

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is commonly defined as an arbitrary vocal symbol. Those symbols in language run over a system. It is also declared that language is considered as a system (Rabiah, 2012). Furthermore, by saying that it is a system, it means that language is produced by a variety of components that are fixed and patternable. Components that are fixed and patternable make language becomes systematic. Rabiah (2012) adds that systematic in language means that language consists of sets of subsystems, which are, phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon, that distinct one language to another language. However, by saying that language is a system and is systematic, it does not mean that every language in this world is the same because language have uniqueness. But, Rabiah (2012) argues that language is universal, refers to possessing the same characteristics in all language.

Every spot in this world experiences the uniqueness of language, as example, Indonesia. Indonesia is a country with strong cultural diversity (Nurjanah et al., 2020). According to Mukama (2014, as cited in Nurjanah et al, 2020), the cultures have their own characteristics that distinct them to other. As example, the culture in Java might be different from the culture in Bali, especially, in language. According to *Laboratorium Kebinekaan Bahasa dan Sastra Kemdikbud RI*, there are more than 700 languages spread from

Sabang to Merauke. Reinforcing the language facts in Indonesia, Garvani (2021) declares that Indonesians use regional language, that is used as an expression representing identity of societies.

Sambori belongs to one of the languages spoken in Bima regency (Budasi et al., 2021). The quantitative analysis of their study showed that Sambori has the language status among the four languages spoken in Bima, which could be seen in the family tree figure below,

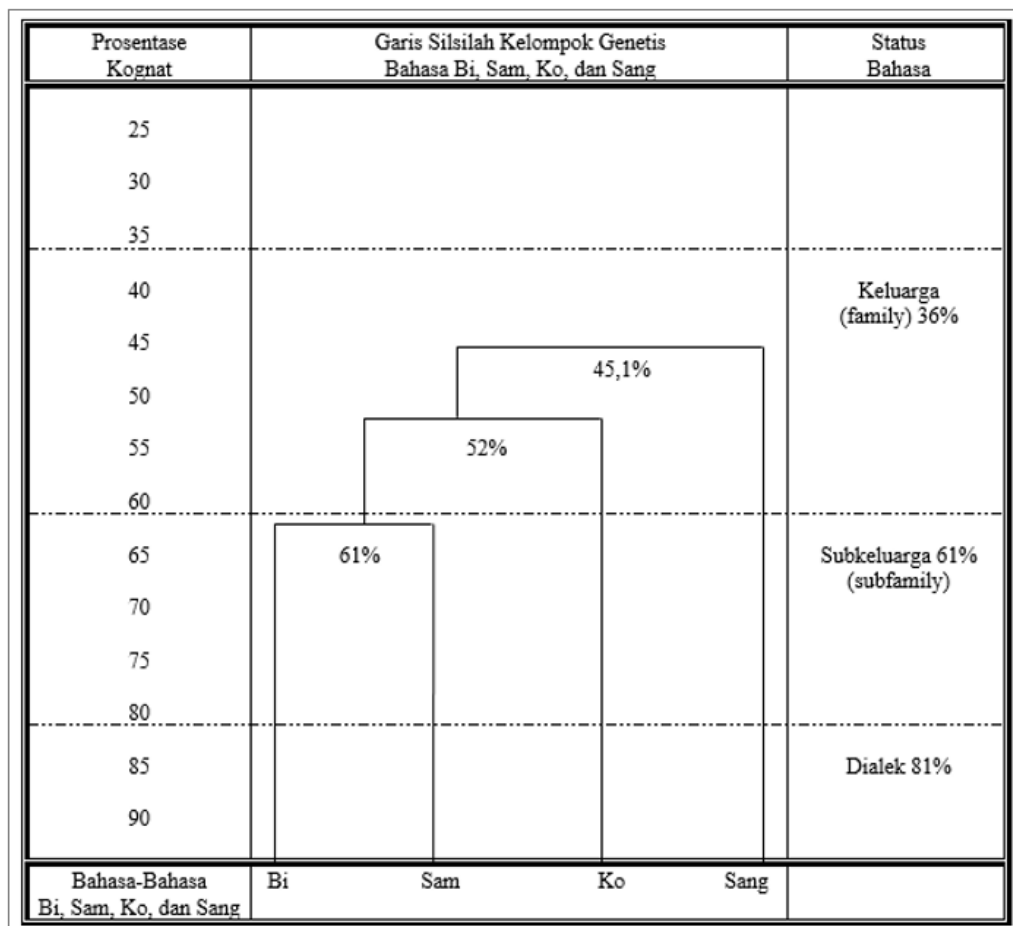


Figure 1.1 The Family Tree of Languages in Bima Regency  
 Addapted from Budasi et al. (2021)

The family tree above showed the status of languages and dialects in Sambori language. As seen on the figure below, the language status of Bima,

Sambori, Kolo, and Sanggar was taken from the quantitative result based on relations of cognates taken among the isolects above, showing that the four languages, Bima, Sambori, Kolo, and Sanggar, have the percentage between 36% until 81% (Budasi et al., 2021). Meanwhile, Toloweri, Mbojo, and Donggo refer to the dialects of Bima language.

There were some studies set up in Sambori by several researchers. A study by Arafiq (2019) discuss about the morphosyntax in Sambori language. Besides, another study conducted by Yusra et al. (2016) about the status of dialectology of Sambori language between languages in Bima regency. Also, there was a research by Garvani (2021) about phonological system of Proto Sambori-Teta in Bima regency. And the last researcher conducting a study in Sambori, Budasi (2021) reconstruct the etymon proto of Sambori and Teta isolect. Those researchers conducted their respective studies about Sambori's linguistic aspects, such as the morphosyntax, dialectology status in language, phonological system of a proto language, and the reconstruction of proto language in Sambori.

Based on the discussion above, there is no research that discusses phonological system of Sambori as a language. The study by Garvani (2021) already discussed the phonological system of the Proto Sambori-Teta but his research had not discussed the quantitative analysis that showed the language status of Sambori language. Besides, the study by Budasi et al. (2021) only finished until the quantitative analysis of language status of Sambori. A study about phonological system is necessary in order to maintain the language existence. The documentation of certain language should be done properly so

that the language could be existed and it avoids extinction of the language. In this context, proper documents regarding Sambori language, such as linguistic features including phonology, phonetics, morphology, syntax, etc, must be discovered immediately that could be enrich the features of the language. Furthermore, the observation of those features could also help researchers to develop other related studies. However, this study was focused in one of the micro linguistic features of language, which talked about the phonological system of Sambori language.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Based on the background above, the research questions for this study are below:

- 1) What are the vowels phonemes of Sambori language and their distributions?
- 2) What are the diphthongs phonemes of Sambori language and their distribution?
- 3) What are the triphthongs phonemes of Sambori language and their distribution?
- 4) What are the consonants phonemes of Sambori language and their distribution?
- 5) What are the consonant cluster phonemes of Sambori language and their distribution?
- 6) How are the syllabic patterns of Sambori Language?

## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

Based on the research questions above, the purposes of this study are below:

- 1) To investigate the vowels phonemes of Sambori language and their distributions.
- 2) To investigate the diphthongs phonemes of Sambori language and their distribution.
- 3) To investigate the triphthongs phonemes of Sambori language and their distribution.
- 4) To investigate the consonants phonemes of Sambori language and their distribution.
- 5) To investigate the consonant cluster phonemes of Sambori language and their distribution.
- 6) To investigate the syllabic patterns of Sambori Language.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This study was descriptive qualitative study. This study focused on the analysis of the phonological system of Sambori as a language in terms of segmental and articulatory characteristics, including vowels, diphthongs, triphthongs, consonants, consonant clusters, and the syllabic patterns.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

##### **1. Theoretical Significance**

In this significance, this study result is expected to give contribution of theoretical evidences of the current research finding, especially, the phonological system of Sambori language. As a result, this research can be used to show the existence of the Sambori language.

##### **2. Practical Significance**

This study is expected to be useful for below:

1) For the Linguistics Field

The study could be used as a reference for linguistics study, especially for researchers who want to do studies about phonology.

2) For Indonesia Government

For Indonesia Government, this study is expected to enrich the data about languages in Indonesia, specifically, the phonological system of Sambori language.

3) For Future Researchers

This study is expected to be beneficiary for future researchers that would conduct similar research.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

### a. Conceptual Definition

1) Language

Language is a system used by human to express their thoughts, feelings, and desires through a system of voluntarily created symbols (Sapir, 1921).

2) Phonology

Phonology is a science, categorized as microlinguistics, investigating the procedure of sounds production system to form speech (Katamba, 1989).

3) Phoneme

Phoneme is the minimal unit of sounds of a language that differ a word to another (Geigerich, 1995, as cited in Budasi, 2014).



#### 4) Phonetics

Phonetics is a science about sounds production in a language (McMahon, 2005).

#### 5) Minimal Pair

Minimal pair is made up of two words that sound nearly identical and differ only by a single phoneme (Bradley & Bennet, 2010, as cited in Novarita et al., 2020).

### **b. Practical Definition**

#### 1) Language

Language is a system used by people in Sambori to express their thoughts, feeling, and desires through vocal symbol.

#### 2) Phonology

Phonology is a science used to investigate the system and structure of sound in Sambori language.

#### 3) Phoneme

Phoneme is the smallest unit that differs words in Sambori language.

#### 4) Phonetics

Phonetics is a science about the sounds production in Sambori language.

#### 5) Minimal Pair

Minimal pair consists of words in Sambori language that are different by a phoneme that could differ the meaning.

