

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents several points: background of study, research questions, purposes of study, scope of study, significance of study, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1. Background of Study

Language can be defined as the way a person interacts with other people which will create expressions that build meaning in the interaction. The studies that discuss the language component will be explained in the field of linguistics. Furthermore (Schmid & München, 2012) states that linguistics is the study of language with several parts or subfields. One of them is the study of grammar, which is further divided into several components such as phonology, morphology, and others. Linguistics is used to study science or access information contained in a language. For example, regarding the kinship relationship between two languages or between several languages.

In addition to being a tool for communication, language can also be used as a national identity by many countries or even regions in the world. In a country, they not only have a national language, but a country will have a variety of regional languages for its people to communicate. In Indonesia, there are various kinds of regional languages used in communication by the people. One example of a regional language is the Bima language which is commonly used by the indigenous people of Bima

in West Nusa Tenggara. However, the Bima language has several dialects, such as the Bima, Toloweri, Mbojo, and Donggo dialects.

Bima is a city located on the Indonesian island of Sumbawa, in the province of West Nusa Tenggara. Indigenous people in Bima use the Bima language as their mother tongue and a medium to communicate with each other. As it is known that the Bima language has several dialects, for example, Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialects have their uniqueness even though both have similar sounds.

Several researchers have researched the relationship of language kinship. Such as (Budasi, 2018) on the kinship relationship between the Bima language in NTB and the Sabu language in NTT which was also considered in a previous study (Budasi 2014) and described that the Sabu language and the Bima language had a 26% kinship relationship, but the Sabu language showed more of a relationship which is closely related to the Sumba language, which means Bima language is in the outermost position of the Sumba language and Sabu language.

However, previous research conducted by Budasi has never conducted a study of linguistic features as specific evidence to describe the uniting and differentiating between Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialects. So in this study, the author will focus on researching the uniting and differentiating the linguistic features between Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialects in a phonological and lexical system that will support parts of the Bima language. And also help save the Mbojo dialect as a cultural saver as well as the Proto Bima-Toloweri dialect.

## 1.2. Research Questions

Based on the problem statement explained in the research background, the research question are:

- 1) What are the uniting and differentiating of the phonological features between Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialects?
- 2) What are the uniting and differentiating of the lexical features between Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialect?

## 1.3. Purposes of Study

Based on the research questions, the purposes of the study are:

- 1) General research objective in this research is to analyze the uniting and differentiating linguistic features between Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialect.
- 2) Specific research objectives are:
  - a) To describe the uniting and differentiating of the phonological features between Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialects.
  - b) To describe the uniting and differentiating of the lexical features between Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialects.

## 1.4. Scope of Study

This research was designed as a descriptive qualitative study. The discussion of this study only focuses on the observation and explanation of the uniting and differentiating linguistic features between Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialect in phonological and lexical aspects used by the people of Bima, West Nusa Tenggara.

## 1.5. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide theoretical and practical significance, both of these significances can be explained as follows:

### 1) Theoretical Significance

For the theoretical significance, the result of this study is expected to support, contribute, and give theoretical evidence of the existing research finding in the study. On the other side, this study is also expected to expand the knowledge of linguistic theory in the field of language especially of the uniting and differentiating linguistic features in phonological and lexical between Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialect.

### 2) Praticial Significance

In practice, the results are useful for the following;

#### a) Linguistic Field

The results of this study can be used as a reference for conducting other research on other languages and dialects in the Bimanese language.

#### b) Indonesian Government

This study can help the Indonesian government because this study is used as an authentic document explaining the uniting and differentiating of the phonological and lexical features between Toloweri and Mbojo dialects.

Other researchers

#### c) Other researchers

This research can be used as a reference by other researchers as further research that discusses the same research topic.

## 1.6. Definition of Key Terms

### a) Conceptual Definition

#### 1) Language

Language is the communication tools which used by humans to share their idea, emotion, desire, and from a person to others (Sapir, 1921:7)

#### 2) Proto-language

Proto-Language is a language that becomes the ancestor of some languages which belongs to a language family (Keraf, 1996 as cited in Halimatussakdiah & Widayati, 2019)

#### 3) Phonology

Phonology is a linguistics sub-discipline that deals with the systems and structures of sounds in language (Odden, 2013:2)

#### 4) Phonetic

Phonetic is the study of how speech sounds of the language are produced (McMahon, 2002:1)

#### 5) Phoneme

A phoneme is the constructive and minimal unit in sounds of the language that distinguish a word from another (Geigerich, 1995 as cited in Budasi, 2014:4)

### b) Operational Definition

1) Language

Language is a system of communication used by people who speak Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialect in Bima regency to transfer people's thoughts, ideas, feelings, and emotions from one person to another.

2) Proto-Language

Proto-Language refers to the ancient language that becomes the ancestor between Toloweri and Mbojo dialects in the Bima regency.

3) Phonology

Phonology refers to the study dealing with the systems and structures of the sound of Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialects in the Bima language.

d) Phonetics

Phonetics is the study of how speech sounds of the language are produced in Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialects.

e) Phoneme

A phoneme is the smallest unit (sounds) of Proto Bima-Toloweri and Mbojo dialects that distinguish one word from another in the Bima language.