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Saya ucapkan terima kasih atas perhatian yang bersangkutan.

Salam saya,
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THE PHONOLOGY OF MAMUJU LANGUAGE

(a Basic Description)

Nurhayati S., M. Hum

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I. Introduction

Mamuju is the capital city of West Sulawesi province. It is also a district capital city. This city is located between Palu, Central Sulawesi, and Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. It covers an area of 11,057.81 km² and the number of population, according to 2005 census was 296,229. The community is dominated by people from Mandar ethnic, followed by the ethnics of Toraja, Bugis, Makassar, and Java. The Javanese came to Mamuju with the transmigration program.

Mamuju is one of the biggest cocoa production place in Indonesia. Other things produced in this city are coconuts and rice. There are also many kinds of mine materials, including gold, coal, and oil. In tourism field, Mamuju has some beautiful natural scenes and unique culture.

Mamuju is an ethnic in West Sulawesi province. The word "Mamuju", etymologically, is derived from the word "mamunyu", which means soft. The soft character of Mamuju people is much reflected in the way they behave and speak. The soft character can still be seen now, although the people are in the globalisation era. For example, if they meet a person or a group, they will directly greet the people. Their habit of working together is still maintained too. As an ethnic, Mamuju has a language that is called Mamuju language. This language is different from Mandar language. The difference can be seen in the vocabulary of the two languages. For example, Mandar word for "does
not want to" is moka, while the Mamuju word is u'âda. There are several dialects of Mamuju language: Mamuju-Padang, Mamuju-Sinyonyoi, Mamuju-Sumare-Rangas, dan Mamuju-Kalukku. The Mamuju Padang dialect is used in the high land of Mamuju district, while the Mamuju-Sinyonyoi is used in Tapalang Subdistrict. Kalukku Mamuju dialect is used in the area around Kalukku Subdistrict, while Mamuju-Sumare-Rangas dialect is used by people living around Mamuju city. This is in line with Valkana (1987: 99-117) who says that Mamuju language has Sumare, Padang, and Sinyonyoi dialects.

Mamuju language is part of Austronesian language family, especially the South West Austronesian language family (Parera: 1991: 117). Not many researchers want to study their language so that there is still limited number of writings about Mamuju language. However, some researches about Mamuju language have been conducted. One of the studies was conducted by Yamaguchi, 1993 with a study entitled Minami Surawesi Syogo. In this study, Yamaguchi mentions three requirements of South Sulawesi Language Group, including Mamuju language. The requirements are: (1) having limited consonants in final position of words, (2) having prefixes which cause gemmation, and (3) having three sets of prefixes. Yamaguchi also wrote a dissertation entitled "the Genealogy Status of Mamuju Language in Sulawesi Language Group".

Valkama, 1982, in a leksicostatic study, explains that Mamuju language has Sumare, Padang, and Rangas dialects. In addition, Djahiddin wrote an undergraduate thesis entitled “Elements of Phrases in Mamuju Language” in 1987.

With the limited number of writings about Mamuju language, it is expected that this writing can give contribution in the development of Mamuju language specifically, and can become a reference for researchers of Mamuju language and language researchers in general.

II. The Phonology of Mamuju Language

Phonology is the study of language sounds, divided into phonetics and phonemic. Phonetics is the study of sounds produced by organ of speech without considering their functions (Marsono, 1986:1), while phonemic is the study of language sounds that can differentiate meanings. Description of the Phonology of Mamuju language gives information about its vowels, consonants, diphthongs, syllables, and suprasegmental phonemes. These will be explained below.

A. Vowels in Mamuju Language

Vowels are sounds produced by organ of speech without obstruction (Marsono, 1986). There are five vowels in Mamuju language, including I’ll, lul, Id, lol, and /a/. The vowels description is based on the height of tongue position, and the frontness/backness of the tongue in the formation of the vowels. The HI is a high-front vowel. It is formed with spread lips. The lul is also a high vowel, but it is a back vowel. It is produced when lips are rounded toward the front position. The lol is a back vowel produced with rounded lips. The position and production of these vowels can be seen in the following chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowel Chart of Mamuju Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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B. Consonants in Mamuju Language

Consonants are sounds produced when air from the lungs are obstructed (Marsono, 1986: 60). In terms of articulation, consonants are categorised based on three factors: (1) the condition of vocal cord, (2) place of articulation, and (3) manner of articulation. Based on the condition of vocal cords, consonants are classified into voiced and voiceless consonants, while based on the place of articulation, consonants are categorised into labial, labiodental, alveolar, palatal, velar, and glottal consonants. Based on the manner of articulation, there are plosive, fricative, nasal, trill, and lateral consonants. In addition, there are semi consonants \([y, w]\). Consonants in Mamuju language are \([b, p, d, c, t, k, g, j, s, h, m, n, ft, rj, 1, r, ?, w, y]\). These consonants can be described in a chart as the following:

**Consonant Chart in Mamuju Language**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Articulation</th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Labio-Dental</th>
<th>Dental-Alveolar</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plosive</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiceless</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fricative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>h</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiceless</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>rj</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lateral</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi Vowel</td>
<td>w</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the chart above, it can be seen that there are 18 consonants in Mamuju language. Voiced sounds are \([b, d, g, j, s, h, m, n, ng, ny, r, l, w, y]\), while voiceless sounds are \([p, t, c, k]\). Sounds \([f, v, x, z, sy]\) in Indonesian language do not occur in Mamuju language.

**Bilabial consonants** \(/p/ dan lb/\) are pronounced with a total close of upper and lower lips. Air flow from the lungs are hold, and the lips are immediately opened. Consonant \(/bl/\) is the voiced bilabial consonant, while consonant \(/p/\) is voiceless bilabial consonant.

**Alveolar consonants** \(/l/ and lal/\) are articulated when the tip of the tongue touches the upper gums to obstruct air flow from the lungs. The obstruction is then suddenly opened so that a plosion happens. Consonant \(/l/\) is the voiced alveolar consonant, while consonant \(/l/\) is the voiceless alveolar consonant.

**Palatal consonants** \(/ld/ and ljl/\) are articulated when the tongue (lamina) touches the hard palate so that these consonants are called lamino-palatal consonants. Consonant \(/ld/\) is a voiceless consonant, while \(/ljl/\) is a voiced consonant.

**Consonants** \(/ld/ and /lg/\) are articulated when the back of the tongue (dorsal) touches the soft palate (velum) so that the sounds are called lamino-palatal consonants. Consonant \(/ld/\) is a voiceless consonant, while \(/lg/\) is a voiced consonant.

The voiceless fricative consonant \(/s/\) is articulated by touching the gums with the tip of the tongue, while releasing the air through the side parts of the tongue so that a hissing sound is produced.

The voiceless glottal fricative \(/h/\) is articulated by passing the air flow through the narrowed vocal cord so that a hissing sound is produced.

**Nasal bilabial consonant** \(/lm/\) is articulated with closed lips. The air is released through the nasal cavity.

**The alveolar nasal consonant** \(/ln/\) is articulated by putting the tip of the tongue against the gums. The air is released through the nasal cavity.

**The palatal nasal consonant** \(/ln/\) is articulated by putting the tip of the tongue against the gum. The air is released through the nasal cavity.
2. Consonant Allophones

a. Phoneme /p/ has only one allophone, [p].

b. Phoneme /b/ has only one allophone, released [b]. In the vocabulary of Mamuju language, sound [b] is not found in the final position, so that there is no non-released [b].

c. Phoneme /d/ has only one allophone, released [c]. In the vocabulary of Mamuju language, sound [c] is not found in the final position, so there is no non-released [c].

d. Phoneme /dl/ has only one allophone, released [d]. In the vocabulary of Mamuju language, sound [d] is not found in the final position, so there is no non-released [d].

e. Phoneme /g/ has only one allophone, released [g]. In the vocabulary of Mamuju language, sound [g] is not found in the final position, so there is no non-released [g].

f. Phoneme /hl/ has only one allophone, released [h]. In the vocabulary of Mamuju language, sound [h] is not found in the final position, so there is no non-released [h].

g. Phoneme /j/ has only one allophone, released [j]. In the vocabulary of Mamuju language, sound [j] is not found in the final position, so there is no non-released [j].

h. Phoneme /kl/ has only two allophones, released [k] and voiceless glottal consonant [?].

i. Phoneme /l/ has only one allophone, [l], which can be found in the initial, medial, and final positions.

j. Phoneme /ml/ has only one allophone, [m], which can be found in the initial and medial positions.

k. Phoneme /n/ has only one allophone, [n], which can be found in the initial and medial positions.

l. Phoneme /nl/ has only one allophone, [n], which can be found in the initial and medial positions.

m. Phoneme /nl/ has only one allophone, [n], which can be found in the initial, medial, and final positions.

n. Phoneme /q/ has only one allophone, released [q], which can be found in the final position.

o. Phoneme /r/ has only one allophone, [r], which can be found in the initial, medial, and final positions.

p. Phoneme /s/ has only one allophone, [s], which can be found in the initial, medial, and final positions.

q. Phoneme /t/ has only one allophone, [t], which can be found in the initial and medial positions.

r. Phoneme /wl/ has only one allophone, [w], which can be found in the initial and final positions.

s. Phoneme /yl/ has only one allophone, [y], which can be found in the initial and final positions.

C. Diphthongs in Mamuju Language

Diphthongs are two sounds articulated in the same time. In Mamuju language, there are five diphthongs. According to Cahyono (1995: 90), diphthongs are combinations of vowels sounds, symbolized as one sound, that cannot be separated. Meanwhile, according to Alwi (1993: 52) diphthongs are vowels that get changes of quality when they are articulated. There are three diphthongs in Mamuju language: raised diphthongs, decreased
diphthongs, and horizontal diphthongs. Raised diphthongs are [ai] dan [ou], while decreased diphthongs are [ua] dan [oa]. The horizontal diphthong is [iu]. These five diphthongs can be seen in the following examples and chart.

ai : dai ‘sew’, cai ‘angry’

oa: ngoa ‘greedy’, bous ‘rice’, roa ‘crowded’

ua: lua ‘vomit’, kua ‘katakan’, pua ‘father’

iu: liu ‘pass’, nia ‘coconut leaves’

oi: doi ‘money’, poi ‘dimple’, noi ‘suck’

It can be seen in the above data that there are more number of diphthongs in Mamuju language, than in Indonesian language. There are 5 diphthongs in Mamuju language, while in Indonesia language, there are only three diphthongs.

D. The Characteristics of Phoneme and Words in Mamuju Language

In the table above, it can be seen that, based on the positions in words, consonants in Mamuju language can be found in initial and medial positions only. However, consonants /rj/, /?/, /s/, and /rl/ can also be found in final positions. Based on the data above, in general it can be concluded that Mamuju language is a vocalic language. Therefore, the language can be formulated as 1-1, -s, -r, -rj/. Examples of words above also show that gemination happens in many words in Mamuju language. Some examples can be found in: kocci ‘key’, lartyrtying ‘slim’, batta ‘cut’ (using cleaver), lammus ‘to sink because water comes into something’, parra ‘rice’.

E. Suprasegmental

In Mamuju language, there is no suprasegmental phonemes that can result in certain meaning. However, the language has tone and stress. For example, in the word ude ‘no’, the first syllable /u/ has a stress so that that phonetic transcription of this word is [ude]. The accent of Mamuju language has its own characteristics. For words having syllables with glottal stop in the final position, or in words having consonant gemination, the syllables have stress, but there is no change in meaning. Some examples are boteq [bote?], lammus [lammus], and tarrus [tarnis].

F. Syllables

Syllables are the peak of stridency. Martinet (1992: 69) explains that syllables are related to the peak of stridency. The pattern of syllables in Mamuju language is very simple because the vocabulary is still original. Borrowing elements in Mamuju language, such as from Arabic, still follow the syllable patterns of Mamuju language. For example, the word halal (Arabic) becomes hallal in Mamuju Language. The syllable pattern in halal (CVC). Another example is suruga with syllable pattern of su-ru-ga (CV).
Examples:

V : a-la
   'take'
   a-pi
   'but'

CV : co-ko
   'sit'
   to-ri
   'slice'

VC : al-li
   'buy'
   in-ne
   'this'

CVC : kam-biq
   'stingy'
   lam-me
   'fall'

3. Closing Remarks

This writing is a basic description of the phonology of Mamuju language. In this language, there are five vowels: IM, lul, ld, lol, and /a/; and 18 consonants: / b, p, d, c, t, k, g, j, s, h, m, n, ft, tj , l, r, ?, w, y/. There are five diphthongs: /ol/, /ai/, /au/, /oa/, and /iu/.

This language has a vocalic characteristic, although consonants /l/, /hi/, /ng/, and /II/ can be found in final position. There is no suprasegmental element in Mamuju language that results in certain meaning, although there are tone and stress elements. There are four syllables: V, VC, CV, CVC.

LIST OF REFERENCES


