatra. The Toba Batak language, henceforth abbreviated TB, is spoken in Toba Samosir, North Tapanuli regencies, some in Central Tapanuli, Dairi and other areas where speakers migrated.

1.1 The Background.

Languages are often classified linguistically according to the way in which they put morphemes together to form words. The classification is often made on the basis of morphological type because this type of language may reflect both the phonological and syntactic characteristics of that language.

The TB, as the writer's second language, has its specific characteristics in verb and noun formations and a little bit in the formation of the comparative degrees of adjectives since TB speakers in general use Predicate-Subject pattern in expressing their opinions (Tampubolon, 1986; 13 and Tampubolon, et al, 1980; 14), such as:

<u>Mangalomp</u>	P	<u>gadong</u>	S	<u>inanta</u>
↓		↓		↓
Cook		sweet potatoes		mother our

This construction is opposed to that of the national language, Indonesian, and to those of most European languages the writer has observed. This has intrigued the writer to study a little portion of the language in the hope that the topic of this research could be used by other researchers or writers as a prop to help interested people mutually understand the language and the speakers and a means of national integration and tolerance of this multiethnic nation.

1.2 The Scope of the Study

This study is focused on the morphological process of the formation of comparative degree of adjectives in TB with the limitation based on:

- a. Adjective Base.

- b. Inflectional affix (the process of forming comparative degree).
- c. Meaning point of view.

1.3 The Problem of the Study

In this proposal, the problem encountered is formulated as the following:

1. How is the process of constructing TB comparative degrees of adjectives?
2. What is the dominant use of comparative degree of TB adjectives?

1.4 The Objective of the Study

The objectives of this research are to gain reliable data on the process of forming the comparative degree of adjectives through the references. The description will provide clear information on the characteristics of the comparative degree of adjectives, the morphological process of forming the comparative degrees and the meaning.

This research is expected to become an auxiliary to the previous research products on TB in the hope of maintaining the language and making it the language of the future generation in several social and cultural contexts. Besides, this research is also expected to become one of research contributions

of local languages as a resource to establishing and maintaining the local (ethnic) language.

