

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Overview

This chapter will discuss the introduction of the study which includes background of the study, identification of research problem, research limitation, research question, research objectives and research significance. It will also highlight the context and foundation of the research, that setting the stage for a deeper understanding of the issues addressed in the subsequent chapters.

1.1 Background of The Study

Balinese culture is believed to have a sacred meaning. This is why the ancestors passed on the culture to their descendants. Culture as defined by Løtveit & Bugge (2020), includes all aspects of knowledge, beliefs, customs, and social habits acquired by individuals within a community. Efebo (2023), state that culture encompasses the manifestations of social habits. On the other hand, globalization is making it easier for cultures to change. One example is how the Balinese language is being affected many young people in Bali are now choosing not to use it as often. This shows how globalization can lead to parts of the culture being less valued or practiced by the younger generation (Agung et al., 2020). Language is essential for communication in daily life, deeply intertwined with culture. Language serves as a primary tool for communication and is intrinsically linked with culture. According to Arutyunova (1979) and Tektigul et al., (2023), language is a system of distinct sound signs that

naturally emerges in human society, evolving to serve communication purposes and capable of expressing the full spectrum of human knowledge and ideas

The close relationship between language and culture is evident in how language conveys the traditions and values that define a community's identity. Each region has its unique cultural traits and language, reflected in its specific lexicons. As supported by Aprilianti (2023), someone can study the lexicon as an effort to maintain and preserve a culture. Lexicons, as described by Komang, et al. (2023), are word lists with explanations that clarify their meanings. In Balinese culture, Budasi et al., (2021) highlight that the language's lexicon includes specialized expressions used in cultural and religious contexts.

All Balinese life is based on the *Tri Hita Karana* principle (Darmastuti et al., 2019). *Tri Hita Karana* is a deep philosophical concept in Balinese culture, emphasizing the balance between humans and humans (*pawongan*), humans and nature (*palemahan*), and humans and God (*parahyangan*) (Made et al., 2023). All region in the Bali are applied this concept, especially in Menyali village located in the Sawan Sub-district of North Bali. One such ritual is the *Nigang Sasih*, or "*Nyambutin*," a religious ceremony performed for babies aged 105 days to foster good behavior, known as "*Suputra*" (Suweta et al., 2022). The *Nigang Sasih* ritual involves specific procedures with associated lexicons. The *Nigang Sasih* ritual, a significant religious ceremony, reflects this relationship between language and culture. However, many villagers are unfamiliar with the specific lexicons used in the ritual's procedures. Only a few individuals, such as religious leaders and ritual experts, understand these terms. This

lack of understanding among the broader community members highlights a gap in cultural knowledge and linguistic preservation.

Researchers are increasingly interested in studying the lexicon used in rituals and traditions, recognizing its role in preserving cultural heritage and understanding traditional practices. Lexicon or collection of words, contains deep cultural meaning. In Bali, language and culture are closely intertwined. If people do not understand the cultural meaning behind these words, they risk losing their cultural identity. Balinese identity is closely tied to its culture, and that culture is expressed through specific words and terms used in various traditions. Therefore, understanding these words means understanding Balinese culture itself. However, if someone does not understand the lexicon, then they will not understand their own culture, which can cause the culture and the language used to slowly disappear. Thus, learning this lexicon is important as an effort to maintain the cultural and linguistic identity of a community itself.

Many studies emphasize the diversity and cultural richness found in the vocabulary of various rituals. Jannah et al.'s (2024) researching about the lexicons used in the Muslim wedding ceremonies in Tegallinggah Village, North Bali. The study explores the procedures of the ceremony, identifies the specific vocabulary involved, and explains their cultural. There's another research by Komang & Oktapiani (2023), on the lexicons used in the *Malik Sumpah* ceremony in Sembiran Village, Bali. The research aims to describe the cultural meanings of these lexicons and highlights the importance of the Balinese language as a key communication tool in both daily life and cultural practices in the region. Suparwa (2021), study on the lexicons used in the

Merangkat wedding ceremony in Sawan Village identifies twenty-three lexicons within the three stages of the marriage process and explores their cultural meanings that related to the relationships between humans, God, the community, and nature.

Based on the background above, the researcher plans to examine the lexicon of the *Nigang Sasih* ritual procedure in Menyali village, Sawan District, Buleleng Regency. This research will conduct with the aim to finding out about the lexicon used in the *Nigang Sasih* ritual procedure in the Menyali Village version. Therefore, researcher is interested in conducting research with the title “*Lexicon in the Nigang Sasih Ritual used in Menyali Village*” is because there had been no studies examining the lexicon at the *Nigang Sasih* ritual. By exploring and documenting these lexicons, this research seeks to contribute to the understanding and preservation of the linguistic and cultural heritage of Menyali. The study’s findings are expected to serve as a valuable reference for future research on religious rituals in Bali. The benefit of carrying out this research is that it can increase knowledge and understanding of the lexicon used in the *Nigang Sasih* ritual procedure in Menyali village. Apart from that, we hope that this research can be a reference for future researchers if they want to research the lexicon at a religious ritual.

1.2 Identification of Research Problem

Bali is an island that is very rich in culture, traditions and more which are still maintained to this day. Each culture has characteristics that are very important to know so that they can be preserved. One of the cultures is about religious ceremonies. One of the religious ceremonies that is classified as a *manusa yadnya* that almost all

Balinese people must carry out is the *Ningang Sasih* Ritual. Menyali Village is one of the villages that still maintains and carries out its own version of the *Ningang Sasih* ritual. In the ritual's procedure, there are lexicons that were discovered and used by the people of the Menyali village.

In addition, in this study there are many lexicons used in the *Ningang Sasih* ritual. Thus, researchers also want to know the meaning of each lexicon in this ritual procedure. Research on the lexicon at the *Ningang Sasih* ritual is important to study because the low of knowledge and understanding of Balinese people about the lexicon used and its meaning, especially for village people who don't understand the meaning of the lexicon. The benefit of conducting this research is to develop understanding and deepen linguistic knowledge which is explained in each lexicon of the *Ningang Sasih* ritual procedure in Menyali Village.

1.3 Research Limitation

Based on the problem identification above, this research will focus on the lexicons of *Ningang Sasih* ritual in the Menyali village, Buleleng district, Bali. In conducting this research, it will add insight into the procedural lexicons and to enrich knowledge about the cultural meaning of each lexicon in the *Ningang Sasih* ritual procedures, especially in the Menyali Village version.

1.4 Research Question

Based on the research problems above, it could be proposed research questions as follow:

1. What lexicons are used in the procedures of *Nigang Sasih* ritual in Menyali Village?
2. What are the cultural meaning of lexicons used in *Nigang Sasih* ritual in Menyali Village?

1.5 Research Objectives

1. To identify lexicons used in procedures of the *Nigang Sasih* ritual in Menyali Village.
2. To analyze the cultural meaning of the identified lexicons in *Nigang Sasih* ritual in Menyali village.

1.6 Research Significance

This research expected can provide positive contributions and benefits in theoretical and practical significance to readers.

1.6.1 Theoretical Significance

Researcher hope to provide positive information and knowledge to readers and the public, especially in the linguistic field. Analyzing the lexicon in the *Nigang Sasih* ritual in Menyali village, Buleleng district, Bali in order to increase insight and in-depth understanding in the linguistic field of the cultural meaning of each lexicon found in the *Nigang Sasih* ritual procedure and provide an overview to the community about the importance of maintaining Balinese culture.

1.6.2 Practical Significance

a. For Government

The research is expected to provide in-depth insight into the use of the lexicon in the *Ningang Sasih* ritual procedure, especially in Menyali village, Sawan sub-district, Buleleng Regency, Bali.

b. For Ganesha University of Education

It is hoped that this research will provide positive benefits for developing in-depth knowledge and understanding of the lexicon used in religious ritual procedures.

c. For Other Researcher

This research can be used as a reference by future researchers in conducting research that remains related to this research topic.

d. For Villagers

This research is expected to provide insight to the villagers about the culture of the *Ningang Sasih* ritual.

