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QUESTION WORDS IN *MOLLO* DIALECT OF *UAB METO* SPOKEN IN NUNBENA VILLAGE, SOUTH CENTRAL TIMOR REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

This study is entitled: *Question Words In Mollo Dialect Of Uab Meto Spoken In Nunbena Village, South Central Timor Regency*. The problems of this study is to find out the question words and their function in Mollo dialect of *Uab Meto* spoken in Nunbena Village, South Central Timor Regency. In order to get the data, the writers selected five native speakers of Mollo dialect of *Uab Meto* from Nunbena Village as informants. The instrument of this study is the writers themselves which assisted by using list of sentences in the form of questions. He provided list of questions in Indonesian, and the informants were asked to translate them into Mollo dialect of *Uab Meto*. Observation, interview, recording and note taking were the data collection techniques of this study. The writer analyzes the data by using three procedures, namely: identifying, classifying and describing. The result shows that: (1). there are nine question words that are used to express interrogatives in Mollo dialect of *Uab Meto*, namely: sa/sa'an (what), leka (when), sekau (who, whom,), onme (how), esme/makome/noime (where), le'me (which), nansa (why), fauk (how many and how much) and ai/ait (*auxiliary*)

Keywords: Question words, *Interrogatives*, *Mollo Dialect*, *Uab Meto*.

1. Background

Language is a very important factor of communication among society. One function of language is to fulfill our needs. If a person uses his/her language, he/she chooses words that match to his/her needs. Geoffery Leech (1974) states that the importance of language can be obviously seen through language functions, namely: informational, expressive, directive, aesthetic, and pathetic functions. By using language, people can state their willingness, dream, agreement, and

disagreement, like and dislike. People use some functions of language to say a sentence, to ask something, to reply a question, to greet someone and etc.

The languages that are used by all human beings in the world are very diverse and unique. Every group of people usually speaks by using a language that is just understood by people who use the same language. According to *Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa (BP2B) Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan (Kemendikbud) Republik Indonesia* that, there are 735 local languages in Indonesia, and the place that has the most native languages is Papua with more than 384 local languages and East Nusa Tenggara province in second place with 68 local languages. Especially In East Nusa Tenggara province specifically, Alor has 42 local languages and Timor has 5 local languages and one of them is *Uab Meto*. Beside that, Indonesia has a national language that is called Bahasa Indonesia which is used as the official language in all regions of Indonesia.

Uab Meto is one of local languages in Indonesia that is spoken by Timorese people in North Central Timor regency, South Central Timor regency and *Kupang* regency (Isu, 2003). *Uab Meto* is an Austronesian language spoken by *Atoni Pah Meto* in Timor Island. The language of *Uab Meto* itself has differences according to the ethnic tribes that speak it. In South Central Timor regency, there are three groups such as, *Mollo* ethnics group, *Amanatun* ethnics group, and *Amanuban* ethnics group, even though they speak one language that is *Uab Meto*, they have different dialect. The difference dialect of *Uab Meto* is clearly seen from how they speak. It is clearly connected to the statement from Kushartanti, et all (2005:234) states that this is a language variation, which is generally caused by geographical, political, economic, and socio-cultural factors.

Each region where *Uab Meto* is spoken consists of some dialects which carry some variation depends on its ethnic. One of the ethnics that used *Uab Meto* is *Mollo* ethnics group. In this group, *Uab Meto* becomes mother tongue and it has some differences from the other ethnics that used *Uab Meto*. It is used as a means of communication by speakers in their daily life. In their daily communication, people of *Mollo* always use interrogatives to ask for some information.

Question is a sentence, phrase or gesture that seek for information by a reply which means, question is used when someone say something like words, phrase or sentences which are needed to be replied by the interlocutor. Linch (1991) states that question is a command or interrogative expressions used to elicit information or a response or to test a knowledge. In other words, when

people produce sentences to other people when it involves command and interrogative expression to get any information or responses means a question and Brown (2000:279) himself states that question word play important role in interrogatives. Thus, it is clearly explained that asking question is important in our social life. It can help us to establish relationship between two or more people in order to know one another. By asking questions, we can know who a person is, where a person lives, how the condition of a person is, what her or his name is, and more information that we want to know.

In Mollo dialect of Uab Meto, asking question is an important thing. A person who asks questions should also know the use of subject based on social class or stratification. For example, the use of *'hit'* or *'kit'* (we) as a first person plural as the polite subject of *'ho'* (you). Based on social class this subject (*hit/kit*) is used by the young people to elders people, students to teachers, etc. For instance, *'Hit moe sa?'* (we do what) should be *'What we do?'* and the question like *'Ho moe sa?'* (you do what) should be *'What you do?'* is used by the speakers who have the same social class like, age, education, position, etc.

Based on the above background the writers conducted a research under the title “***Question Words In Mollo Dialect Of Uab Meto Spoken In Nunbena Village, South Central Timor Regency***” to investigate what the question words are used to express interrogatives in *Mollo* dialect of *Uab Meto* spoken in Nunbena Village, South Central Timor Regency

In this research, the writers used descriptive qualitative method to describe and present the data in the form of words and sentences. The research itself was conducted in Nunbena village, Nunbena Subdistrict, South Central Timor Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province. In this research, the writers selected *five* informants from this village who are the native speakers of *Mollo* dialect of *Uab Meto*. They are called *Atoin Meto* and they are selected based on the criteria proposed by Nida (1975) in Novita (2011:26). Research instruments in this research are the writers themselves as the real instrument of the research, but in order to help the writers to get complete and original data, they also used questionnaire that contains list of sentences in the form of questions. There were 50 questions in Indonesian, and these questions were translated by informants into Mollo dialect of Uab Meto. There were some techniques used to collect the data, they are: first, ***Observation*** which means the writers observed all the informants communication activities especially in their daily life communication. Second, ***Recording*** to record every single conversation with the informants about the topics or during interview. Third, ***Note Taking to***

record key points of information related to the questions words in Mollo dialect of Uab Meto, and the last is *Interview*

2. Finding and Discussion

Based on the data analysis, there are 9 question words in Mollo Dialect of Uab Meto. They are presented in the table below.

No	Question Words in Mollo dialect of Uab Meto	Functions
1	sa/sa'an	to ask about something
2	leka	to ask about time
3	sekau	to ask about subject, object and possession
4	onme	to ask about condition and opinion
5	esme/makome/nakome /noime	to ask about place
6	le'me	to ask about choice
7	nansa	to ask about reasons
8	fauk	to ask about quantity
9	ai-ka/ait-ka	to ask for short answer (yes/no)

Table 1 List of question words found in Mollo dialect of Uab Met

Every question word in Mollo Dialect of Uab Meto has its different function which refers to what was asked.

1. **Question Word 'Sa' or 'Sa'an' (What).** Sa or Sa'an has three (3) functions, they are used to ask about something, to ask about an activity, and also to ask about a particular variety or type of something.
 - a. to asking for information about something

Mollo Dialect	: Sa'an es na?
Free Translation	: What is that?
Literal Meaning	: 'What is that?'
 - b. to ask about activity

Mollo Dialect	: In an moe sa?
Free Translation	: 3SG.Pron while do what?
Literal Meaning	: 'What is he/she doing?'
 - c. It is used to ask about a particular variety or type of something

Mollo Dialect	: In human onle sa'an?
Free Translation	: 3SG.Pron face like what?
Literal Meaning	: 'What is his/her face looks like?'

2. Question Word ‘Leka’ (When)

This question word is used to ask about time or period of time.

1. Mollo Dialect : Leka him te?
Free Translation : When 3OBJ.Pron arrive?
Literal Meaning : ‘*When do you arrive?*’
2. Mollo Dialect : Leka in anao neu skol?
Free Translation : When 3SG.Pron go to school?
Literal Meaning : ‘*When does she go to school?*’
3. Mollo Dialect : Leka hit tah?
Free Translation : When 1PL.Pron eat?
Literal Meaning : ‘*When do we eat?*’

3. Question Word ‘Sekau’ (Who, Whom, Whose)

- a. **Question Word ‘Sekau’ (Who).** This question word is used to ask about the subject in a sentence.

1. Mollo Dialect : In sekau?
Free Translation : 3SG.Pron who?
Literal Meaning : ‘*Who is he?*’
2. Mollo Dialect : Sekau es nasoitan nesu?
Free Translation : Who which open door?
Literal Meaning : ‘*Who opens the door?*’

- b. **Question Word ‘Sekau’ (Whom).** This question word can also be used to ask about an object in a sentence.

Mollo Dialect : Sekau es ho mami?
Free Translation : Who which 2SG.Pron look for?
Literal Meaning : ‘*Whom are you looking for?*’

- c. **Question Word ‘Sekau’ + “ini” (Whose).** This question word can be used to ask possession. The characteristic of this question word is there is the use of word ‘*ini*’ which means personal pronouns that shows something belongs to someone. It can be seen in the following examples:

1. Mollo Dialect : Sulat le’i sekau ini?
Free Translation : Book this whose-POSS?
Literal Meaning : ‘*Whose book is this?*’

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|---------------------|--|
| 2. Mollo Dialect | : Loit anbi mej tunan sekau <i>ini</i> ? |
| Free Translation | : Money on table above whose-POSS? |
| Literal Translation | : <i>'Whose money is on the table?'</i> |

4. Question Word 'Onme' (How)

This question word is generally used to ask about condition and opinion.

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|------------------|---|
| 1. Mollo Dialect | : Mail hi na onme? |
| Free Translation | : See 2SG.Pron there how? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'How are you?'</i> |
| 2. Mollo Dialect | : Mail ho ama in menas onme? |
| Free Translation | : See 2PL.Adj father 3SG.Pron sickness how? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'How about your father condition?'</i> |
| 3. Mollo Dialect | : Ho mepu onme? |
| Free Translation | : 2SG Pron do how? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'How you do it?'</i> |
| 4. Mollo Dialect | : Ho muhin ne onme? |
| Free Translation | : 2SG Pron know 3OBJ.Pron how? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'How do you know him?'</i> |

5. Question Word 'Esme/makome/nakome/noime' (Where)

This question word is used to ask about place or location.

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|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mollo Dialect | : Au noso esme? |
| Free Translation | : 1SG.Pron pant where? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Where is my pant?'</i> |
| 2. Mollo Dialect | : Ho makome? |
| Free Translation | : 2SG.Pron where? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Where do you come from?'</i> |
| 3. Mollo Dialect | : In natua esme? |
| Free Translation | : 3SG.Pron live where? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Where does she live?'</i> |

6. Question Word 'Le'me' (Which)

This question word is used to ask specific thing or when a choice needs to be made.

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|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Mollo Dialect | : Ho mloim le'me? |
| Free Translation | : 2SG.pron like which? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Which one do you like?'</i> |
| 2. Mollo Dialect | : Hobe es le'me? |
| Free Translation | : 2POSS.Adj that which? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Which one is yours?'</i> |

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|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. Mollo Dialect | : Ho ampil le'me? |
| Free Translation | : 2SG.Pron choose which? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Which one do you choose?'</i> |

7. Question Word 'Nansa' (Why)

This question word is used to obtain an explanation or a reason. It is shown in the following examples:

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| 1. Mollo Dialect | : Nansa es hom kae? |
| Free Translation | : Why so 2SG.Pron cry? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Why do you cry?'</i> |
| 2. Mollo Dialect | : Nansa es in nato'? |
| Free Translation | : Why so 3SG.Pron angry? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Why do he angry?'</i> |
| 3. Mollo Dialect | : Nansa es ho kam-munoina? |
| Free Translation | : Why So 2SG.Pron NEG-study? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Why you do not study?'</i> |

8. Question Word 'Fauk' (How many and how much)

This question word is used to ask about quantity. For example:

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|------------------|---|
| 1. Mollo Dialect | : Fauk es le'i? |
| Free Translation | : How much which this? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'How much is this?'</i> |
| 2. Mollo Dialect | : Ho mui ana fauk? |
| Free Translation | : 2SG.Pron have child how many? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'How many children do you have?'</i> |

9. 'Ai - Ka' or 'Ait - Ka' (A Kind of Auxiliary Verb)

This question word is used when someone needs a short answer (yes/no) without further explanation. *Ai* or *ait* placed at the beginning of sentences and ends with *'ka?'* (a kind of question tag). This question word only requires the answer of *'hao'* (yes) or *'kahaf'* (no). For example :

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|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Mollo Dialect | : Ai ho mumtau ka? |
| Free Translation | : AUX you nervous QT? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Are you nervous?'</i> |
| 2. Mollo Dialect | : Ait ho muhin sin ka? |
| Free Translation | : AUX 2SG.Pron know 3PL.Pron QT? |
| Literal Meaning | : <i>'Do you know them?'</i> |

3. Mollo Dialect	: Ait	sin	he	neman	ka?
Free Translation	: AUX	3PL.Pron	3SG.Pron	coming?	QT
Literal Meaning	: ‘Are they coming?’				

3. Conclusions

Based on findings and discussion above, it can be conclude that there are nine kinds of question words used to express interrogatives in Mollo Dialect of Uab Meto, they are; *sa/sa'an* (what), *leka* (when), *sekau* (who, whom, whose), *onme* (how), *esme/makome/nakome/noime* (where), *le'me* (which), *nansa* (why), *fauk* (how many and how much) and *ai/ait* (a kind of auxiliary verb). The writers expect that other writers can research on the same topic about Uab Meto but with a different dialect such as Amanuban, Amanatun and so on.

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