

Uncover the Linguistic Emotional Expressions in Lamaholot Language and the Contribution of Bahasa Indonesia in a Language Contact Situation.

Elvis Albertus Bin Toni
Elvis001@e.ntu.edu.sg
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Linguistic emotional expressions differ across language. These expressions can consist of single words (e.g. *angry, happy, sad*), compounds (e.g. *love in, interested in*) idioms (e.g. *to hit the ceiling* ‘to become very angry’, *shaking like a leaf* ‘to be extremely afraid’). The distribution of these expression types across language differs too. Yu (2002) reports that in Chinese most of the expressions are compounds and idioms. Both types contain body parts and adjectival and verbal predicates (e.g. compound= *lian-re/face-hot* ‘feel ashamed’; (e.g. idiom=(*hui-tou tu-lian / gray/dusty-head earthy-face*) ‘dejected/despondent/depressed).

This present study describes the distribution of the linguistic emotional expression types in Lamhalolot language (an Austronesian language of the Central Malayo-Polynesian branch spoken in the eastern part of Flores, in Solor, Adonara, and Lembata, in Eastern Indonesia) and the contributions of Bahasa Indonesia to the linguistic emotional expression inventory of the Lamaholot language. Bahasa Indonesia is taken into consideration due to its close contact with Lamaholot. It is assumed that its strong role as a national language of Indonesia, on the other hand, makes its influence to a smaller language like Lamaholot is unavoidable.

This study answers the following questions: (1) What types of linguistic emotional expressions are in Lamaholot language? (2) How are the expressions structured? (3) What does Bahasa Indonesia contribute to the linguistic emotional expression inventory of the Lamaholot language? The data of this present study were collected with an elicitation task. Twelve fluent native speakers of Lamaholot who live on Adonara were consulted. With One hundred emotion antecedents targeting seven emotion categories (*Anger, Love, Happiness, Sadness, Fear, Shame, and Disgust*), a total of 139 different expressions were collected. The data display three expression types i.e. compound (e.g. *ae-k wi'i* ‘my face stiffed =I am embarrassed’), idiom (e.g. *lei-k lima-k geridin/na*), and a combination of free and bound morphemes (e.g. *menerek-k* ‘I like). Most of the compounds and the idioms contain the combination of body part terms and adjectives or inchoative verbs with metaphorical and metonymical meaning.

This study also proves the impact of language contact between Lamaholot and Bahasa Indonesia with several examples of Indonesian lexicons adopted into the Lamaholot emotion expressions inventory such as *emosi-k* ‘I get angry’, *gugupe-k* ‘I am nervous/shy’, *one-k cinta'ro* ‘my heart loves her/him it, *one-k suka* ‘my heart likes’ *one-k menare* (from *tertarik*) ‘my heart is interested’ *one-k bangga* ‘my heart is proud/ happy). As those examples indicate, the adopted lexicons are distributed into two types of expression i.e. compound and combination of free and bound morphemes. All of the compounds are metonymical.

Key words: *Emotion, body part terms, morpheme, metaphor and metonymy.*

References:

Kövecses, Z. 2000. *Metaphor and Emotion: Language, Culture, and Body in Human Feeling*. Cambridge:

Cambridge University Press.

Yu, Ning. 2002. Body and Emotion: Body parts in Chinese Expression of Emotion. *Pragmatic & Cognition* 10 (1), 341-367.