

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Overview

This chapter discusses the introduction of the study, which elaborates the background of the research, problem identification, research limitation, research questions, research objectives, and research significance.

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Indonesia has various kinds of languages, almost every region has its own local language, because language is a means a tools of communication (Kurniati, 2014, in Dewi: 2020). Regional languages are rarely used, this will make in the phenomenon of language extinction, because regional languages are rarely used in line support by Veettil et al., (2020). For example, in Bali, Balinese language is the regional language. The Balinese language is increasingly threatened with extinction due to the free flow of globalization. Local people use English and Indonesian more often than they use their own regional language. If allowed to continue this problem can lead to the extinction of the language itself. To maintain the Balinese language, the local people can introduce the regional language through existing culture, one of which is in Balinese dance (Keraf in Yayuk, (2018)).

Balinese dance is one of the cultures that is liked by people inside and outside the region. Balinese dance has unique characteristics which are

reflected in the choreography, clothing, music, and some even have dialogue in the show (Hobart, 2007). According to Hobart (2007), each Balinese dance has deep historical, cultural and philosophical meanings. The creation of Balinese dance is also inspired by everyday life, love stories, flora and fauna, and stories of heroism (Dibia, 1999). Dibia and Ballinger (2012) state in their book that Balinese dance is highly constructed and connected to society. Especially the basic cultural values that are passed down from generation to generation, one of which is through dance. There are 3 types of Balinese dance with different functions, first is Wali Dance, this dance is a dance performed during religious ceremonies danced at temples, for example, Pendet Dance, Rejang Dance, Sang Hyang Jaran Dance, etc. Next is the Bebalian Dance, this dance is an accompaniment dance during religious ceremonies, for example Topeng Sidakarya Dance, Barong, Rangda Dance, etc. Last, the Balih – Balihan Dance, this dance is an entertainment dance that can be danced anywhere, for example Legong Keraton Dance, Cendrawasih Dance, Joged Dance, Janger, etc.

Balinese dance has many types, most Balinese people can certainly move of Balinese dance. However, not all dancers know the name of the movement or lexicon and their meaning contained in each Balinese dance movement. Based on preliminary observations made by dance trainers, they teach their students without mentioning the names or the lexicon of the movements, therefore many Balinese dancers do not know what the lexicon in each movement or the names of the movements. Lexicon is a collection of vocabulary that describes the characteristics of the language itself

(Suwonsichon,2019). Dance teachers usually teach dance by changing the original meaning into Indonesian, so that dancers can easily understand it. This will affect the extinction of the Balinese language, even though many tourists who like Balinese culture, especially Balinese dance. However, due to the dancer's lack of knowledge regarding the lexicon in Balinese dance, it makes it a little difficult to explain using the local language. If all dance trainers can explain the lexicon, then language extinction can be overcome, but if there will be no phenomenon of extinction of the Balinese language in preserving Balinese Dance.

There are many lexicons in every movement and costumes in Balinese dance, one of which is in the *Legong Mahawidyadance*. Another meaning of the lexicon is mentioned by Suwonsichon (2019) in (Kusuma, 2020) where the lexicon is a collection of vocabulary that describes the characteristics of the language itself. We can analyze the existence of a lexicon in a dance by studying the meaning of the name of each dance move, and the meaning of the name of the costume used. As stated by (Perrault, Farrell, & Davies, 2017; Majzuba & Rais, 2011) that in preserving a culture there must be efforts that are made consistently and continuously.

Mahawidya Legong Dance is one of the new dance creations created by Anak Agung Mas Sudarningsih, S.Sn., M.Pd in 2021. This dance comes from the word *maha* which means big and *widya* which means knowledge, so the meaning of the name *Legong Mahawidyadance* is a great science. The world has, In this case means the motherland. In the previous research

conducted by Dita (2021) only analyzed the meaning and description of the dance in the *Legong Mahawidya* Dance, but the meaning of a movement in the *Legong Mahawidya* dance has not been studied much, even known by many people. If the name of the movement is changed or even not remembered, it will cause the phenomenon of language extinction, or even worse, the meaning of the movement has changed.

The novelty of this research will help prevent language extinction by using lexicon continuously. Apart from that, it will help Balinese dancers to know the lexicon in motion and the costumes of the Mahawidya Legong Dance. In addition, this will be beneficial for tourists because besides watching dance performances, they also accidentally learn the Balinese language. Therefore it is very important this research be carried out. The researcher will present data consisting of lexicons with descriptions in each lexicon using English. This will make it easier for dancers or Balinese dance trainers as well as tourists to learn and teach dance.

## 1.2 Problem Identification

Language death is a severe threat to the Balinese language. The death of the Balinese language can be caused by many current Balinese generations who do not know their mother tongue. Dance is one form of language use. The preliminary observation shows that many dancers do not know the Balinese lexicons used in the *Legong Mahawidya* dance. It is because many dance teachers do not use the lexicons when teaching to their students. It results in many dancers do not know the lexicons in the dance. Therefore, if

the lexicons were forgotten, it could result in the death of the lexicons themselves, the Balinese language, and the culture. Hence, to save the Balinese language from death, there must be a documentary on the lexicons of the *Legong Mahawidya* dance.

Nowadays, there are no study that primarily focused on the lexicons of the *Legong Mahawidya* dance. Therefore, a study on lexicons of the *Legong Mahawidya* dance is needed to be conducted.

### **1.3 Limitation of The Research**

This study was conducted in the form of descriptive qualitative research. This study examines the lexicon and the cultural meaning contained in the movement and costumes of the *Legong Mahawidya* dance.

### **1.4 Research Question**

Based on research background, the research questions of this study are:

1. What are lexicons contained in the movement of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance?
2. What are the cultural meaning contained in the movement of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance?
3. What are the lexicons contained in the movement of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance?
4. What are the cultural meaning contained in the costumes of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance?

### **1.5 Purpose of the Study**

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



1. To find out the lexicons contained in the movement of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance.
2. To find out the cultural meaning contained in the movement of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance.
3. To find out the lexicons contained in the costumes of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance.
4. To find out the cultural meaning contained in the costumes of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance.

## 1.6 Significance of the Study

The proposed study expects that there are two result of this study which are theoretical and practical benefits.

### 1.6.1 Theoretical Significance

The researcher expects that the result of this study can support, contribute, and give theoretical evidence for the finding in the study, especially for the lexicon of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance. This study is helpful for the existence, lexicon, and cultural meaning of *Legong Mahadewi* Dance.

### 1.6.2 Practical significance

Practically, this study is helpful for:

#### A. For Readers

The result of this study can introduce the attractiveness of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance, especially the lexicons, the origins, and the meanings of each movement.

#### B. For researcher

The result of this study can use as a reference for the next study about lexical meanings to conduct further research, especially about the lexicons of *Legong Mahawidya* Dance.

#### C. Lecturer and Students

This study to contribute to lecturers in linguistic studies, and expected to be used for students who are interested in linguistic, especially lexicon.

