

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Research Background

Language is the most important thing in communication activities. This is because language is a technique in speaking activities (Martinez del Castillo, 2015). Besides (Asoulin, 2016) said that language is used to express someone's thoughts or communicate their thoughts. Language is also used as a principle to construct sentences by speakers in communicating activities (Hollingsworth and Graff, 1934). It would be difficult for humans if they do not use language to express their thoughts when communicating with others people. Therefore, language has an important role in communication activities in daily life.

The world has many languages which are very diverse and one of them is Indonesia. Indonesia is a country that has many regional languages. Each region in Indonesia has its own language which they use in communication. According to (Gumilar, 2015), said that Indonesia has 746 regional languages and dialects that are widespread throughout Indonesia. Therefore, each region has the characteristics of their respective languages and dialects. Some examples of regional languages in Indonesia such as the regional language of Bima, the regional language of Toloweri, the regional language of Mbojo, the regional language of Donggo, the regional language of Sambori, and the regional language of Kolo.

The regional language of Bima, Toloweri, Mbojo, Donggo, Sambori and Kolo are six isolects that are often and still actively used in communication by

people in Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB). The six regions have several speakers who are very fanatic about their respective regional languages. Because of their fanatic, they may go to war because they make joke of each other about the way they pronounce the words or how they convey the terms from that language. In general, each speaker of that isolects feels very proud of their language. Therefore, almost all people in NTB are very proud of their respective regional languages and this is reasonable in accordance with the theory of (Mahadi and Jafari, 2012) said that language and culture are closely related and culture has an influence on the language.

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 Proto Bima-Toloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Kolo isolect, so far no one has researched it. There is no researcher who has made definite groupings according to the Linguistic Historical Comparative theory. 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 with Linguistic Historical Comparative theory to be able to find quantitative and qualitative evidence for the grouping of these isolects. 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 form of etymons 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. In addition, no one has researched this topic and the writer worked on it, and the results of this research will be able to help a large project of language Institute in the context of grouping Nusantara languages, especially language grouping in the Bima district. So with this research, the writer can contribute to language mapping in NTB in order to support the implementation of national language grouping.

## **1.2 Problem Identification**

Based on the background of this study, it can be said that a study on the bottom-up reconstruction of Proto Bima-Toloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Kolo isolects needs to be done to find quantitative and qualitative evidence for grouping these isolects. Therefore, the results of this study can be used in related studies in the future, for example, doing reconstruction with top-down analysis.

## **1.3 Research Scope**

This study focused on the reconstruction of Bima-Taloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-SamboriandKolo dialects in terms of bottom-up reconstruction approaches.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

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

- 1) What are the quantitative percentage level of cognate kinship between Bima-Taloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Kolo?
- 2) What are the form of etymons proto of Bima-Taloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Kolo based on Bottom-up reconstruction approach?

#### **1.5 Research Objectives**

Based on the research questions above, the purpose of this study includes:

- 1) To find out the quantitative percentage level of cognate kinship between Bima-Taloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Kolo.
- 2) To describe the form of etymon proto of Bima-Taloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Kolo based on Bottom-up reconstruction approach.

#### **1.6 Research Significance**

This study is expected to provide theoretical and practical significance. The significance of this research can be explained as follows:

##### **1.6.1 Theoretical Significances**

Theoretical Significance is made to be able to expand and broaden knowledge of linguistic theory related to the reconstruction of the proto language of the Bima-Taloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori & Kolo.

##### **1.6.2 Practical Significance**

In practice, the results of this study are useful for parties such as:

- a) For linguistics field

The results of this study can be used for other researchers as reference to do other studies on the dialects of Bima-Taloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori&Kolo.

- b) For Indonesia government

The results of this study are expected to help the government as an authentic document in determining the proto-language of Bima-Taloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori&Kolo dialects in terms of bottom-upreconstruction approaches.

- c) For other researchers

The result of this study can be used as a reference for future researchers who have similar topics with this study.

## 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

- a) *Protolanguage*

Protolanguage is a language as an ancient language which is determined as the origin of the derived language based on several rules (Budasi, 2021).

**b) Reconstruction**

Reconstruction is a process carried out in determining the proto-language by looking for evidence of derived languages (Crowley, 2010).

**c) Bottom-up reconstruction**

Bottom-up reconstruction is used to reconstruct protolanguages between two or more languages which can later be used to classify these languages from lower level to higher level (Budasi, 2021).

**1.7.2 Operational definition**

**a) Protolanguage**

Protolanguage can be considered as a language originating from the Bima-Toloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Koloisolects in Bima Regency, West Nusa Tenggara.

**b) Reconstruction**

Reconstruction is a process or effort carried out by researchers in this study to be able to find out the protolanguage Bima-Toloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Koloisolects.

**c) Bottom-up reconstruction**

Bottom-up reconstruction is a technique used by researchers in this study in finding and determining the form of the protolanguage of the Bima-Toloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Koloisolects. In this technique, we compared the cognate of the reconstructed Bima-Toloweri-Mbojo-Donggo-Sambori and Koloisolects.