

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Indonesia is a country that has many regional languages, and Indonesian is its national language. In this country, there are still many people who use regional languages as their daily language. The regional language used can be the characteristics of each area in it. However, its use as a communication tool, the development of regional languages also produces various language variants called dialects.

Bima Regency is one of the regencies in West Nusa Tenggara, which has a regional language. With an area of 4,389 kms², the district has a population of 514,105 people (based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics for Bima Regency in 2020). In a study of language groupings spread across Bima Regency by Budasi in 2019, it was stated that in Bima Regency, there are 4 local languages, namely Bima Language, Kolo Language, Sanggar Language, and Sambori Language (Budasi, 2019). One of the four languages is Bima language. In this language, there are four dialects, namely; Bima, Toloweri, Mbojo, and Donggo. However, the four dialects described in Budasi's has not been completed with the data of the linguistic features which unite and differentiate the 4 dialects as different dialects of the same language. In addition, the four dialects were only classified based on quantitative grouping. So, there is no concrete evidences that can show the uniting and differentiating linguistic features among the 4 dialects.

Mbojo and Taloweri dialects in the study were found the closest kinship relationship (88.00 %). In other word the two dialects have not been explained in

detail when viewed from the lexical characteristics that exist in the two dialects.

Therefore, further studies which describe the uniting and differentiating linguistic features need to be conducted. So that the dialect classification can be completely described and must be carried out. Therefore this study to support the program of Badan Bahasa Jakarta in an attempt to do language and dialect mapping in Nusa Tenggara Timur. This study focused only the linguistic features (especially the lexical features) between Mbojo and Taloweri dialect. This research is entitled "THE LINGUISTIC FEATURES WHICH UNITE AND DIFFERENTIATE NNGAHI MBOJO AND TALOWERI DIALECT.

1.2 Problem Identification

Knowledge of language literature can be a cultural characteristic that a nation can be proud of, so sustainable research for language development becomes part of disseminating language knowledge. I Gede Budasi is one of the researchers who has researched the development of regional languages in the Bima Regency. He studied the history of language development and kinship relations between languages used in Bima. From his several recent studies regarding the languages used in Bima, there is a lack of data and information on several aspects. One of the data and information that has not been explained clearly in his recent research is the linguistic features which unite and differentiate Mbojo and Taloweri (especially lexical features). These two dialects are different but still belong to Bima language. Therefore, the study which investigate the uniting and differentiating features need to be conducted.

1.3 Research Scope

This study is in form of Descriptive Qualitative Research. The study is

limited to analyze the lexical features which unite and differentiate Nggahi Mbojo dialect and Toloweri dialect.

1.4 Research Questions

1.4.1 What are the lexical features which unite Nggahi Mbojo and Toloweri dialect?

1.4.2 What are the lexical features which differentiate Nggahi Mbojo and Toloweri dialect?

1.5 Research Objectives

Based on the exposure above, the problem of the study can be formulated as follows:

1.5.1 To analyze the lexical features which unite Nggahi Mbojo and Toloweri dialects.

1.5.2 To analyze the lexical features which differentiate Nggahi Mbojo and Toloweri dialects.

1.6 Research Significance

The importance of this research is seen from two perspectives. They are of theoretical significance and practical significance.

1.6.1. Theoretical Significance

This study is useful to broaden the knowledge of linguistic theory in the lexical linguistic features of Nggahi Mbojo dialect, especially in similarities and differences in lexical linguistic features between Nggahi Mbojo dialect and Toloweri dialect.

1.6.2. Practical Significance

The result of the study is expected to be significance for:

a. Linguistics Field

The result of the study can be used as references to do other studies about Nggahi Mbojo dialect and Taloweri dialect in Bima Regency.

b. Indonesian Government

This study can be used as an authentic document about the lexical features of Nggahi Mbojo dialect and Taloweri dialect that are used in Bima Regency as a form of Bimanese language preservation.

c. Other researchers

This study can be used by other researchers as a reference for further research on linguistics, especially related to lexical features between Nggahi Mbojo dialect and Taloweri dialect.

1.7 Definition of Key Term

1.7.1 Conceptual Definition

1) Language

Language is means of communication which used to convey ideas, thought, feelings, and emotions to other people (Aslami, 2019).

2) Dialect

Dialect is a variation of language used in a specific area (Item, 2009).

The language variation is when there is an insignificant difference in the linguistic system. So, it cannot be categorized as a language (Gracia & Sandhu, 2015).

3) Lexical Feature

Lexical features, according to Smoliana (2013), are linguistic elements that have their own meanings, cannot be predicted based on the meaning of the parts, and may be considered from several view points. Furthermore, according to Katamba (1994), lexicon as lexical variety is the collection of words, the internalized dictionary that every speaker of the language possesses, as stated by Temaja (2016).

1.7.2 Operational Definition

1) Language

Language is a tool used to convey intentions or ideas to others as a form of communication system so that it can be reached by people in Bima Regency.

2) Dialect

Dialects are variations of language that differ in several aspects as a result of proto-language modifications. This also occurs in the Mbojo dialect and Toloweri dialect which are variations of the Bima language.

3) Lexical Feature

Lexical feature analyzed by comparing word of Mbojo dialect and Toloweri dialect.