

FAKULTAS SASTRA UNIVERSITAS DARMA AGUNG

JURNAL LITTERA

VOLUME I / 3 April 2011

ISSN: 2089 - 0273



1. Carry Elen Marjono, M.Pd, S.Pd
THE IMPACT OF JOURNAL LITERA IN THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE STUDENTS
2. Magdalena Marjono, S.Pd, M.Pd
CONTRIBUTION OF JOURNAL LITERA IN THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE STUDENTS
3. George Herry
THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE STUDENTS IN THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE
4. Drs. Nugraha Ningsih, M.Pd
RESEARCH OF LITERATURE STUDENTS IN THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE
5. Andri Silwan, S.Pd, M.Pd
THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE STUDENTS IN THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE
6. Drs. Nugraha Ningsih, M.Pd
RESEARCH OF LITERATURE STUDENTS IN THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE
7. Arifman Pambung, M.Pd
RESEARCH OF LITERATURE STUDENTS IN THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE
8. Herry Herry, M.Pd, M.Pd
RESEARCH OF LITERATURE STUDENTS IN THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE
9. Drs. Dendi Jackson
RESEARCH OF LITERATURE STUDENTS IN THE RESEARCH OF LITERATURE



Alamat Redaksi

Jl. DR. T.D. Pardece No. 21 Medan Telp. (061) 4535631- 4535432

**SEMANTIC CHANGES OF SOUTHERN DIALECT OF LI NIHA:
AN EVIDENCE OF ITS CHANGE****Saniago Dakhi**Sekolah Tinggi Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan
(STKIP) Nias Selatan
Email: saniagonias@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

This article addresses the semantic changes exploring the patterns and reasons of Southern dialect lexicon of Li Niha as an evidence of language change. The semantic change patterns are: 1) Noun to Noun, 2) Noun to Adjective, 3) Noun to Verb, 4) Adjective to Adjective, 5) Adverb to Verb, 6) Verb to Noun, 7) Verb to Verb, and 8) Verb to Adjective. And the semantic change reasons are regarded as analogy, metaphor, mutual concept, implication, and euphemism. In educational setting, the various semantic changes of Southern dialect lexicon of Li Niha implicitly implicate that language standardization, i.e. selection, codification, elaboration and acceptance, is not totally employed, consequently it bears an enormously complicated problem impeding the success of teaching and learning of Li Niha to the next generation.

Key words: *Lexicon, Change, Li Niha*

Introduction

A language is fundamentally viewed as much more than a system of communication. It is a symbolic marker that distinguishes who belongs to a group and who is outside. In this case language in general and *Li Niha* in particular is considered as a central feature of Nias

Ethnics-the reflection of Nias people identity. Hence, *Li Niha* in relation to this perspective it is, then, expected not to change since *Li Niha* purification and originality are extremely needed to establish its strong identity (Dakhi, 2011).

In reality, Wurm (2003:22) states that there are very few languages in Sumatera which would be likely targets for

endangerment from Indonesian and/or local languages. One language (*Li Niha*) on one of the islands located off the south-western coast of Sumatera is endangered since the lack of learning of *Li Niha*. Apart from this, according to Laiya (2009) Southern Nias dialect consists of 3,500 totally different vocabularies from other dialects of *Li Niha*. Therefore, it is obvious that Southern Nias dialect is a new phenomenon to which language change, especially lexical change takes place.

In line with the scientific evidence above which provides the convincing approval that lexical change, a sort of language change, in *Li Niha* takes place, it is wise to take into account and verify the substance of language change itself. Theoretically, language change consists in

the process in which the linguistic features gradually change from time to time as the nature and inevitability of any living language. It is tightly pertinent to what Jones and Singh (2005:4) state that English, like all languages, is constantly changing. Language change are complex and shared by other dynamic systems in the natural world. The change of language is manifested on all level of its parts: lexicon, syntactical, semantic, pragmatic, phonetic and phonemic.

Specifically, semantic change is primarily viewed as the diffusion processes in language meaning in which the restricted, extended and transferred meaning as the sort of semantics change take place. Principally, the study of semantics consists of words meaning, sentences meaning and utterances meaning. These three parts are termed the scope of semantics (Adisutrisno, 2008:6). Thus semantic change is viewed as the meaning change in these three scopes. The semantic change is numerously affected by mixings and borrowings of another language (Lindstrom, 2007: 233).

There is no interest research on language change in Nias which can be accumulatively treated as the means to get an access on display of the correlation between language change and semantic change. Another expression is that the change of meaning in *Li Niha* is still arguable since the research has not been executed. However, this article is aimed at releasing the answers for such hesitation and providing the scientific and authentic evidences of semantic change in Southern dialect of *Li Niha* as a review of Dakhi's research on March 2011. It presents the highly accurate data about the patterns and reasons of semantic change of Southern dialect of *Li Niha* which might be regarded as the evidence of *Li Niha* change.

A Brief Outline of Language Change and Semantic Change

The dynamics and changeability are the nature and inevitability of every living language (Trask, 1994:2 and Varshney, 1995:275). It is tightly pertinent to what Jones and Singh (2005:4) state that English, like all languages, is constantly changing. Language change are complex and shared by other dynamic systems in the natural world (Niyogi and Berwick, 1995:1). The way languages change offers insights into the nature of language itself. Ke, Gong, and Wang (2008:937) point out that language change can be viewed as a diffusion process of some new linguistic elements (*linguistic innovations*) in a language community. Language change explains the very substantial and complex change in the language features. On the other words, language change is a study of how historically linguistic features, namely phonetic, phonemic, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic change which extremely rooted from the combined effect (Yang, 2001:231) of internal and external factors.

The change of language is manifested at all linguistic levels, including lexicon. Lexical change is viewed as a process in which the word, concept or meaning are totally or partly replaced by another lexical item which is realized in the lexical loss, semantic change and lexical creation (Varshney, 1995:283) and thoroughly realized in every single sort of lexical classes: noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun, preposition, conjunction, and interjection. The Loss of lexical item is a phenomenon in which a particular use of word disappears, which yields 1) homonymic clash-words which have the same phonemic structure but different meaning, 2) phonetic attrition-word which becomes so altered as a consequence of the sound

change, 3) and shortening-an empirically linguistic phenomenon in an attempt to initialize or shorten any linguistic item. Semantic change definition impinges upon the highly convincing concept, that is, a process in which the lexical meaning synchronically and diachronically changes (Ullmann, 1959 in Varshney, 1995:284) as an influence of increasingly modern influence (or innovation), rather than the grammatical functions of a form (Bloomfield, 1933:425). And lexical creation focuses on the process by which a lexical item appears among the language users. According to Varshney (1995:289), the methods of creating new lexical item can be assigned to two main classes: (1) items created from sources within the language (internal borrowing) and (2) items created from outside sources (external borrowing).

Semantic change is another sort of language change. From the linguistics point of view, semantics is defined as the study of meaning in language (Hurford and Heasley, 1995:1). The study of semantics consists of words meaning, sentences meaning and utterances meaning. These three parts are termed the scope of semantics (Adisutrisno, 2008:6). Semantic change is viewed as the meaning change in the scope of semantics. The semantic change is numerous affected by mixings and borrowings of another language (Lindstrom, 2007: 233).

Linguistically, the study of changes of language meaning is substantially derived from the prevailing assumption that semantics as the study of language meaning having a broad domain. The changes of language meaning can be divided into diachronic and synchronic semantics (Ullmann, 1959 in Varshney, 1995:284). Diachronic semantics studies the change meaning of a certain lexical

item. A case in *Li Niha* word meaning of 'moto' which means 'motorcycle' has changed to 'car'. Synchronic semantics refers to the study of semantic relationship, simple or multiple. An apparent exemplification is the meaning of 'book' which sometimes means a place to save the money and a side part of a river. Bloomfield (1933:425) has ever remarked that innovations which change the lexical meanings rather than the grammatical functions of a form are classed as change of meaning or semantic change.

Pertinent to the account above the semantic change definition impinges upon the highly convincing concept, that is, a process in which the lexical meaning synchronically and diachronically changes as an influence of increasingly modern influence (or innovation), rather than the grammatical functions of a form.

The changes of meaning can be brought about by an infinite multiplicity of causes (Varshney, 1995:284). They are as follows:

1) Linguistic causes

Some semantic changes take place because of the associations which words contract in speech such as the English word *but*. The word *but* originally comes from the Anglo-Saxon *beutan*, means properly outside. When it means only, it stand for *ne but*. The negation was finally suppressed "We have here but five loaves and two fishes" (Matt. XIV 17); such in the text of Authorized Version. But the Agglo-Saxon Gospel says: "*We nabbad (nehabbad) her buton fif hlafas und twegen fiscas*". In the course of time negation became superfluous, the particle *but* having taken the meaning upon itself (Varshney, 1995:285).

2) Historical causes

Historical cause of lexical loss is defined as the processes of conservatism and innovation. For instance, the English word *car* originates from Latin *carrus*, which meant a four-wheeled wagon and was repeatedly mentioned in Caesar's commentaries on the Gallic War.

3) Environmental causes

Environmental causes encompass social, cultural, geographical, political, religious, physical and economic. To cite an example, Indonesian word *kereta*, means motorcycle is used in North Sumatera and train is called in Java. These two different meanings are totally derived from the two different environmental conditions of language speakers, where in North Sumatera there are few trains.

4) Psychological causes

Obviously language meaning is naturally processed in the speakers' mind. Hence, a chance similarity which catches the eye, humorous association which strikes the mind, may produce an image which, because of its appropriateness or expressive quality, will pass from individual style into common usage (Varshney, 1995:286). For example, clothes-horse, horse-fish, horse-tall, and so on. The speakers' thought of emotive factors and taboo are the causes of psychological factors of lexical loss. The taboo consists of taboo of fear such as God instead of the Master or the Lord and Devil instead of Hornie or Satan, taboo of delicacy such as weak or feeble instead of imbecile and legs among ladies instead of limbs and propriety such as (Hindi) *margaya* instead of *ram nam satya ho gaya*.

5) Foreign influences

Semantic change is also caused by foreign language, e.g. French *parlement*, which originally meant 'speaking' and then come to denote a 'judicious court' under the influence of English parliament 'legislative assembly'.

6) The need for a new name

The need for a new name as another factor of lexical loss is regarded as an extremely important cause of semantic change as the creation of new lexical item takes place. The processes of naming can be conducted into three things: 1) form a new word from existing element (e.g. Indonesian *komputer*, rice cooker, etc.), 2) borrow a term from a foreign language or some other sources, e.g. Indonesian *parlemen*, *legislatif*, *konstitusi*, etc., and 3) alter the meaning of an old word.

Southern Dialect of *Li Niha*

Nias people name their language as *Li Niha*, one of hundreds of vernacular in Indonesia, which means the language of human being (Dakhi, 2011). There is no a precise and convincing classification of *Li Niha* to which it is included among the language family in the world. However, a putative group was carried out in 2008 according to the analysis of the *Austronesian Basic Vocabulary Database* that *Li Niha* appears to be closest to Central-Easter Malayo-Polynesian. This is convincingly derived from its characteristics which meet the general Malayo-Polynesian characteristics, such as 1) the tendency to employ the reduplication of all or part of a word, e.g. *buku-buku* 'books' and *rumah-rumah* 'houses, to express the plural; 2) the majority also lack consonant clusters, e.g., [str] or [mpt] in English; and 3) Most also

have only a small set of vowels, five being a common number. Nevertheless, according to Himmelmann (2005:111) that Nias language geographically grouped as barrier island languages. They are languages spoken on the island chain west of Sumatera including Nias, Enggano, Mentawai, Sichule and Simelu.

Li Niha is spoken in three different dialects (Zagotō, 1975 and Brown, 1994:56), namely *si fabada'ō* or Northern dialect, *si fabagandrō* or Central dialect and *si fabahō'ō* or Southern dialect. Edwards (2009:63) argues that a dialect is a variety of a language that differs from others along three dimensions: vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. A dialect is not totally different from another dialect. To some extents they might be different but in the other aspects are the same. Some experts call such this phenomenon as "mutually intelligible".

The Southern dialect of *Li Niha* is used by the people in Teluk Dalam, Fanayama, Toma and Maenamōlō sub districts. The Central dialect of *Li Niha* is spoken in Gomo, Lōlōwa'u, Lōlōmatua and Aramō sub districts, whereas the Northern dialect of *Li Niha* is dominantly used by people in Gunungsitoli, Mandrehe, Lōlōfitumoi, Tuhe Mberua, Gidō and Idanō Gawo sub districts.

Semantic Change in Southern Dialect of *Li Niha*

Eight patterns of semantic change in Southern dialect of *Li Niha* based on the Dakhi's research finding in 2010 are displayed on the table below.

Table 4: Number of Occurrence of Semantic Change Pattern

| No | Pattern of Change | Example | Number of Occurrence | Percentage |
|----|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1 | Noun to Noun | <i>fanoko</i> | 34 | 47% |
| 2 | Noun to Adjective | <i>tefaō</i> | 22 | 31% |
| 3 | Noun to Verb | <i>suti</i> | 7 | 10% |
| 4 | Adjective to Adjective | <i>gariti</i> | 3 | 4% |
| 5 | Adverb to Verb | <i>ba gawu</i> | 2 | 3% |
| 6 | Verb to Noun | <i>fahombo</i> | 2 | 3% |
| 7 | Verb to Verb | <i>ōhō</i> | 1 | 1% |
| 8 | Verb to Adjective | <i>molombase</i> | 1 | 1% |

The displayed data above leads our attention to the numbers 1 Noun to Noun and 2 Noun to Adjective as the patterns which have the dominant number of occurrence. Noun to Adjective pattern occurred 22 (twenty two) times of

occurrence or 31% (thirty one percent) and Noun to Noun pattern has 34 (thirty four times of occurrence) or 47% (forty seven percent) from the data obtained. On the other hand, the patterns of Verb to Adjective (1 time), Adjective to Adjective

(3 times), Adverb to Verb (2 times), Verb to Noun (1 time), and Noun to Verb (7 times) are not significant.

Those patterns are pertinent to the conversion-a functional shift from one category to another (Brinton & Trugott, 2005:36). However, the term conversion is still too general and without any further explicitly stated exemplification. Through this finding, it comes to the expression that the numerous worthwhile exploration of semantic change patterns has been figured out in detail.

These patterns are strongly rooted from the process of analogy, metaphor, mutual concept, and implication. Additionally euphemism played an important role in changing the meaning of the lexicons gathered. This is precisely congruent with what recently found by Ali and Mohideen (2010:102-106) that euphemism usage directly pours on the change of language. This finding is a little bit contrastive with the type of semantic change theorized by Varshney (1995:288-289). As he suggested that the semantic change is patterned into restricted-the meaning of the word is narrowed and made specific from general, extended-the meaning of the word is developed and adopted to another concept, and transferred-the meaning of the word is shifted. This is not completely applicable with the research finding; only the restricted meaning existed. A result of the extremely geographic influence of *Li Niha* which is regarded as an endangered language (Wurm, 2003:22) or a barrier island language (Himmelman, 2005:111). This condition, of course, is quite different

from English as a lingua franca. Their distinctive features implicitly impinge upon their speakers' characteristics of life from which the various numbers of lexicons of the same object emerge. For instance, the words related to the 'coconut' considerably appear in *Li Niha* not in English which is dominated by the presence of the word 'bread'.

Obviously, three ranges of semantic change patterns, e.g. major, adequate and minor, are displayed on the table. Major patterns are Noun to Noun and Noun to Adjective; adequate pattern is Noun to Verb; and minor patterns are Adjective to Adjective, Adverb to Verb, Verb to Noun, Verb to Verb, and Verb to Adjective. The various numbers of occurrences of each sort of pattern, of course, is fundamentally rooted from its extent of characteristics. For instance, Noun to Noun and Noun to Adjective as the major patterns found is influenced by their practical use as device for analogy and metaphor: "a word [which] is used for something resembling that which it usually refers to" (Halliday, 1994:340). Treating them as distinct, the convincingly concise and detailed explanation is as follows.

1.1 Noun to Noun

Noun to Noun pattern, the most significant pattern in semantic change in Southern dialect lexicon of *Li Niha*, has 34 (thirty four times) of occurrence or 47% (forty seven percent) from the data obtained. This pattern is entirely unique since the meaning changes to the same lexical class. Some apparent examples are shown below.

Table 5: Noun to Noun Pattern of Semantic Change

| No | Lexicons | Basic Meaning | Changes of Meaning |
|----|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | <i>fanoko</i> (n) | hammer (n) | punishment (n) |
| 2 | <i>mandrera</i> (n) | flag (n) | code, symbol, or gesture knowing whether they (magicians) are from the same master (n) |
| 3 | <i>guti</i> (n) | scissors (n) | trouble maker (n) |
| 4 | <i>gaji</i> (n) | odd of numbers (n) | extremely dangerous magic (n) |

Note: (n) is noun

The word *fanoko* is a noun which means hammer. It is a typical and analogy of punishment, which is also categorized as noun. Similarly in the words *mandrera* 'flag', *guti* 'scissors' and *gaji* 'odd of numbers' change to the same lexical class, that is, noun. Hence, the sustained change meaning from noun to noun-a change from and to the mutual lexical class-is definitely influenced by the analogy as an evidence of the increasingly extended meaning of Southern dialect of *Li Niha*.

1.2 Noun to Adjective

The second pattern of semantic change Southern dialect lexicon is Noun to Adjective. It has 22 (twenty two) times of occurrence or 31% (thirty one percent) from the whole data obtained. Note the following table.

Table 6: Noun to Adjective Pattern of Semantic Change

| No | Lexicons | Basic Meaning | Changes of Meaning |
|----|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | <i>tefao</i> (n) | iron (n) | strong (adj) |
| 2 | <i>lašakule</i> (n) | stratum, layer, lining, row (n) | unbelievable (adj) |
| 3 | <i>celacela</i> (n) | cloth with the lowest quality (n) | unimportant (adj) |
| 4 | <i>faku</i> (n) | hoe (n) | selfish, arrogant (adj) |

Note: (n) is noun

(adj) is adjective

The way of those changes is the definitely applicable realization of a particular conceptual feature to another lexical item. A case in *tefao* 'iron' which contains a conceptual feature strong. Consequently, a great possibility

implication impinges upon the empirical truth, that is, the change of lexical meaning by Noun to Adjective pattern serves as a device in metaphorically stating a certain meaning by using one or more characteristics of the noun being

used. This sort of change is tentative depending on the social context. Social context, defined as mental models of social situations of communication, is in many ways interfaces between discourse and society (Dijk, 2009:29). It encompasses addressee, addresser, topic, temporal and special. A crisp and concise exemplification is precisely portrayed on the use of word 'operation' by a thief, which means to go to steal. Unlike, a doctor who probably defines this sort of simple lexicon as a process of cutting open a part of the body to remove a diseased and injured part.

1.3 Noun to Verb

The third sort of semantic change of Southern dialect lexicon of *Li Niha* is Noun to Verb. It has 7 (seven) lexicons or ten percent from the data obtained. This number is not significant, but still adequate. However, it is still considerably unique comparing with other patterns of changes. The substantial distinction lies on the transferred lexical class of noun to verb.

Table 7: Noun to Verb Pattern of Semantic Change

| No | Lexicons | Basic Meaning | Changes of Meaning |
|----|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>suti</i> (n) | injection (n) | persuade to do bad thing (v) |
| 2 | <i>bola</i> (n) | ball (n) | make a fool of someone (v) |
| 3 | <i>karu</i> (n) | sack (n) | take all (v)* |

Note: (n) is noun

(v) is verb

Suti 'injection' which is classified as a noun, a linguistically acceptable category, becomes a verb 'persuade to do bad thing'. Similarly *bola* 'ball' moves to make a fool of someone (v) and *karu* 'snack' changes to take all (v). This phenomenon provides an approval that the change of semantic change is potentially influenced by the characteristics of the lexical items being used, which is mutually applicable to other concept through the process of metaphor, the use of language to refer to something other than what it was originally applied to, or what it 'literally' means in order to suggest

some resemblance or make a connection the two things (Knowles & Moon, 2006:2). This concept is in line with the Noun to Adjective pattern above.

1.4 Adjective to Adjective

Another pattern of semantic change of Southern dialect lexicon of *Li Niha* is termed as Adjective to Adjective. This concept is the same as the change pattern of Noun to Noun because of its changes to the same lexical class, i.e. noun to noun or adjective to adjective.

Table 8: Adjective to Adjective Pattern of Semantic Change

| No | Lexicons | Basic Meaning | Changes of Meaning |
|----|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1 | <i>gariti (adj)</i> | curly (adj) | unbelievable (adj) |
| 2 | <i>legaitō (adj)</i> | sweaty (adj) | tired (adj) |

Note: (adj) is adjective

The word *gariti* means curly, an adjective. It changes to 'unbelievable' which is also an adjective. In this case, the change of this meaning is not resulted from the process of analogy; but it is viewed as a process in which the concept of the lexical item is mutually applicable and transferable to another one.

1.5 Adverb to Verb

This sort of semantic change pattern is numerous exiting because the change starts from the lexical class of noun to verb. Look the words below.

Table 9: Adverb to Verb Pattern of Semantic Change

| No | Lexicons | Basic Meaning | Changes of Meaning |
|----|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>ba ene (adv)</i> | at the beach (adv) | (to) find out fish at the beach (v) |
| 2 | <i>ba gawu (adv)</i> | at the beach (adv) | (to) find out fish at the beach (v) |

Note: (adv) is adverb

(v) is verb

From the table above, it indicates that the lexical class of adverb changes to verb. Generally, these are the expressions of the fisherman. By saying so, their purpose to go to fish is implicitly stated. Hence implication is also treated as an influential factor of semantic change.

1.6 Verb to Noun

The sixth pattern of semantic change of Southern dialect of *Li Niha* is Verb to Noun. This process of change starts from the verb to noun. One case in Southern dialect of *Li Niha* is exemplified as follows.

Table 10: Verb to Noun Pattern of Semantic Change

| No | Lexicons | Basic Meaning | Changes of Meaning |
|----|--------------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | <i>fahombo</i> (v) | jumping (v) | accident by falling down from the coconut tree (n) |

Note: (n) is noun

(v) is verb

The word *fahombo* literally means 'jumping', a verb. However, in Southern people's characteristics of life, this lexicon is usually coded metaphorically to express that someone get an accident, especially when he falls down from the coconut tree. Thus, this sort of semantic change is regarded as the process of euphemism.

1.7 Verb to Verb

The seventh pattern of semantic change is Verb to Verb. This change is the same as Noun to Noun and Adjective to Adjective pattern by which the same lexical class moves to another one.

Table 11: Verb to Verb Pattern of Semantic Change

| No | Lexicons | Basic Meaning | Changes of Meaning |
|----|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1 | <i>đhđ</i> (v) | fasten (v) | secure (v) |

Note: v

The word *đhđ* means '(to) fasten'. This meaning moves to 'secure'. However, they are still the same lexical class. Thus this sort of semantic change can be viewed as the process by which the meaning of a certain lexical item is coded in another same lexical item. This evidence is as consequence of its mutually applicable concept.

1.8 Verb to Adjective

The last but not the least, Verb to Adjective pattern of semantic change is the same as Verb to Noun. It has only 1 (one) lexicon or 1% (one percent) from the data obtained.

Table 12: Verb to Adjective Pattern of Semantic Change

| No | Lexicons | Basic Meaning | Changes of Meaning |
|----|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | <i>molombase</i> (v) | (to) take a rest (v) | dead (adj), die |

Note: (adj) is adjective

(v) is verb

The word *molombase*, which is classified as a verb, congruently means (to) take a rest. However, this sometimes changes to 'dead', an adjective. Thus, by all accounts it is resulted from the process of euphemism, a sort of indirection to soften the ill effects of a negative utterance (Israel, 2006 in Horn & Ward, 2006:708)

The detailed picture of the sorts of semantic change pattern of Southern dialect of *Li Niha* reveals two highlighted concepts. Firstly, the pattern of semantic change, in relation to 'from which to which' change; can be thoroughly categorized into two main types, i.e. intra lexical semantic change and inter lexical semantic change. Intra lexical semantic change is meant as a semantic change of the same lexical class, for instance, Noun to Noun, Verb to Verb, or Adjective to Adjective; whereas inter lexical semantic change is regarded as the change of semantic change in which a certain lexical item moves to another different one, for example, Verb to Noun, Noun to Verb, or Adverb to Verb. On the other words, any sort of semantic change pattern above just impinges upon the extended lexical meaning. It indicates that the meaning of any lexicon of Southern dialect of *Li Niha* increasingly applicable to another domain of linguistic item and never narrowed or made specific from general.

Secondly, the influential factors of semantic change are analogy, metaphorical, mutual concept, implication, and euphemism. The analogy is completely applied when the language users is using a conceptual feature of a linguistic item to another one. Metaphor is viewed as a word which is used for something resembling that which it usually refers to. Mutual concept is the sameness of conceptual features of the linguistic items. The implication is the process by

which an extremely unpleasant matter is indirectly stated. This result is substantially distinguishable with what Varshney (1995:284) notices that the reasons of semantic changes are linguistic, historical, environmental, psychological, foreign influences, and the need for a new name. Other different theories are Lindstrom (2007:233) who said that the semantic change is extremely affected by mixings and borrowings of another language, and Denham and Lobeck (2005:2) who remark that the reasons of language change are assimilation-the result of making a certain sequence of sound easier to say, language regularization and analogy-the act of adopting a concept of words to another different setting and phenomenon.

Conclusion

The semantic change of Southern dialect of *Li Niha* above can be argued as the evidence of *Li Niha* change in general. The semantic change both inter and intra patterns are realized in: 1) Noun to Noun, 2) Noun to Adjective, 3) Noun to Verb, 4) Adjective to Adjective, 5) Adverb to Verb, 6) Verb to Noun, 7) Verb to Verb, and 8) Verb to Adjective. The reasons for this phenomenon are regarded as analogy, metaphor, mutual concept, implication, and euphemism. These complex reasons implicitly provide the access on the unsuccessfulness and failure of leaning *Li Niha* for the next generation in Nias.

References:

- Adisutrisno, D. W. 2008. *Semantics: An Introduction to the Basic Concepts*. Yogyakarta: C.V. Andi Offset.
- Ali, H. M. B. M. and Mohideen, S. 2010. *Awareness of Contemporary Lexical Change for Professional Competence*

- in English Language Education. In *European Journal of Social Sciences* – Vol. 13, pg. 101-107, No. 1 (2010). Kuala Lumpur: International Islamic University Malaysia Press.
- Bloomfield, L. 1933. *Language*. London: George Allen & Unwin LTD.
- Brown, L. 1994. *Nominal Mutation in Nias*. In Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference, Sydney.
- Brinton, L. J. and Traugott, E. C. 2005. *Lexicalization and Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dakhi, S. 2011. *Lexical Changes of Southern Dialect of Li Niha* (Master's thesis). Medan: State University of Medan.
- Denham, K. & Lobeck, A. (2005). *Teaching Kids about Language Change, Language Endangerment, and Language Death*. Mahwan, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Dijk, T. A. V. 2009. *Society and Discourse: How Social Context Influence Text and Talk*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Edwards, J. 2009. *Language and Identity*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Halliday, M. A. K. 1994. *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. 2nd Edition. London: Edward Arnold.
- Himmelman, N. P. 2005. The Austronesian Languages of Asia and Madagascar: Typological Characteristics. In Adelaar, K. A., and Himmelmann, N. P. 2005. *The Austronesian Languages and of South East Asia and Madagascar*. London: Routledge.
- Hurford, J. M. and Heasley, B. 1995. *Semantic: A Coursebook*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Israel, M. (2006). The Pragmatics on Polarity. In Horn, L. R. & Ward, G. (Eds.). *The Handbook of Pragmatics* (pp. 701-723) Malden: Blackwell Publishing.
- Jones, M. C. and Singh, I. 2005. *Exploring Language Change*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Ke, J., Gong, T. and Wang, W. S-L. 2008. *Language Change and Social Networks*. Communications in Computational Physics Vol. 3, No. 4, pp. 935-949.
- Knowles, M. & Moon, R. 2006. *Introducing Metaphor*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Laiya, B. 2009. *Nias Language*. Retrieved on October 10, 2010 from http://www.niasisland.com/home/writing_disp.php?writing_no_option=003153&category_code_option=PR
- Lindstrom, L. 2007. *Bismala into Kwamera: Code-Mixing and Language Change on Tanna (Vanuatu)*. University of Tulsa Press, E-ISSN 1934-5275.
- Niyogi, P. and Berwick, R. C. 1995. *The Logical Problem of Language Change*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

- Trask, R. L. 1994. *Language Change*. London: Routledge.
- Ullmann, S. 1951. The Principles of Semantics. In Varshney, R. L. 1995. *An Introductory Textbook of Linguistics and Phonetics*. Rampur Bagh: Student Store.
- Varshney, R. L. 1995. *An Introductory Textbook of Linguistics and Phonetics*. Rampur Bagh: Student Store.
- Wurm, S. A. 2003. The Language Situation and Language Endangerment in the Greater Pacific Area. In Janse, M. and Tol, S. (eds) 2003. *Language Death and Language Maintenance: Theoretical, Practical and Descriptive Approaches*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publication Company. Vol. 240, pg. 15-47.
- Yang, C. D. 2001. *Internal and External Forces in Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Zagoto, S. 1975. *Descriptive Analysis of the Phonemes of the South Variety of Nias Language, Indonesia*. Dumaguete City: Silliman University Press.