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REPRESENTATION OF MUNA LANGUAGE WISDOM IN NATURE CONSERVATION: AN ECOLINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

This research aims to provide language wisdom in the form of expressions in preserving the natural environment. This research reveals how these communities care for and treat natural resources, especially rivers and sacred forests, in the context of environmental and cultural sustainability. This research method uses a qualitative descriptive approach. The research results show that the Muna people have a close connection with nature, where they consider rivers and sacred forests as spiritual heritage that must be well protected. Traditional rules that protect water sources and holy forests are the basis for the Muna people in maintaining ecological balance and avoiding actions that could damage the natural environment. Verbal expressions in the Muna language also reflect local wisdom values related to the natural environment, such as the prohibition of cutting trees around rivers or sacred forests.

Keywords: Wisdom, Muna Language, Nature Conservation

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INTRODUCTION

Muna Island, as part of Southeast Sulawesi, is surrounded by a vast ocean and also has forest resources that are important for the sustainability of its ecosystem. The Muna ethnic community, which inhabits this island, has long developed maritime wisdom and forest-related wisdom in protecting its natural environment. The maritime wisdom of the Muna people is reflected in their traditional practices of catching fish, utilizing marine resources sustainably, and maintaining the balance of the aquatic ecosystem. On the other hand, forest-related wisdom emerges in their efforts to preserve sacred forests, pay attention to restrictions on wood use, and protect certain trees that are considered holy.

The marine world is not seen as a field of economic resources that can be treated arbitrarily but as a natural resource that needs to be protected and respected (Asrif 2017). The close relationship between maritime wisdom and forest-related wisdom and the natural environment of Muna Island is important for further study. This research will examine how the Muna people integrate maritime wisdom and forest-related wisdom into their daily practices, as well as the impact on ecological balance and environmental sustainability on the island of Muna. By understanding the relationship between maritime wisdom and wisdom related to forests and the natural environment, this research will make an important contribution to the development of sustainability strategies in natural resource management, as well as environmental conservation efforts on Muna Island.

Apart from that, an in-depth understanding of the relationship between maritime wisdom and wisdom related to forests and the natural environment can also provide new insights into facing increasingly complex environmental challenges, such as climate change, ecological damage and decreasing availability of natural resources. By considering the importance of the relationship between maritime wisdom and forest-related wisdom in the context of Muna Island's natural environment, this research is expected to make a significant contribution to providing a deeper understanding of how the Muna community manages and utilizes natural resources sustainably, taking into account the principles of maritime wisdom and wisdom related to forests.

The environment can be well maintained through local wisdom (Lestari et al. 2021). One of the local wisdom is found in local language expressions related to the natural environment. The unique language expressions of the Muna ethnic group apply to environmental management that is in line with human welfare. These expressions are

functional to protect the natural environment (Mardikantoro 2016). This expression with ecological nuances can become a memory for the community in protecting the environment and encodes the cultural diversity behind it (Nurdiyanto, Resticka, and Yanti 2022).

The relationship between language and ecology in macrolinguistics is part of the area of ecolinguistic studies. Ecolinguistics is a linguistic study that looks at language from an environmental (ecological) perspective (Baru 2016). The expressions owned by local communities that describe and code the environment are also included in the area of ecolinguistic studies. In other words, ecolinguistics is the search for language (phrases) that represent the environment, including those that contain the message of preserving the environment. So, in the end, this gave birth to an ecolinguistic view, one of which is tracing language codes that describe the environment (Hadirman 2022). This research aims to describe the wisdom of language in preserving nature. This research is a preliminary study to identify expressions that have the meaning of ecological wisdom.

METHODS

This study used a descriptive qualitative method. Data collection was carried out through participatory observation methods, interviews with community leaders, and focus group discussions with members of the Muna ethnic community. In addition, field recording techniques are used to observe daily practices related to maritime wisdom and the natural environment. This approach allows researchers to gain direct insight from local communities. In addition, a literature review was used. This literature review involves gathering information from various sources such as books, journals, articles, and related online sources. This step is important to obtain an in-depth understanding before collecting data.

The collected data was then analyzed qualitatively using an inductive approach. Analysis was carried out by summarizing the main findings from observations, interviews and group discussions, as well as identifying patterns, themes and concepts that emerged from the data. Interpretation of the findings was carried out by considering the cultural, historical and social context of the Muna community.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Expanding research on linguistic and cultural facts is needed to obtain a more comprehensive, realistic and anticipatory understanding. Although this study focuses on two Muna subcultural locations, it can provide valuable insight into the Muna ethnic and cultural values, language systems, and patterns of language use reflected in the collective consciousness of the Muna people in Southeast Sulawesi.

This understanding is important for formulating actual cultural conditions, which are also related to linguistic and ecological aspects. In addition, understanding more deeply the phenomena of structural and cultural change, including socio-cultural and ecological transformation processes, can be interpreted through verbal actions, especially in the context of the natural and social environment.

Language expressions related to the meaning of environmental conservation presented in the context of discourse, especially through various verbal expressions, still have richness and potential that can be exploited. This expression can function to protect the environment (Januariawan 2021).). In the Muna ethnic culture, Muna Island, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia, there is a legacy of local wisdom that has been passed down from generation to generation. One important aspect of this wisdom is the way they understand and utilize natural resources, especially in a maritime context. This is like the following expression data.

Table 1. Phrases in the Maritime Realm

No.	Expressions	Translated
1	*Merakoomu kenta, koise ntighoo mepakeaneemu bomu*	Catch fish, do not curse bomb
2	*Dokala dekabuanghhoomu kenta*	Let's go catch fish

The phrase (1) literally means "to catch fish, do not use bombs" and is followed by the exclamation "let us go fishing". The message contained in it is a warning not to use destructive fishing methods, such as using bombs, which can cause damage to the marine environment and cause a decline in fish populations. On the contrary, this expression encourages the use of sustainable and environmentally friendly fishing methods.

In the context of Muna culture, this message reflects awareness of the importance of maintaining the balance of the marine ecosystem and utilizing natural resources

responsibly. This will raise awareness of maintaining the balance between humans and nature, including maintaining its sustainability (Suryanto et al. 2024). This expression also reflects the values of maritime wisdom that the Muna people have upheld for centuries, who view the sea as a source of life that must be protected and preserved.

Thus, the expression (1) "merakoomu kenta, koise ntighoo mepakeaneemu bomu" is not just a simple sentence but is also a reflection of deep local cultural values and wisdom in managing natural resources, especially in the context of fisheries on Muna Island. In Muna culture, there are principles of maritime wisdom which emphasize the responsibility to protect marine resources and the surrounding environment and maintain ecosystem balance (Sastrawan 2023). The phrase "Catch fish, do not use bombs" reflects ethical values and caution in activities at sea.

The approach to maritime wisdom in Muna culture shows that local people are aware of the importance of maintaining marine ecological balance and treating natural resources with respect. The statement highlights the prohibition on the use of destructive fishing methods, such as bombs, which can cause severe damage to the marine environment and negatively impact the marine ecosystem and fishermen's livelihoods as a whole.

Apart from that, the expression (2) dokala dekabuanghhoomu kenta, "let's go fishing," describes activities traditionally carried out by the Muna people as part of their lives, which are very dependent on marine resources. This shows that in Muna culture, fishing activities are an integral part of daily life and are carried out with attention to maritime wisdom values to ensure the sustainability of marine resources for future generations..

Table 2. Expressions in the Forestry Realm

No.	Expressions	Translated
3	*Koise mentando sau ne itu nokositani*	Don't cut down trees where there are demons
4	*Kotandoea sau aitu, noposora bhe silato*	Don't you cut down that wood, near the itchy leaves

The phrases (3), koise mentando sau ne itu nokositani "don't cut down trees where there are devils" and (4) kotandoea sau aitu, noposora bhe silato "Don't cut down that wood, near itchy leaves," show a message of deep ecological wisdom Muna culture is often

related to humans' relationship with nature and awareness of the balance of the ecosystem. Phrase (3) contains a message not to cut down trees carelessly because they are considered to be the residence or abode of supernatural beings, in this case referred to as "demons". This message reminds us to treat nature with respect and not destroy the environment without good reason. This shows awareness of the balance between humans and nature, as well as the importance of maintaining natural ecosystems. Meanwhile, expression (4) contains a message to consider the impact of our actions on the environment. The explanation that the wood is close to leaves and can cause itching shows awareness of ecological balance and human dependence on the surrounding environment. This message is a reminder that our actions towards nature can have unintended consequences and that it is important to consider the impact before acting.

Forest sustainability is an important buffer for water sources. River water is a source of life (Selvia and Sunarso 2020),), so it is not surprising that traditional rules already exist to protect rivers. This traditional rule has been implemented by the Sakai Tribe in Bengkalis Regency (Putra and Effendi 2017) and the Baduy community (Permana, Nasution, and Gunawijaya 2011). For the Muna people, polluting or polluting the river as a source of drinking water is taboo. In fact, the Muna people consider it taboo to cut or fall trees located at a certain distance near water sources.

CONCLUSION

Language wisdom plays an important role in preserving nature. The expressions of the Muna ethnic group which have an ecological perspective, today need to continue to be preserved. With this research, it is hoped that awareness of the importance of maintaining maritime wisdom and forest-related wisdom as an integral part of the daily life of the Muna people can be increased. It is hoped that this can strengthen efforts to preserve the natural environment and sustain local culture on Muna Island. Thus, this research will make a significant contribution to understanding and maintaining the sustainability of the natural environment and local culture on Muna Island, as well as providing guidance for the development of sustainable policies and actions in facing environmental challenges in the future.

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