

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Research Background

Balinese lexicons related to rice farming are threatened with extinction. Based on the researcher's preliminary interview, it shows that the three respondents who are native Balinese speakers and actively involved in rice planting activities in three villages in Penebel District only know 20 lexicons from a list of 50 lexicons related to rice fields. This means that there are lexicons that are threatened with extinction if we do not take any action to maintain the lexicon itself. Apart from that, problems will arise in the future if we don't make any efforts to protect the language. This problem will have an impact on the existence of culture in Bali. According to Siotapina & Buton (2019), a language can become extinct if the environment and the culture related to the language itself also become extinct. Language reflects cultural diversity and ensures diversity and harmony in relations with the environment. "Loving and caring for the environment, as well as living side by side in harmony with nature and other creatures is a reflection of where one lives and the development of language" (Mahayana et al., 2019).

Nowadays, due to the modernization the use of language during the social interaction is increasingly varied. Sutama et al. (2019) stated the variety of language used indicates the absorption of new language as the borrowing words, which gives rise to a new language which affects to the endanger of local language (Kobis, 2023). Balinese language spoken in Penebel District is often associated with culture. As Ninsiana (2018) stated language and culture

are tied to each other, and both cannot be separated. This is due to the fact that many non-Balinese speakers enter the realm of Balinese speakers so that interaction around them is inevitable. Gradually, Balinese tends to be influenced by the surrounding language. On the other hand, Bali is a tourism destination, both nationally and internationally, which has a major influence on the development of the Balinese language. Likewise, technological developments and the economic level of society are increasing (Erawati, 2013).

The presence of the Indonesian language in the midst of using the Balinese language might cause this regional language to become extinct. There are a number of young Balinese speakers who are not familiar with the agricultural lexicon. If this continues it can stimulate the extinction of this language. Linguists view language as a reciprocal relationship between humans and nature. It is ecolinguistics that examines the environment and language, and juxtaposes ecology and linguistics (Mbeti, 2013). The existence of interdependence between society and the environment has resulted in a set of nouns which are encoded in the lexicon unit of the environmental area. However, if the interdependence is not harmonious, it can cause the biota and activities that used to exist to become unsustainable. According to Fishman in Mbeti (2013) with the existence of various languages there will be language dominance by high achieving languages. The presence of immigrant tribes/nationalities who use Indonesian or their regional language in Bali is one of the factors that influences the level of resilience and shifts in the Balinese language. This is what makes the lexicon of the Balinese language

interesting to study. This research was conducted to describe the impact of ecosystem change on the lexicon related to rice cultivation in Bali. With this research it can be understood in depth the relationship between the Balinese language and the environment in Bali. Thus, this research is not only important, but urgently needed.

One of the sub-districts in Bali which is famous for its terraced or terraced rice fields is the Penebel sub-district which consists of 18 villages, but this research used three villages, including Jatiluwih Village, Tajen Village, and Penalahan Village. These three villages have agricultural land (rice fields) and the majority of the people who live in these villages work as farmers. Because the rice fields are still preserved, the village area was designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a world cultural heritage on June 29 2012. This of course influences the existence of rice fields lexicon and texts as an environmental language.

Remembering that language and culture has tightly and important relationship, to maintain cultural relations between older and younger generations, and the death of a language, especially related to the topic that will be conducted, therefore, the effort of language revitalization must be implemented immediately. Therefore, eco-linguistic research related to the existence of Balinese language lexicon in the context of rice field agriculture in Penebel District is not only an interesting topic but also important and must be implemented immediately.

## 1.2. Problem Identification

Based on the preliminary observation to the three villages in Penebel District which are Jatiluwih Village, Tajen Village and Penatahan village, the researcher found three conditions which lead to the problem identification of this research. The conditions are closely the same in each village. The first problem is farmers have started to use more modern tools to do rice planting activities. It makes them easier and faster in doing the preparation before planting the rice plant. Consequentially, traditional tools are used less frequently. If it happens for the long period of time, the traditional tools for rice planting will not be used and people are not familiar to those tools.

The second problem is related to the previous problem. Since the traditional tools are rarely used, the activities that used those tools are rarely done by the farmers as well. Instead, there are new terms in rice planting activities since the modern tools are used.

The third problem that the researcher found is related to animals around rice fields. The use of chemical pesticide to get rid the pest make the pest that used to be found around rice field are no longer found or rarely found.

If these three conditions happen in a long period of time, fewer people will recognize the tools, activities and animals that used to be found, used, and done around the rice field. At the same time, the demand of using more modern tools can not be denied. Therefore, to revitalize the lexicons related to the tools, activities and animals that rarely found, it is important to note and make documentation. Therefore, even though people can not find the tools, activities, or animals, people

are introduced to the lexicons and they know the traditional ones as a part of rice planting activities.

### **1.3. Problem Limitation**

The problem of the study is limited, that is only rising the issue of the existence of the Bali Language Lexicon in the Field of Rice Agriculture in Penebel District, especially in Jatiluwih village, Tajen village, and Penatahan village.

### **1.4. Research Questions**

1. What lexicons are related to rice field agriculture in Penebel District?
2. What are the status of the lexicons that are used in rice planting activities in Penebel District?
3. What are the efforts to revitalize the lexicon related to rice planting activities in Penebel District?

### **1.5. Research Purposes**

1. To investigate what lexicons are related to rice field agriculture in Penebel District
2. To understand the factors that influence the sustainability of the lexicon regarding rice planting activities in Penebel District.
3. To perceive the efforts to maintain the lexicon related to rice planting activities in Penebel District.

## **1.6. Research Significances**

### **1.5.1 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 existence of the Bali language lexicon in the field of rice agriculture in Penebel District, Tabanan, Bali.

### **1.5.2 Practical Significances**

#### **a. Linguistics Field**

In linguistics field, this research can enrich the source to other researchers especially in Balinese lexicons.

#### **b. Education Field**

In education, it can obviously give students reference to improve their vocabulary in Balinese language. In line with that, teachers can get information on how to teach Balinese lexicons especially those that related to rice field agriculture in the classroom.

#### **c. Balinese Government**

Balinese government can have a document in form of dictionary of Balinese language more specifically about agricultural field.