



The Enclave of Galela Language in Morotai Island Regency

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Abstract

Galela language is one of the non Austronesian languages. The native speakers of Galela exist in Galela, North Halmahera. Morotai Island is the enclave of Galela language. It was said that the native inhabitants of this island are “orang Moro” who speak Moro language. Nowadays, Morotai posses a community which identifies themselves as “orang Morotai”. However, they do not call the language they speak as Morotai language due to the fact that there ae several languages there, one of which is the variety of Galela Language. Galela language has been frequently researched by the linguists, ethnographers, as well as the missionaries. In present writer’s best knowledge there have not been any researches conducted on the relationship between Galela language and its variation in Morotai enclave as well as in any other places.

Thus, the research on the enclave of Galela language in Morotai Island Regency in its comparison with Galela language in North Halmahera is relevant to be performed. The research proposes some statements of the problem, such as: what the phonological, lexical, morphological, and syntactical characteristics of both the variety of Galela language in Morotai enclave and Galela language in Galela and; how the historical relations among them are determined; and why the variety of Galela language is more dominantly used by the Morotai community than other language varieties.

Swadesh list and list of questions on basic cultural vocabularies are used to acquire data by ways of noting down, recording, listening and tapping. Data were analyzed by using intralingual correlation method, lexicostatic, and dialectometry as well as exclusively shared innovation method. Data were collected on three observation spots and three informants were elected from each location. The location cover Daeo village in South Morotai, Sangowo and Mira village in East Morotai. Meanwhile, as the comparisons are Moro and Galela languages in Galela region, North Halmahera.

The research concludes that from a number of phonological, lexical, morphological, and syntactical characteristics, it is shown that the relationship between the variety of Galela language in Morotai enclave anda Galela language in North Halmahera is language dialect relationship and is relevant with the results of calculation based on lexicostatistics and dialectometry methods. The variety of Galela language is spoken by the native speakers as well as the speakers of other language varieties. As the number of its speakers is bigger, it becomes one of the languages used between the speakers of Galela language variety and the speakers of other language varieties.

Keywords: Lexicostatic, dialectometry, exclusively shared innovation, and intralingual correlation methods