

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, clarification of key terms, and organization of writing.

### 1.1. Background

Morphology is one of the branches of linguistics which looks at the way words are formed. It is the study of how words are put together. It deals with how words are constructed (Lieber, 2009: 2). Hence, morphology is the study of word formation which studies how the internal structure of words and the interrelationships among words.

Moreover, the area of study of morphology is divided into several parts. One of those parts is morphological process. It is a process of word formation by connecting one morpheme to other morpheme. morphological processes are those mechanisms employed by speakers of a language to change or modify the meaning of particular base-forms, as well as form new words. It involves adding, subtracting or modifying the base-forms of words in a language to suit its syntactic and communicational contexts (Obuasi, 2016: 18).

Furthermore, this research will discuss how the morphological process of superlative adjective in English and Sundanese. For this reason, superlative adjective has a unique pattern to compare the objects at the upper or lower of a quality. It can compare three or more nouns and takes the comparison of nouns to the highest or lowest degree. The pattern of superlative adjective in one language with the other language has the similarities and differences, especially in English and Sundanese.

Meanwhile, English and Sundanese are the products of language. Language as a system of communication in general has a unique characteristic which is different, because the language is formed by a number of components that are patterned permanently and can be principle. Language is not only unique in the sense that it has its own characteristics for each of it, but it is also universal as it has same characteristics and exists in all languages. It means that there is a possibility of some languages including English and Sundanese to have the differences and similarities from the smallest things such as phonemes, words, phrases, clauses, sentences, until the level of the most extensive such as a paragraph or discourse. Each language has its own rules that cover sound and sequence-order, formation of word, and arrangement of sentence-structure (Samsuri, 1994 in Prafantya, 2011: 1197).

English and Sundanese are two languages that have their own uniqueness. One of the uniqueness can be observed from how the discovery of similarities and differences in the pattern of superlative adjective when analyzed based on the theory of morphology especially morphological process. Superlative adjective in Sundanese does not have rule of one-, two-, three- or more-syllable as like English. Even though, it has some patterns which is almost same with English.

The comparison between one language and another also has been discussed by Prafantya (2011) who analyzed how the comparative and superlative adjectives in English and Indonesian. That previous study greatly assists the researcher to resume a new study by different objects and will certainly be more detailed than previous study. In this research will be discussed the matters that have not been discussed by previous research.

Besides, previous study can be found in a research by Anggrina (2014) who analyzed how the morphological process on adjective formations in a movie. This previous study focused

on derivation and inflection process that makes it different from this research that deals with the patterns of superlative adjective based on some morphological process.

Moreover, the analysis of morphological process can also be found in a research by Obuasi (2016) who analyzed the morphological process in Anaku Igbo by using concatenate and non-concatenate process. It discussed the formation of words in the same style as other world languages which more towards the derivational process other than the inflectional process. It is different from this research which is focused on the morphological process in the structure of superlative adjective between English and Sundanese.

This research is related to contrastive analysis that discusses the differences of one language to another. It will also analyze some slight similarities of it. The objects of this research are English and Sundanese. For this reason, English as a foreign language is widely used in the international community. It has unique patterns of superlative adjective which makes the researcher is attracted in comparing with Sundanese as the most popular language in West Java. Thus, this study will provide insight how each language has the uniqueness.

## **1.2. Statement of Problem**

Based on the description in the background above, every language has the uniqueness of each especially in English and Sundanese which have the different pattern in the structure of superlative adjective. As a result, this research will study how the structure of superlative adjectives in English and Sundanese through the questions as follows:

1. How is the morphological process of superlative adjectives in English?
2. How is the morphological process of superlative adjectives in Sundanese?

3. What are the differences and similarities in the morphological process of superlative adjectives in English and Sundanese?

### **1.3. Research Objective**

The specific purposes of the research are:

1. To investigate how is the morphological process of superlative adjectives in English.
2. To analyze how is the morphological process of superlative adjectives in Sundanese.
3. To find out what are the differences and similarities in the morphological process of comparative and superlative adjectives in English and Sundanese.

### **1.4. Research Significance**

The researcher expects that this research is useful both theoretically as well as practically, as follows:

Theoretically, this research is able to serve as a reference or input for the expansion of structural patterns variety in any language, especially in English and Sundanese.

Practically, this research gives many information and references for university students who are majoring English in applications of Morphology especially superlative adjectives, then how are the differences and the similarities between English and other language like Sundanese. As learning a theory will understand if it is supported by practice, learning language structure of English and Sundanese especially concern on adjectives and observes certain the differences of adjectives degree in certain media, and so on.

## **1.5. Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid ambiguity and misunderstanding on the term which is used in this research, the researcher defines some key terms as follows:

### **1. Morphological Process**

Morphological process is a combination process of morpheme with other morpheme in order to make morphological construction. It is a process of word formation from the basic word to be derivative form such as affixation, reduplication, and composition.

### **2. Morpheme**

Morpheme is a smallest grammatical unit which has meaning. It cannot be separated into smaller part.

### **3. Superlative Adjective**

Superlative adjective is one of the comparison degrees in adjectives. It compares three or more nouns and takes the comparison of nouns to the highest or lowest degree.

### **4. Contrastive Analysis**

Contrastive analysis is the systematic study to compare the structure of languages and identify the differences and similarities.

## **1.6. Organization of Writing**

This paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter I presents the discussion of background, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, definition of key terms and organization of writing. Chapter II establishes the theory that is used for the research. It involves the discussion of morphology, morpheme, morphological process, adjectives,

superlative adjectives in English, and superlative adjectives in Sundanese. Chapter III discusses the research method and the procedures designed to answer the research questions. The study uses a qualitative descriptive research approaches. This chapter covers the research design, data, sources of data, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. Chapter IV concerns on the explanation of analysis how the morphological process of superlative adjective in English and Sundanese, then how the differences and similarities in the morphological process of superlative adjective in English and Sundanese. The last, Chapter V delivers the conclusion of the research which can answer the question of this research. Then, in this chapter is completed with suggestion for the research.

