

Multiple Meanings of Address Terms in Bicoli Language, South Maba, East Halmahera

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Abstract

Multiple Meanings of Address Terms in Bicoli Language, South Maba, East Halmahera. This research aims to determine the use of the term of address which has multiple meanings, especially in Bicoli village. Two research problems are postulated, namely the kinds of terms of address used in the Bicoli language, and the context of the terms of address used by speakers in communication. The study uses semantic theory approach to make it easier for the researcher to observe terms of address that have multiple meanings in the context of everyday conversation. The method in this study is a qualitative descriptive method which not only uses primary data in research, but also uses secondary data as a form of supporting data to strengthen the results of this study. Based on the results of the research conducted, it is found that the terms of address that have multiple meanings, such as; aye, legaya, nyangan, aremag, tamay, balo, doliu, del, monmenoy, melofo. The contexts that make the multiple meanings of the term of address are the individual context, the object context, and the mood context. Instances of the different meanings are found and identified based on these three contexts.

Keywords: Address Terms, Bicoli Language, Meaning And Context

INTRODUCTION

The Bicoli language is one of the hundreds of languages in Indonesia, and one of the local languages found in North Maluku as the mother tongue in East Halmahera regency, Maba south district, to be precise in the village of Bicoli. The regional language in Bicoli village is unique because of the terms of address used by local people to communicate and interact, such as addressing parents, relatives, and greetings with certain designations based on age, marriage line, and certain situations *Ramli et al., 2021(. Term of address in Bicoli language has

several meanings depending on the situation, context, or the interlocutor in interpreting it, and the level of politeness, respectively.

There are several senses in which theories of meaning might be classified as contextual (Sujarwo et al., 2022). The term 'the contextual theory of meaning' according to Firth, the most important thing about language is its social function: "normal linguistic behavior as a whole is meaningful effort, directed towards the maintenance of appropriate patterns of life (Nurfani et al., 2023). Every utterance occurs in a culturally determined context of the situation and the meaning of the utterance is the totality of its contribution to the maintenance of what Firth here refers to as the patterns of life in the society in which the speaker lives and to the affirmation of the speaker's role and personality within the society (Sari et al., 2022).

Contextual meaning of situational meaning arises as a result of the relationship between speech and context (Efendi, 2022). It is well known that context manifests itself in many ways. The context referred to here are: individual context, situation context, purpose context, the formal context of the conversation, the mood context of the speaker, or listener, time context, the context of the place, object context, linguistic context, and language context (Duwila et al., 2022).

It is also the case that the same word may have a set of different meanings". As already explained above that polysemy is a word that has more than one or multiple meanings. This research examines the meaning of words, or terms that have multiple meanings. This concept is also used as reinforcement in analyzing data.

The address words used by the community in an area are usually influenced by culture and are conventional in accordance with existing norms. This also applies to community use in Bicoli Village, south Maba District, East Halmahera Regency. With the existence of social norms or rules that apply in the use of address, of course, it will be easier to determine the politeness between the speaker and the speech partner. The address can be measured from the distance and relationship between the speaker and speech partners, both in verbal and horizontal relationships. The vertical relationship is seen from the generation level above the ego, and the level below the ego, while the horizontal relationship is seen from the ego relates to the left side and the ego relates to the right side.

The choice of address terms depends on some social exterminators, such as physical, economical, the kinship terms, political power, differences in age, gender, and any others. However, mostly in eastern country, the status difference is still considered very important. There are two important factors that influence the relationship between the speaker and the addressee. They are power and solidarity. They argue that 'power' is easier to define than solidarity. "Power" is self-explanatory, but "solidarity" tends to relate with the intimacy between the speaker and the addressee how close they are and how many social features they have (religion, sex, age, region of origin, race, profession, hobby, etc). Thus,

according to several experts that state their opinion above, we know that term of address is the word to accosted, call, and start a conversation that refers to other people we are talking to which has many functions and factors in every place.

METHOD

Thus study uses a qualitative descriptive method. The study is conducted in Bicoli village, South Maba sub-district of East Halmahera where Bicoli language is still used and preserved.

Participants

Informants are people who provide information about the data being sought, in which eight or more informants in this study are selected so that the data obtained can be accurate and valid. To find informants in collecting data, therefore the following criteria are used:

- a. Native speakers of the Bicoli language.
- b. People with Aged 22-70, native to Bicoli village.
- c. Adults who are still actively used Bicoli language in speech.
- d. No defects in speech and hearing.
- e. Able to communicate in Indonesian).

Data Collection Procedure

Observation

The researcher comes to the location once the research began. The researcher stayed in the community because the researcher is also a native speaker of the Bicoli language, but not very active. Observation is conducted to get accurate data.

Interview

In interviewing the participants, the researcher uses a list of questions that have been arranged in sentences that can be understood by them. Then the participants answer using the Bicoli language so that the term of address could be identified which have multiple meaning.

Note-Taking

After the interview, the researcher then takes notes to get the data, and data obtained are only concerning with terms of address that have multiple meaning which are utilized in activities all day long, especially in Bicoli village.

Data Analysis Procedure

Transcription

Transcription is the conversion of speech into written form, usually by describing each sound with a symbol. In this study, the results of the interviews are converted into written form to make them easier to study.

Translation

After made a transcription, the researcher also makes the translation of the data, at the stage of translating the transcribed data, then translated into Indonesian. This is done to make it easier to analyze the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis, the researchers found the terms of address that have multiple meanings, that are namely; aye, legaya, nyangan, aremag, tamay, balo, doliu, del, monmenoy, melofo. The context that makes the multiple meanings of the term of address is the individual context, the object context, and the mood context. Instances of the different meanings are found and identified based on these three contexts. Multiple meanings of each form can be seen in the table 1 below:

Table 1. Address Terms in Bicoli Language

Papuan Indonesian Dialect	Standard Indonesian
Aye	Mother, grandma, old man
Legaya	Husband, boyfriend, man (friend)
Nyangan	Wife, girlfriend, and woman (friend)
Aremag	Distant relatives, cousin stepbrother, stepsister, sister, and brother
Tamay	Brother in law, sister in-law, and friend
Balo	Widower (his wife passed), widow (her husband passed)
Doliu	Widower (he divorced with his wife), widow (she divorced with her husband)
Del	Friend, stranger
Monmenoy	Groom, son-in-law
Melofo	Bride, daughter-in-law

Individual Context

Aye

The word Aye has the meaning of mother, grandma, old man, and begging. The examples from the conversation below will show the meaning of the term aye. The illustration can be seen from the examples sentence below.

In excerpt 1 below, the term aye is used by the speaker is a grandchild who is addressing the grandmother in this conversation to find out the meaning of the term aye, the context used is the individual context.

Excerpt 1.

A : "Aye, ge memnon to?"

'grandma had you eaten?'

K : "kemnom file akbigke, mnom pa gebo"

'Grandma hasn't eaten yet my grandson, because there's no food.'

The example of excerpt 1 occurs when A (grandson) talks to K (grandmother) and asks whether her grandmother has eaten or not. The term aye in this conversation has the meaning of grandmother because it is seen from who's speaking, age, the position of the speaker, and the hearer.

In excerpt 2 below, the term aye is used by the speaker is a child who is addressing the mother in this conversation to find out the meaning of the term aye, the context used is the individual context.

Excerpt 2

B : "aye, rfekakam na fesow li ya"

'Mother, there is a wedding invitation.'

K : "ii oro tege yak fan"

'Ok I will come later.'

In the excerpt 2, the word aye is used by speaker B (child) who is talking to the K (mother) that someone has invited her to go to a wedding. In this conversation, the term aye has the meaning of mother because it is seen based on who's speaking, the position of the speaker, listener, and age.

Legaya

The word legaya means husband, boyfriend, and man(friend). To find out the difference, consider the examples from the conversation below that will differentiate the meaning of the term legaya. Excerpts 3, and 4 will show different meanings of the term legaya.

In excerpt 3 below, the speaker using the term legaya in speaking to the listener is someone (women or men) who has the same age and knows if the speech partner is someone who is married, the context that uses for identifying the meaning in term legaya is an individual context.

Excerpt 3

M : "Ita ge anim legaya ngo pua?"

'Ita where's your husband?'

C : "anik legaya ngo na mobon"

'my husband is staying in Maba'

In excerpt 3, there is a conversation between M (a woman who the same age as the listener) and C (Ita / married woman) where someone asks Ita about the whereabouts of her husband. The word legaya here means husband because it is seen from the age and listener's position.

In excerpt 4 below, the speaker using the term legaya in speaking to the listener is someone (women or men) who has the same age and knows if the

speech partner is someone who is unmarried, the context that uses for indentifying the meaning in term legaya is an individual context.

Excerpt 4

- M : "oo anak, fere fela bof fesow temew geby awre anim legaya e"
'O c'mon you and your boyfriend immediately get married.'
- G : "hale manu smat awma fesow file ge"
'do not deride me, you are also not married.'

In the excerpt 4, a conversation occurs between M (woman) who knows that the listener is not married, so she talks to G (an unmarried woman) and deride her friend because it is just dating. So, the term legaya in this conversation has the meaning of boyfriend because it is seen from the position of the listener who is not married.

Nyangan

The word nyangan means wife, girlfriend, and woman(friend). The conversation examples below will show how the term nyangan changed its meaning. The explanation of the difference in meaning will be explained in excerpts 5 and 6, below.

In excerpt 5, the speaker using the term nyangan in speaking to the listener is someone (men or women) who has the same age and knows if the speech partner is someone who is married, the context that uses for identifying the meaning of term nyangan is an individual context.

Excerpt 5

- J : "Nyangan mpey mnom soi telia?"
'What are you cooking, honey?'
- K : "in sinanga re sayor jae"
'fried fish and vegetables'

In the excerpt 5, the term nyangan is used by speaker J (husband) to address his K (wife) who is cooking. The term nyangan, if pronounced by a man and addressed to his married friends, means wife. In this conversation, the term above has the meaning of wife because it is seen from the position of the speaker and listener.

In excerpt 6 below, the speaker using the term nyangan in speaking to the listener is someone (men or women) who has the same age and knows if the speech partner is someone who is unmarried, the context that uses for indentifying the meaning in term nyangan is an individual context.

Excerpt 6

- J : "Rafli awre anim nyangan sengeli a fan pua?"
'Rafli where do you go yesterday and your girlfriend?'
- L : "etfan na Fesaily etdem sarabat"
'we went to the Fesaily, drink coconut water.'

In the excerpt 6, the term *nyangan* means girlfriend, because it is used by speaker J (man who has the same age) who already knows that Rafli is not married and asks the listener (L) where Rafli and his girlfriend are going because they saw them. So, the term *nyangan*, if pronounced by someone to an unmarried man, means girlfriend, because its using at informal conversation, and it is seen from the listener's position.

Aremag

The word *aremag* means sister, brother, cousin, distant relatives, step brother, step sister, sister, and brother. The conversation examples below will explain the different meanings of these terms. Excerpts 7 and 8 will show how the use of the term *aremag* that its has the meaning of when used.

In excerpt 7 below, the speaker using the term *aremag* in speaking to the speech partner is people (women or men) who have the relationship with the speech partner in addressing the speech partner is, the context that uses for identifying the meaning in term *aremag* is an individual context.

Excerpt 7

- A : "aremag e emjapua?"
'Hi, where are you, my cousin?'
- N : "na yebey li jae"
'I am at home'

In the excerpt 7, the use of the word *Aremag* is used by speaker A (man who has a relationship with the listener) who speaks to N (cousin) which means cousin, because it is seen from the position of the speaker and the listener.

In excerpt 8 below, the speaker using the term *aremag* in speaking to the speech partner is people (women or men) who have the relationship with the speech partner in addressing the speech partner is, the context that uses for identifying the meaning in term *aremag* is an individual context.

Excerpt 8

- N : "aye ge fem anik Aremag lla pa?"
'mother where is lla?'
- K : "nfan na Sowoly sengeli"
'she goes to Sowoly yesterday.'

In the excerpt 8, the use of the term *aremag* is used by N (child) speakers who ask the listener's K (mother) where her distant sister is, so the term *aremag* in this conversation has the meaning of distant relatives because it is seen from the speaker's, and listener position.

Tamay

The word *tamay* has the meaning of brother-in-law, sister-in law, and friend. The following conversation examples will show the different meanings of the term *tamay*. Excerpts 9 and 10 below will explain the difference in meaning based on their used.

In excerpts 9 and 10, the speaker using the term *tamay* in speaking to the speech partner is people (women or men) who have the relationship with the speech partner in addressing the speech partner is, the context that uses for identifying the meaning in term *tamay* is an individual context.

Excerpt 9

- R : "Ona anim tamay i mpin jae" ?
'is this your sister-in-law Ona?
N : "ietaw ja gare Awin ni nyangani "
'yes, this woman is my brother's wife.'

In the excerpt 9, the use of the term *tamay* is used by speaker of R (friend) who are gossiping and asking listener N (Ona) about the woman who is with her. So the term *tamay* in this conversation means sister-in-law because it is seen from gender, and the listener's position.

Excerpt 10

- B : "tamay domole myal anim pake te naya lisi"
'tomorrow, you friend go to my house to take your clothes'
G : "msasi pake so etemew fete klupa"
'really, what dress? sorry I am forgot.'

In the excerpt 10, the use of the term *tamay* is used by speaker B (woman) to listener G (friend) who is telling her that she friend's clothes have not been taken at home. So, the term *tamay* in this conversation has the meaning of friend because it is seen from the age and position of the speaker and the listener who is talking.

Doliu

The word *doliu* has a meaning that is almost similar to the term *balo* but differs based on the object. The term *doliu* means a man who is divorced from his wife, and a woman who is divorced from her husband. The difference in meaning can be seen from the following examples which will be explained from excerpts 11 and 12.

In excerpts 11 and 12 below, the speaker using the term *doliu* in speaking to the speech partner is people (women or men) who have the same age and already know if the speech partner her or him they partner divorced, in addressing the speech partner is the context that uses for identifying the meaning in term *doliu* is an individual context.

Excerpt 11

- F : "fem Doliu Rahman pa?"
'are you see widower Rahman?
C : "Doliu ja enfan na betli"
'he go to his allotment.'

In the excerpt 11, the word *doliu* is used by speaker F (a friend) who is talking to listener C (brother of widower Rahman) who is asking his brother where

Rahman is. So the term *doliu* in this conversation means widower (a man who is divorced) because it is seen from the gender, the object of the discussion, and the position of the listener.

Excerpt 12

- G : "Doliu jale nbong benberahi temew"
'you are more beautiful' (widow)
D : "yak nwea aw arege"
'not me but you more gorgeous'

In the excerpt 12, the word *doliu* is used by speaker G (a friend) who is talking to listener D (widow) about beauty. So, the term *doliu* in this conversation means widow (a woman who is divorced) because it is seen from the gender, the object of the discussion, and the position of the listener.

Del

The word *del* has the meaning of a friend, substitute name for the stranger. The following examples will show the different meanings of the term *del*, the explanation can be seen from excerpts 13 and 14.

In excerpts 13 and 14 below, the speaker using the term *del* in speaking to the speech partner is people (women or men) who don't have the relationship with the speech partner in addressing the speech partner is, the context that uses for identifying the meaning in term *del* is an individual context.

Excerpt 13

- A : "anik del mjem anim lolow ato?"
'my friend, is you already drink your medicine?'
B : "tege bok jem jae"
'this is I want to drink.'

In the excerpt 13, the word *del* is used by speaker A (a friend) to speak to a listener (B) who is reminding his friend to take medicine. So the term *del* in this conversation has the meaning of friend because it is seen from the age of the speaker/listener.

Excerpt 14

- Q : "Del e mco kantor desa napua li?"
'hey! Did you know where village office the address?'
A : "ii yakco na mesjid alapa"
'yeah, I know right next to the mosque'

In the excerpt 14, the word *del* is used by Q speaker (someone) who is the same age as the listener where the speaker asked A with use the term *del* because the listener's name is unknown and asks for the address of the village office. So, the term *del* in this term means stranger (friend), seen from the age of the speaker, listener, and listener position.

Object Context

Monmenoy

The word monmenoy means groom and son-in-law. The following examples will show the different meanings when used in speaking. Excerpts 15, and 16 following an explanation of why the meaning of the term monmenoy can change.

In excerpt 15 below, the speaker using the term monmenoy in speaking to the speech partner is people (men or women) who know the object that focuses on the conversation talking about, the context that uses for identifying the meaning in term monmenoy is an object context.

Excerpt 15

S : "monmenoy ten bonfesow re Asnawia ntua ingosno atai?"

'The groom who wants to marry Asnawia daughter, whose name is it?

Q : "Jee geo Asrul pa"

'his name is Asrul'

In the excerpt 15, the term monmenoy is used by the speaker S (woman) to her friend Q (woman) in the wedding ceremony, they gossip and ask what the name of the groom is getting married. So, the term monmenoy in this conversation means the groom because it is seen from the context of the object that is the focus of the speaker using the term.

In excerpt 16 below, the speaker using the term monmenoy in speaking to the speech partner is people (men or women) who have relationship because they child already getting married, and know the object that focuses on the conversation talking about, the context that uses for identifying the meaning in term monmenoy is an object context.

Excerpt 16

W : "gem anim monmenoy a ndel terjol aya pa?"

'your son-in-law doesn't join the group that is taking wood?

D : "Nfan pa, nemgaya tegen nwe yowo si"

'No, his tired because he just came to the catch fish in the river.'

In the excerpt 16, the word monmenoy is used by the speaker W (person) who is talking to his friend where listener D (father-in-law) has a relationship with the object as a father-in-law. So, in this conversation, the term monmenoy means son-in-law because it is seen from the position of the speaker and listener, and the object.

Melofo

The word melofo means bride, and daughter-in-law. The following examples will show the difference of the meaning of the term melofo when used. Excerpts 17 and 18 will explain the different meanings used in communicating.

In excerpt 17 below, the speaker using the term melofo in speaking to the speech partner is people (men or women) who have relationship because they child already getting married, and know the object that focuses on the

conversation talking about, the context that uses for identifying the meaning in term melofo is an object context.

Excerpt 17

- D : "melofo ja bisa ipa, ikoma mtu apa"
'my daughter-in-law is very stingy'
E : "ge mu anim yoya bon febingi isi"
'You have to tell your son to advise his wife'

In the excerpt 17, the word melofo is used by the speaker (mother-in-law) to the listener E (person) who is talking about the child's wife who has a stingy nature. So the term melofo in this conversation means daughter-in-law because it is seen from the position of the speaker, and the object of conversation.

In excerpt 18 below, the speaker using the term melofo in speaking to the speech partner is people (men or women) who know the object that focuses on the conversation talking about, the context that uses for identifying the meaning in term melofo is an object context.

Excerpt 18

- J : "melofo ja enberahi asangaja temew"
'the bride so gorgeous'
A : "inio pake ama nberahi asangaja"
'also, her gown is very beautiful'

Excerpt 18, the conversation occurs when the speaker J (woman) is talking to a listener A (woman) who attends out a wedding ceremony and uses the term melofo for the bride. So, in conversation, the term melofo means bride because it is seen from the context of the object being discussed.

Mood Context

In excerpt 19 below, the speaker using the term aye in speaking to the speech partner is people (men or women) who speech based on her or his mood, also the speaker and the speech partner are native speakers so they already know the meaning that talking about. The context that uses for identifying the meaning in the term aye is a mood context.

Excerpt 19

Aye

- Q : "Aye yak fan peto kemgaya si"
'I can't go I am already tired'
W : "gabeca mcobon na yebey to"
'alright, then you can be waiting at my house.'

The term aye has several meaning for term of address that already been explained in the chapter three, previous pages above, but term aye also has a meaning as a particle like in the excerpt 19, the conversation above use of the term aye is used when speaker Q (woman) is talking to listener W (man) where

the speaker complains that she is too tired. So the term *aye* in this sentence has a meaning begging because it is seen based on the speaker's mood.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In relation to the question of the problem arised, this research aims to identify what kinds of terms of address which are used in Bicoli language, and to describe in what context each term of address is used by the speaker of the Bicoli language that have been stated in the previous chapter. Through this research, it is revealed that several words such as address terms have multiple meanings in Bicoli language, in which some of them are the terms; *aye*, *nyangan*, *legaya*, *aremag*, *monmenoy*, *melofo*, *tamay*, *doliu*, *balo*, and *del*. These terms have meaning that can change based on context, namely individual context, object context, mood context, and can also be a particle. For example, the term *aye* if in an individual context. the meaning can be mother, grandma, old man, and also can be a particle. The term *monmenoy* in object context the meanings can be groom, and son-in-law. While the term *aye* in the context of mood means changing into a particle-based on the sentence used. As for the recommendation, since there are other regional languages spoken in the North Maluku region and little research has been done on them, studies on multiple meanings of address terms in Bicoli language can serve as a reference for future studies. Additionally, this study may also be included to the reading lists of libraries in order to advance knowledge, especially in the field of linguistics.

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