

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The most important aspect of communication activities is language. This is due to the fact that language is a technique used in speaking activities (Martinez del Castillo, 2015). Furthermore, (Asoulin, 2016) stated that language is used to express or communicate someone's thoughts. Language is also used as a guiding principle by speakers in their communication activities (Hollingsworth & Graff, 1934). It would be difficult for humans to communicate with other people if they did not use language to express their thoughts. As a result, language plays an important role in daily communication activities.

Indonesia has many languages that are very diverse, one of which is Indonesian. Indonesia has a diverse range of regional languages. Each region of Indonesia has its own language that is used for communication. According to (Gumilar, 2015), Indonesia has 746 regional languages and dialects that are widely spoken throughout the country. As a result, each region has its own distinct set of languages and dialects. In Indonesia, regional languages include Bima, Toloweri, Mbojo, Donggo, Sambori, and Kolo.

Therefore, many researchers are very interested in researching these six isolects. They independently learn about their sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and other fields of linguistics. However, for the grouping of Bima-Toloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Kolo isolect, so far no one has researched it. Budasi (2021) succeeded in reconstructing seven isolects in Bima and succeeded in finding quantitative relationships between these isolects, but this

grouping cannot be accepted and justified scientifically. According to Fernandes (1988), the grouping results can be accepted if there is qualitative genealogical data that must be accompanied by quantitative genealogical evidence. Considering the very short time, this research is only limited to the reconstruction of Proto Bima-Toloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Kolo isolect using bottom-up analysis. This research focused on finding qualitative and quantitative evidence regarding the relationship between Proto Bima-Toloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Kolo such as finding the status of the isolects, the percentage of kinship, and the etymonic forms of the isolects are reconstructed using a bottom-up approach. Therefore, the novelty level here is a supporting part of the general language grouping in Bima-Toloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Kolo.

This study focuses on Bima and Toloweri, two isolect of the Bima language. The Bima isolect area is generally limited by district limits, which means that every district has its own isolect. But the Bima isolect has the most speakers among the various isolect in Bima (Tama, 1992 in Budasi, 2020). The Toloweri isolect is the only isolect of Bima ever used for the official Bima Sultanate language. According to the Rachman 1985 in Budasi 2020, people called Bima and Toloweri isolect . A number of studies have been conducted to determine Toloweri and Bima isolect in Bima regency, NTB. No studies were carried out so far, however, on the classification of Bima and Toloweri isolect as a derivative language of the language family Proto Austronesia or of a language family other than the language family Austronesian. The reason for the investigation is that it is clear that the kinship needs to be qualitatively and quantitative reconstructed.

To determine the status of those isolects' languages and their kinship relationships, the family tree of the unidentified language must be determined and the phonological and lexical structure reconstructed using a bottom-up approach. The result of the quantitative analysis is used as a hypothesis for a subsequent step in determining the language status, which helps to determine the language's family tree. In addition, bottom-up reconstruction is required to determine the etymon of two isolects in order to confirm their language status.

### **1.2. Research Questions**

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

1. What are the quantitative percentage level of cognate kinship between Bima and Toloweri ?
2. What are the uniting and differentiating phonological and lexical features between Proto of Bima and Toloweri language?
3. What are the form of etymons proto of Bima and Toloweri based on bottom-up reconstruction approach ?

### **1.3. Purpose of the Study**

Based on the research question, the purpose of this study are :

1. To find out the quantitative percentage level of cognate kinship between Bima and Toloweri.
2. To describe the uniting and differentiating phonological and lexical features between Proto of Bima and Toloweri language

3. To describe the form of etymons proto of Bima and Toloweri based on bottom-up reconstruction approach.

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

In this study, researchers have observed and described the unifying and differentiating between the Bima and Toloweri isolect to find out the differences and similarities between the two isolect. After knowing the unifier and differentiator, the researcher has also observed the proto-reconstruction between the Bima and Toloweri isolect spoken by the people in Bima, NTB. The discussion of this research only focuses on the unifying and differentiating forms as well as the proto-languages of the Toloweri and Bima isolect viewed from a bottom-up reconstruction approach. So, this research is a descriptive study that describes several aspects of phonology in relation to the reconstruction of two isolect in Bima, NTB.

#### **1.5. Problem Identification**

Based on the background of this research, it can be said that research on proto-reconstruction and distinguishing unification of the Bima and Toloweri isolects is necessary because it can be used in related studies in the future.

#### **1.6.Significance of the Study**

The theoretical significance and the practical significance can provide something expected in this study. The two significance can be explained as follows:

### 1.6.1 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 and Toloweri isolects.

### 1.6.2 Practical Significance

#### a) *Field of Linguists*

This research is used in the Bima and Toloweri isolects as representatives of the Bima language to conduct language reconstruction research.

#### b) *Government of Indonesia*

The Indonesian government could help with this study, since it can be used as an authentic document that allows the language reconstruction from the bottom up approach in the Bima and Toloweri isolects.

#### c) *Additional scientists*

In future research, this study may be used as a reference for researchers who have the same theme.

## 1.7. Definition of Key Terms

In this section, there will be 2 definition of each key term namely, conceptual and operational definitions.

### 1.7.1. *Conceptual definition*

#### 1.7.1.1 *Protolanguage*

Protolanguage can be defined as the ancient language that can be determined as the origin language of derived languages by utilizing some rules (Bynon, 1979 as cited in Marshuki, 2002)

#### **1.7.1.2 Reconstruction**

Reconstruction is a process of determining protolanguage of some kinship languages (Keraf, 1983).

#### **1.7.1.3 Bottom-up reconstruction**

Bottom-up reconstruction is used to construct the protolanguage between some languages which usually used to classify languages in the lower level towards higher level protolanguage (Budasi, 2003).

### **1.7.2. Operational definition**

#### **1.7.2.1 Protolanguage**

Protolanguage is considered as the language that derived Bima and Toloweri isolects in Bima regency, Nusa Tenggara Barat.

#### **1.7.2.2 Reconstruction**

Reconstruction is the effort that is done by the researcher in order to find out the protolanguage of Bima and Toloweri isolects.

#### **1.7.2.3 Bottom-up reconstruction**

Bottom-up reconstruction is a technique used by the researcher in order to seek for the form of Protolanguage of

Bima and Toloweri isolects. It compares the cognates from both isolects.

