

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Overview

This chapter discussed about the introduction about the research and elaborates research background, problem identification, limitation of the research, research questions, purpose of the research, significance of the research, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Research Background

Indonesia is a pluralistic country that has many different cultures. This culture also included local languages that are spread across regions in Indonesia. This thing is also experienced by people in Bali, where people in Bali use Balinese as their regional language. However, based on the statement quoted from Giri (2017), the use of the Balinese language in the Bali area has decreased both in quality and quantity. This situation will impact the Balinese language's extinction in Bali. As stated by Setia (2006), in which the Balinese language will become extinct in 2041. According to this statement, the local people in Bali need to maintain the local languages as their local and mother tongue language to preserve this local language and keep it from extinction, commonly known as language death.

Language death is a condition where the speakers of a language no longer use that language anymore to communicate with each people (Crystal, 2000). Balinese people should continuously use the language from one generation to the next.

Amberg and Vause (2010) also argue that language should be maintained because language is an agreement between the community to communicate with each other.

Balinese people are a well-cultured community popular worldwide, especially in Balinese Dance. Balinese Dance is one of the traditional dances, a part of the Bali culture that needs to be preserved. According to Bandem (1979), Balinese Dance has three categories. In line with this statement, Yulianti et al. (2014) also stated that Balinese Dance has three categories according to the purpose of the Performance. The first category in Balinese Dance is the *Wali* dance, usually performed during a religious ceremony in Balinese cultures, such as the *Sanghyang* dance. This kind of dance, traditionally performed at the temple dance is sacred and has a situation where the dancer will enter a *trance* situation or '*kerauhan*.' The second type of Dance is *Bebali* Dance. For example, a semi-sacred dance performed in a traditional ceremony is the *Baris* dance. The last is *Balih-balihan* dance. This kind of dance has the purpose of amusing the audience and has an entertainment purpose. An example of this dance is the *puspanjali* dance.

Aryanto et al. (2019) stated that Balinese Dance has many unique movements with specific meanings. Balinese traditional dance has a set of movements that needs to be followed by the dancer to give a good performance and impression from the audience. In each dance, the movements are different from one dance to another dance. But in modern dance, there are not very strict rules used by the dancer that needs to be followed. One of the dances from Bali, which has strict rules or '*pakem*' to perform, is the *Rangda* Dance.

According to Nadeau (2020), *Rangda* is a noun that signifies 'widow' in ancient high Balinese and the old Javanese language, Kawi. This dance is a well-known performance in Balinese Culture because this Performance is sacred to Balinese people. *Rangda* dance represents anger from an old widow, using a *tapel Rangda* mask, a scary mask with a bulging and grinning eye, long loose hair, and a long tongue and nails sticking out.

Wirawan (2021) stated that the *Rangda* dance is always performed with the *Barong* dance because it symbolizes dualism, called '*Rwa Bhinneda*' in Balinese culture. Then, as time progressed, in several villages in Bali *Rangda* Dance was performed without the Performance of the *Barong* dance. This situation happened because, in Balinese culture, there are several local rules called '*desa, kala, patra,*' which must be followed by the people in a village.

Nowadays, the Performance of the *Rangda* dance can be found in many places in Bali as a sacred dance. However, many people did not know about the meaning of the dance itself. Specifically, many terminologies found in *Rangda* dance are closely related to the study of lexicons, in which the lexicons are lists of vocabularies tied to a culture and language. To practice and perform a Balinese dance while keeping the Balinese language from extinction. Dewi et al. (2020) stated that those who want to learn Balinese dance should also learn the Balinese language to prevent the extinction of the culture's language by preserving the technical terms in the dance from the dance's lexicons.

Several studies have been done to study lexicons in Balinese culture and arts, such as lexicons in the *Tabuh Rah Ceremony*, *Legong Keraton Dance*, *Lexicons of*

*Traditional Houses in Menyali Village*, and many more. These studies are conducted to maintain the local language, especially in Bali. However, the study of the lexicon in traditional Balinese dance, especially *Rangda* Dance, was never done by former researchers. Therefore, the study entitled "An Analysis of Lexicons in *Rangda* Dance: A Descriptive Qualitative Study" needs to be conducted to maintain the lexicon contained in *Rangda* dance.

### **1.2 Problem Identification**

This study will study a sacred dance in Balinese culture, the *Rangda* dance. This kind of dance is well-known in most areas of Bali. There are many lexicons from movement and the dance costumes that exist in *Rangda* dance, which not everyone knows. The reason is mainly because of unwillingness to understand the Balinese language since the *Rangda* dance usually uses the Balinese language. This phenomenon is a threat to the Balinese language's existence, which can lead this language to death. Therefore, the study and documentation of the lexicon in this dance need to be conducted to keep the Balinese Language and prevent it from language death. This study makes the researcher know the correct Balinese language in the movement and costumes in the *Rangda* dance performance.

### **1.3 Research Limitation**

This research is focused on the lexicons related to the movements and the costumes in *Rangda* dance. The research takes place in Gianyar Regency. The informant for this research is the person who is a performer of *Rangda* dance in Gianyar. The limitation of the research is analyzing the lexicons that exist in the dance movement and costumes of *Rangda* dance.

## 1.4 Research Question

Based on the background explained above, the research questions can be formulated as follow:

1. What are the lexicons related to the movement in *Rangda* dance?
2. What are the cultural meanings of lexicons related to the movement of *Rangda* dance?
3. What are the lexicons related to the costumes of *Rangda* dance?
4. What are the cultural meanings of lexicons related to the costumes of *Rangda* dance?

## 1.5 Purpose of the Research

In regard of the research questions above, the present study has two purposes which are:

1. To identify the lexicons related to the movement of *Rangda* dance.
2. To analyze the cultural meaning of the lexicons related to movements of *Rangda* dance.
3. To find out the lexicons related to the costumes of *Rangda* dance.
4. To analyze the cultural meaning of the lexicons related to the costumes of *Rangda* dance.

## 1.6 Significance of The Research

### 1. Theoretical Significance

The significance of the current study is expected to find lexicons in the *Rangda* dance. The dance is performed using the Balinese language.

In addition, the Balinese language is one of the numerous regional

languages that exist and are used alongside Bahasa Indonesia as the national language by the people of Indonesia today. And through this study, the knowledge discovered about the Balinese language may be shared with the next generation. As a result, the extinction of the Balinese language can be prevented. In addition, it is anticipated that the findings of this research will offer an overview of the Balinese lexicons related to the movements and costumes in the *Rangda* dance

## **2. Practical Significance**

### **A. For Researcher**

This study will give the researcher a new knowledge in learning and expanding their knowledge of linguistics field, particularly lexicons in Balinese dance. Especially *Rangda* dance.

### **B. For English Language Education Students**

This study offers knowledge and insight concerning lexicons as a subfield of linguistics. To increase their understanding of linguistics, English Language Education students will benefit from learning information and expertise regarding lexicons

### **C. For Society in Bali**

Society in Bali will get the benefit from this study. From this study, Balinese people will know the lexicons that used in *Rangda* Dance.

### **D. For Other Researcher**

For other researcher, this study will help them to find a reference about study in linguistics terms, especially lexicons in Balinese dance.

## 1.7 Definition of Key Terms

### 1. Traditional Dance

Traditional Dance is a dance from a culture that exist in a society. Traditional dance is a heritage from a society that is exist from generation to generation. Usually, this type of dances has several rules to perform it.

### 2. Balinese Dance

Balinese Dance is a Traditional Dance that exist in Bali. Balinese dance divided into three categories, there are *Wali* dance, *Bebali* dance, and *Balih-balihan* dance

### 3. Rangda Dance

*Rangda* is one of the dances in Bali. This dance is included in the *wali* dance, one of Bali's sacred dances.

### 4. Lexicon

Lexicons are a collection of words with meaning and linguistic information that will be analyzed in *Rangda* dance. The Importance of lexicons is to preserve the language used by the speakers of the language, as well as to prevent the chance of language extinction, and dancing is one of the local prides to preserve the culture and the Balinese language.

### 5. Language Death

Language death occurs if the language is not maintained in a society. It will cause the language has no more speakers that use the language.

### 6. Language Maintenance

Language maintenance is a way to preserve the language and prevent it from a language death.