

CHAPTER I

INRODUCTION

This chapter explains several subtopics, namely background of the study, research questions, purposes of the study, scope of the study, significances of the study, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an essential thing for humans. According to Waliya (1996), through language, people can share ideas, messages, intentions, feelings, and arguments. Keraf (cited in Rabiah, 2018) adds language is a symbol of sound that has meaning produced by a human when communicating. Furthermore, language is a sound system that is meaningful and arbitrary in which the sound is produced by the human sound organ (Wibowo, 2001). Therefore, language is a sound symbol that has meaning, and it is essential to help humans understand each other through communication.

There are many languages in this world, and one of them is the regional language spoken by smaller communities. Trisa (2015) states regional language is a language spoken in a region within a nationality, whether in a small area or province. Indonesia is one of the archipelagos that has many regional languages. Indonesian society uses regional language to interact in their daily life.

In general, every region in Indonesia has more than one language, and each language is related to one another. Bima is a regency in West Nusa Tenggara, which has several regional languages such as Bima, Sambori, Sanggar and Kolo language. Malmasi & Mark Dras (2015) states the relationship of a language passed down by ancestors, such as a similar meaning is known as cognate. However, no researcher knows the specific sub grouping of the those languages. In language sub grouping, there must

be the same form of words, similar form of words, and different form of words.

People from Bima regency are still actively using Kolo, Sanggar, Sambori, and Bima language. The four language speakers are very fanatical about their language because fanaticism might cause a conflict by mocking each other to pronounce words and convey terms in the language. As Jiang (cited in Rangriz & Harati, 2017) language displays the culture owned by the society, where they can feel and see culture through language. Therefore, native speakers of the four languages are very proud of their language because their languages are a reflection of their culture. As a result, conducting a language mapping and determining the proximity and distance of those languages is crucial to avoid conflict between native speakers of those four languages.

Some researchers are interested in conducting linguistic research on the languages that exist in Bima regency. For example, Budasi & Haris (2020) have conducted a study on the phonological system in the Bima language and the results of their study found total 38 phonemes, namely 5 vowels, 5 diphthongs, 21 consonants, and 7 consonant clusters. Putra (2022), conducted a study on the phonological system in the Sambori language and the results of his study found 72 phonemes, namely; 5 vowels, 18 diphthongs, 21 consonants, 28 consonant clusters and 35 syllabic patterns. Indrawan (2022) conducted a study on the phonological system in the Sanggar language and the results of his study found 57 phonemes, namely; 5 vowels, 18 diphthongs, 21 consonants, 16 consonant clusters and 21 syllabic patterns. Unfortunately, there are no researchers who have studied the phonological system of the Kolo language and there are no written documents regarding the language. Moreover, the language grouping in Bima district is still unclear even though many researchers have conducted studies there, especially in Bima, Sambori, Kolo, and Sanggar languages.

Furthermore, Budasi et al., (2021) have conducted quantitative study about proximity of the fourth languages. His study showed that the Kolo language has a 56% proximity percentage to the Bima language, 48% to the Sambori language, and 41.1% to the Sanggar language. Therefore, Budasi et al., (2021) conclude those four languages do exist in Bima regency, West Nusa Tenggara. However, there has been no existing study on the Kolo language and documents about this language.

Based on the case above, this study focuses on one language, namely the Kolo language. The focus of this study is the phonological system of Kolo language because there has been no study about this language. The novelty of this study will support language grouping in general, especially in West Nusa Tenggara. Furthermore, the researchers can contribute to language mapping in Indonesia and maintain the existence of the Kolo language because it provides authentic documents about the Kolo language.

1.2 Research Question

Base on the background of the study that has been explained above, the research question of this study are:

1. What are the vowel phonemes of the Kolo language and their distribution?
2. What are the diphthong phonemes of the Kolo language and their distribution?
3. What are the triphthong phonemes of the Kolo language and their distribution?
4. What are the consonant phonemes of the Kolo language and their distribution?
5. What are the consonan cluster phonemes of the Kolo language and their distribution?
6. How are the syllabic petterns of the Kolo language?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

Base on the research questions previously mentioned, the purposes of this study are:

1. To analyze the vowel phonemes of the Kolo language and their distribution.
2. To analyze the diphthong phonemes of the Kolo language and their distribution.
3. To analyze the triphthong phonemes of the Kolo language and their distribution.
4. To analyze the consonant phonemes of the Kolo language and their distribution.
5. To analyze the consonant cluster phonemes of the Kolo language and their distribution.
6. To analyze the syllabic pattern of the Kolo language.

1.4 Limitation of The Study

The study is limited on describing the phonological system of Kolo language in terms of the vowel, consonant, diphthong, triphthong, consonant cluster based on their distribution and syllabic pattern.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to give theoretical and significance related to the phonological system. The theoretical and practical significance of this study are:

- 1) Theoretical significance

The theoretical significance is expected to have benefits such as supporting and providing theoretical evidence to a study primarily that discusses the phonological system of the Kolo language.

- 2) Practical significance

For the theoretical significance, this study has benefit, namely:

- a. For Education Field

It is expected to provide data for teachers or lecturers who teach phonology. Then, it can help students learn phonology, primarily about the phonological system Kolo language.

b. For the Linguistics Field

It is expected to be used by other linguists or researchers as a reference to their studies related to the phonological system of Kolo language.

c. For the Government Fields

It is expected to help the Indonesian government. This study can be used as an authentic document about the phonological system of Kolo language toward one of the languages in Indonesia.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding about specific terms of this study, this section explains the conceptual and theoretical key terms base on the topic of this study.

1) Conceptual Definition

1. Language

Language is a system of significant symbols (sound) that people speak to communicate with other people to understand each other through feelings and thoughts (Wibowo, 2001).

2. Phonology

Phonology is a science of the sound system in a particular language, producing syllables, words, and phrases (Kornai, 2008).

3. Phoneme

Phoneme is the smallest unit (sound), which can be comparing one word to another (Hamka, 2016).

4. Phonetics

Phonetics is the science of how sound waves are produced or pronounced by people (Hamka, 2016).

5. Minimal Pairs

The minimal pair is some of the words from an existing language compared by a single sound or phoneme so that from the difference, one can know the change in meaning (Barlow & Gierut, 2002).

2) Operational Definition

1. Language

Language is a tool of communication used by people in Kolo village to convey information.

2. Phonology

Phonology is the science of the sound system in Kolo language.

3. Phoneme

Phoneme is the smallest unit that can compare words in Kolo language.

4. Phonetics

Phonetics is studying how people in Kolo village produce sound.

5. Minimal Pairs

Minimal pair is words of Kolo language distinguished by a single sound or phoneme that marks the distinction of meaning.