

**THE MEANINGS AND FUNCTIONS OF RITUAL  
LANGUAGE IN OPENING NEW LAND CEREMONY  
OF BOAFEO VILLAGE, MAUKARO SUB-DISTRICT,  
ENDE REGENCY**

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

**BY**

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM  
FACULTY OF LAW AND SOCIAL HUMANITIES  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORES  
ENDE  
2026**

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**Presented to Flores University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

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## APPROVAL PAGE

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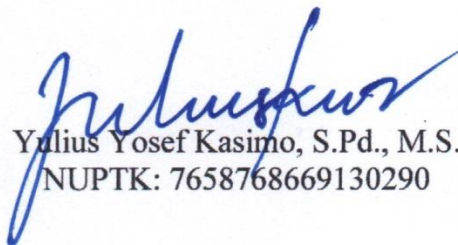
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## ABSTRAK

**Bhara, Stevania. 2026. *Makna dan fungsi bahasa ritual dalam upacara pembukaan lahan baru di Desa Boafeo, Kecamatan Maukaro*. Skripsi. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Hukum dan Sosial Humaniora, Universitas Flores. Pembimbing I: Gratiana Sama, S.Pd., M.Hum. Pembimbing II: Yulius Yosef Kasimo, S.Pd., M.S.**

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Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menelaah tentang makna dan fungsi dari bahasa ritual yang digunakan pada saat upacara pembukaan lahan baru di desa Boafeo, kecamatan Maukaro. Penelitian ini terjadi pada tahun 2025 di desa Boafeo, kecamatan Maukaro. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menemukan tiga step yang digunakan pada saat upacara pembukaan lahan baru yakni, *Pa'a Rhoka*, *Sua Tendo* dan *Sua Keti*. Ketiga step tersebut memiliki bahasa ritual serta memiliki makna dan fungsi tersendiri.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif dalam menganalisis makna dan fungsi dalam *Pa'a Rhoka*, *Sua Tendo* dan *Sua Keti* pada saat upacara pembukaan lahan baru di desa Boafeo, kecamatan Maukaro. Teori-teori yang digunakan untuk menganalisis bahasa ritual yang terdapat dalam ketiga tahapan pada saat upacara adat tersebut yakni oleh Palmer (1996) tentang makna bahasa ritual, dan teori oleh Jacobson (2017) tentang fungsi bahasa ritual.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat tiga makna utama dalam bahasa ritual, yaitu makna kolektif yang mencerminkan kebersamaan masyarakat, makna harapan untuk sukses sebagai bentuk doa dan keinginan akan keberhasilan, serta makna keagamaan yang berkaitan dengan hubungan manusia dengan Tuhan dan leluhur; selain itu, ditemukan dua fungsi bahasa ritual, yaitu fungsi konatif yang bertujuan untuk memohon atau mengajak, dan fungsi puitis yang menonjolkan keindahan bahasa. Berdasarkan temuan tersebut, direkomendasikan agar penelitian selanjutnya melibatkan lebih banyak informan dan mengkaji aspek non-verbal serta perbandingan antar daerah guna memperdalam pemahaman dan mendukung pelestarian tradisi lokal.

**Kata Kunci:** *Bahasa Ritual, Makna, Fungsi, Pembukaan Lahan Baru*

## ABSTRACT

**Bhara, Stevania. 2026. *The Meanings and Functions of Ritual Language in Opening New Land of Boafeo Village, Maukaro Sub-District*. Undergraduate Thesis, English Literature Study Program. Faculty of Law and Social Humanities. Flores University. Advisor I: Gratiana Sama, S.Pd., M.Hum. Advisor II: Yulius Yosef Kasimo, S.Pd., M.S.**

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This study aims to examine the meaning and function of the ritual language used during the land-clearing ceremony in Boafeo village, Maukaro sub-district. This research took place in 2025 in Boafeo village, Maukaro sub-district. In this study, the author identified three steps used during the land-clearing ceremony: *Pa'a Rhoka*, *Sua Tendo*, and *Sua Keti*. Each of these steps has its own ritual language and meaning and function.

This study used a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the meaning and function of *Pa'a Rhoka*, *Sua Tendo*, and *Sua Keti* during the land-clearing ceremony in Boafeo village, Maukaro sub-district. The theories used to analyze the ritual language found in the three stages of the traditional ceremony are Palmer (1996) on the meaning of ritual language and Jacobson (2017) on the functions of ritual language.

The results of this study show that there are three main meanings of ritual language: collective meaning, which reflects community togetherness; the meaning of hope for success, which represents prayers and expectations for positive outcomes; and religious meaning, which relates to the relationship between humans, God, and ancestors. In addition, two functions of ritual language were identified: the conative function, which aims to request, invite, or influence, and the poetic function, which emphasizes the aesthetic quality of language. Based on these findings, it is recommended that future research involve more informants and examine non-verbal aspects as well as conduct comparative studies across regions to deepen understanding and support the preservation of local traditions.

**Key Words:** *Ritual Language, Meanings, Functions, Opening New Land*

## STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY OF UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

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declares that the present Undergraduate Thesis describes original research undertaken for the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Law and Social Humanities, Flores University of Ende. Any theories, findings, and research techniques not my own have been acknowledged in the text. Theoretical contributions and findings in the thesis are my own original work and have not been submitted for any degree in this or any other university. If later it can be revealed that this Undergraduate Thesis contains partly or wholly plagiarized pieces or others' intellectual work of any kind, I will readily accept the sanction established by the University on the matter.

Signature :



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Date : Ende, January 2026

## THESIS LEGITIMATION

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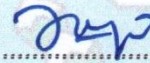
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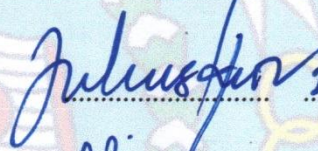
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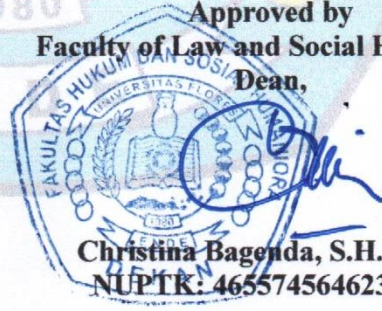
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**MOTTO**

**LET YOUR BAD DAYS CREATE BETTER**

**TOMORROWS**

**(By: Iamedw)**

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The Writer

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