

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Research**

A lexicon is a collection or combination of words used in a language or by a person. According to Williams (2004), a language of movement is a unique specific group performance that encompasses everything from the movements themselves to the cultural beliefs and rituals that give meaning to the dances. One of the dances in Indonesia that has expensive movement, song, costume, and also meaning is the Barongsai dance performed in Singaraja, North Bali.

The Barongsai dance is still alive and is one form of entertainment for the Chinese people in the city. According to Kartini (2015), the lion dance is considered as an important dance in Chinese culture and has become an integral part of Chinese cultural heritage. This dance is performed in groups, and a female dancer usually appears as a dragon carrier or as a supporter of music in the dance performance (Avaunt, 2018). Currently, the Barongsai dance in the city is mostly performed by local residents who are mixed of generations (Chinese and Balinese). The ethnic Chinese in the city must continue to preserve it to ensure that it does not become extinct, and also to continue to display the characteristics of the Barongsai originating from China.

One approach to this dance's growth is to keep the lexicons used in the dance. According to Crystal (2016), a lexicon is the total stock of words in a language, encompassing not only the individual's words but also their meaning, forms, and special usage. A lexicon is used to preserve a culture of speakers of the language in this case the Chinese language, so that it continues to evolve from generation to generation. In relation to this, Duranti (2020) mentions that language will always exist in culture as long as it is preserved. Katamba (1993) added that the lexicon is crucial for understanding how words are formed through both inflection and derivation. From the statement above, it can be said that the lexicon is an essential tool for developing a local language where its speakers may preserve the language.

Several previous studies done by Budasi (2025), Yao (2024), Hyun-Soon (2023), and Agung (2020) are related to this study. The first example is from Budasi (2021) who studied about the Balinese Alpha Generation's Understanding of Traditional Balinese Game Lexicons: Urban vs Rural Areas. The results of this study found that the students in rural area had a better understanding on lexicons in traditional Balinese games than the student in urban are, However, in general, students' understanding of both in rural and urban areas is still low because they only understand a small part of the existing lexicons. The second study was done by Yao (2024) who studied about the cultural memory of Thai-Chinese Lion Dance In Bangkok, Thailand, The results of this study were to emphasized how important it was to promote intercultural dialogue and cooperation to advance the Thai-Chinese Lion dance tradition internationally. The third study was conducted by Hyun-Soo (2023) who studied about the Lion Dance and Meaning of the Dance in Bukcheong Lion Play. The results of this study were to clarify the content of the Bukcheong Sajanoreum, which was currently being passed down consists of a total of 8 chapters. The Bakcheong Lion dance has more skillful and powerful dance moves than the lion dance of any regional mask dance. The fourth studied was done by Agung (2020) who study about lexicons in the Legong Keraton dance, with the aimed to identify the lexicons used in the dance. This study revealed that there were 48 lexicons in Legong Keraton dance, which were divided into four lexicons for structure, thirteen lexicons for hand, twelve lexicons for leg movements, twelve lexicons for body movements, three lexicons for neck movements, two lexicons for eyes movements, and three lexicons for fan movements.

As can be analyzed, none of the above researchers have researched the lexicons related to the Singaraja culture dances, and related to that, the lexicons that exists in the culture are important regarding the Chinese language used, and base on that, the language used is included in extinction. This is the basis for why the research on Barongsai dance must be carried out immediately. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to investigate the lexicons in the Barongsai (Lion dance) in Singaraja.

## 1.2 Problem Identification

Barongsai (Lion dance) in Indonesia exists in society because of the rich culture and harmony that it displays, currently in the northern Bali region, specifically in Singaraja. This dance deserves to be developed because, first. There has been a structural change in the Barongsai dance. This happens because most of the dancers in Barongsai today do not come from Chinese ethnic groups but rather from local people who live around Klenteng (Temple in Chinese culture) places of worship, the majority of whom are native or mixed Balinese. Later, it can cause the loss of the characteristics of native speakers of Barongsai who come from Chinese ethnicity. Second, Many of the younger generation, both ethnic Chinese and Indonesians, are still not familiar with Barongsai. They do not understand the procedures and lexicon related to the Barongsai (Lion dance) tradition. Thirdly, because there are no references to facilitate the teaching of Barongsai in Singaraja, the use of language and the development of the dance must be carried out.

Furthermore, this dance can influence the development of local culture because of its lexicon meaning. The phenomenon that is currently occurring is that several local communities, as well as several Tiohoa ethnics, are still unfamiliar with the meaning of the Barongsai dance, both its purpose and the symbols it displays. This can cause the slow destruction or disappearance of a culture, because most people are reluctant to look at a culture without understanding the meaning of that culture, so it can cause a culture to slowly become extinct. Therefore, Lexicon is used in this research so that it can be a special medium or way to help preserve a culture and language and also make it easier for someone when they want to learn this dance.

## 1.3 Limitations of the Study

The scope of this research is descriptive research. It focuses on the specifics of linguistic studies. This research is limited to focusing and analyzing the lexicon in the Barongsai dance in Singaraja. So, the focus is on the lexicon of Barongsai (Lion dance) in Singaraja.

### 1.4 Research Questions

From the research background above, there are three research problems found in this study:

1. What are the lexicon and the cultural meaning of Barongsai (Lion Dance) movements, costumes, and musical instruments?
2. What are the forms of word formation of the lexicons found in the Barongsai (Lion dance)?
3. What are the word classes of the lexicons found in the Barongsai (Lion dance)?

### 1.5 Research Objectives

Based on the background of the study explained above, the aims of this study are:

1. To find out the lexicons and to analyze the cultural meaning of the dance movements, costumes, and musical instruments in the Barongsai (Lion dance).
2. To analyze the word formation from the lexicons found in the Barongsai (Lion dance).
3. To analyze the word classes from the lexicons found in the Barongsai (Lion dance).

### 1.6 Significance of the Study

#### 1. Theoretical Significance

The study's findings should theoretically have several implications for those who like learning languages, particularly lexicons. Additionally, this study will help the researcher acquire a deeper understanding of linguistics, particularly regarding the lexicon used in the Barongsai (Lion dance) in Singaraja.

#### 2. Practical Significance

##### a. For The Lectures Of The Educational Department

This study can be useful and can help lecturers in conducting lexicon studies, and can be a reference for future research.

##### b. For The English Education Students.



This study can be useful for English Education Students because this research can provide information, knowledge, and reasoning about linguistics. Especially the lexicon in Barongsai (Lion dance) in Singaraja. A place that has a unique history and culture.

c. For The Singaraja Community.

This study can be useful in helping the people of Singaraja in maintaining and developing one of the traditional dance cultures, namely Barongsai (Lion dance) in Singaraja.

### **1.7 Definitions of Key Terms**

#### **1. The concept of Ecolinguistics**

Ecolinguistics' multidisciplinary focus examines the connections between language and the environment, particularly emphasizing how linguistic practices shape ecological ideas and actions (Fairclough, 2018).

#### **2. The Concept of Lexicons**

Murphy (2018) emphasizes that the lexicon is not just a statistical list of words but a dynamic system that reflects ongoing changes in language use, influenced by social, cultural, and technological development.

#### **3. The Concept of Meaning and Types**

The interpretation or importance of language expressions (words, phrases, sentences) in connection to mental, social, or contextual representations is known as meaning in linguistic and cognitive frameworks (Evans, 2015).

#### **4. Lexical Meaning**

According to Murphy (2016) characterises lexical meaning as the conceptual and semantic information associated with certain words or morphemes inside a language.

#### **5. Word Formation.**

Plug (2018) defines word formation as the systematic methods by which new lexical items are produced from existing language elements.

#### **6. Word Classes.**

According to Huddleston (2020), Word classes are defined by a mix of syntactic behaviour (e.g., their positional context in sentences), morphological attributes (e.g., inflections), and functional roles.

#### 7. The Concept of Cultural Meaning.

Cultural meaning comes from the cultural norms, values, and practices held by a group of people. These meanings are often embedded in symbols, rituals, and cultural practices that are unique to a particular culture (Barth, F. 1969).

#### 8. The Concept of Language Maintenance

According to Spolsky (2017), the efforts by speakers of a language to continue the use within their community, resisting external pressures to shift to another language.

#### 9. The History of Barongsai Dance.

According to Liu (2018), the Lion dance is a traditional Chinese folk art with a history that dates back over a thousand years; this has evolved into various styles and forms, each with unique regional characteristics.

#### 10. Systemic Phonology in Chinese Based on Phonetic Symbols

Systemic phonology, as a part of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), examines how phonological elements contribute to meaning in communication. In Mandarin Chinese, phonology is represented through phonetic symbols using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and Pinyin transcription

#### 11. Dance Movement

Foster (2017) characterizes dance movement as a manifestation of embodied knowledge that surpasses linguistic expression. She underscores that movements in dance communicate emotions, concepts, and identities, rendering it a potent medium for narrative and cultural expression.

#### 12. Dance Costume

Marion Kant (2016) highlight that dance clothes serve as an extension of the dancer's physical appearance, facilitating the expression of emotion and

story. They serve not just a decorative purpose but also a functional one, affecting the audience's perception of motion and rhythm.

### 13. Musical Instrument in the Dance

Musical instruments, especially percussion instruments, are the main source of rhythm, which is important for coordinating the movements in the dance to make it more beautiful and interesting (Blacking, 2015).

