CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

(Budasi & Haris, 2020) completes the description and grouping of languages in Bima district, West Nusa Tenggara, especially in terms of grouping the Bima language. (Budasi I.G., 2018) states that there are three languages spoken in Bima: Bima, Kolo, and Sanggar. Meanwhile, Mbojo and Toloweri belong to the Bima dialect, with a quantitative relationship of 50 percent. In that study, the Toloweri and Mbojo dialects have not been fully studied. This inaccessibility is caused by a new discovery by Budasi which states that the people of Bima speak a language other than the Bima language group, namely the Sambori language. In addition, several people including linguists in Indonesia, believe that the Sambori language is the original language of the Bima people before the language was adopted. The grouping of Sambori and Teta dialects was continued in the Budasi research on 2019, which found that Sambori and Teta are dialects from Sambori language. The next discovery is that although Sambori is a different language, the language is still related to the Bima language, with a certain percentage of quantitative achievement. Subsequent research, which completed in 2020, is actively reconstructing the proto forms of the Sambori and Teta languages. However, since the current classification is achieved quantitatively, the language groupings are always incomplete. This cannot be explained objectively because the existing vocabulary classifications depend on

the facts of qualitative data and quantitative groupings, (Anggayana, Suparwa, Dhanawati, & Budasi, 2020). In this case, not only is the phonological grouping scheme of dialects incomplete, but also qualitative grouping is needed. Language classification cannot be explained logically until something is reached.

Meanwhile, it was previously said that the two dialects of the Bima language, namely Toloweri and Mbojo, had not been studied at all because the researchers found something else. Therefore, this study focuses more on the dialects of the Bima language, namely Toloweri and Mbojo. The dialect area of the Bima language is generally limited by district boundaries, so that each district can be said to have its own dialect. However, among various dialects in Bima, the Mbojo dialect has the most speakers (Tama, 1992 in (Budasi & Haris, 2020)). The Mbojo dialect is the only Bima dialect that was ever used as the official language of the Bima Sultanate. According to Rachman 1985 in (Budasi & Haris, 2020) the Bima people call it the Mbojo language. Meanwhile, the Toloweri dialect has been known since the new dam tourism in the Toloweri area. Many studies have been conducted to classify the Mbojo dialect as one of the languages spoken in Bima Regency, West Nusa Tenggara. However, until now no further research has been carried out to determine whether the Mbojo and Toloweri dialects are derived languages from the Proto-Austronesian language family or other language families. The reason for doing this research is because language kinship clearly needs to be reconstructed qualitatively and quantitatively.

1.2 Research Questions

From the explanation before, we can assume the research question is as follow:

1. What are the quantitative percentage level of cognate kinship between Bima, Toloweri and Mbojo?

2. What are the form of etymons proto of Bima, Toloweri and Mbojo based on Bottom-up reconstruction?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the research question, the purpose of this study is as follow:

1. To find out the quantitative percentage of kinship between Bima, Taloweri and Mbojo.

2. To describe the form of etymons proto of Bima, Toloweri and Mbojo based on Bottom-up reconstruction.

1.4 Scope of the Study

In this study, the author tries to observe and find out the proto language between the Bima, Toloweri and Mbojo isolect used by the people of Bima, West Nusa Tenggara. The researchers focused on the form of proto language of Bima, Toloweri and Mbojo isolects seen from a bottom-up reconstruction approach. So, this research is a descriptive study that describes several aspects of phonology in relation to the construction between three isolect in Bima, West Nusa Tenggara.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide both theoretical and practical significance, which can be described as follows:

1.5.1 Theoretical Significant

The theoretical significance of this study is to add and expand knowledge in the field of linguistics in the context of language construction in the Bima, Toloweri and Mbojo isolects.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

In practice, the results are useful for the following;

a. Linguistic Field

This research can be used as a reference for conducting research in the field of language reconstruction in the Bima, Toloweri and Mbojo isolects as representatives of the Bima language.

b. Indonesian Government

This study can help the Indonesian government especially for language study center because this study can be used as an authentic document that allows reconstruction of languages in the Bima, Toloweri and Mbojo isolects seen from a bottom-up approach.

c. Other researchers

This study can be used as a reference for researchers in future research that takes the same research topic.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In this section, there will be two definition of each key term namely, conceptual and operational definitions.

1.6.1 Conceptual definition

a. *Proto language*

Proto language is the embryo or ancestor of a language which will later produce a language family.

b. *Reconstruction*

Reconstruction is the process of determining the proto-language seen from the evidence of the derivative of the language.

c. *Bottom-up Reconstruction*

Bottom-up Reconstruction is the approach used to form the original language or proto language of two or more languages.

1.6.2 Operational definition

a. *Proto language*

Proto language is considered as the language that derived Bima, Toloweri, and Mbojo isolect in Bima regency, Nusa Tenggara Barat.

b. *Reconstruction*

Reconstruction is the effort that is done by the researcher in order to find out the proto language of Bima, Toloweri, and Mbojo isolect.

c. *Bottom-up Reconstruction*

Bottom-up reconstruction is a technique used by the researcher in order to seek for the form of proto language of Bima, Toloweri, and Mbojo isolect. It compares the cognates from both dialects.