

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Overview

This chapter will discuss the introduction of the research, which consists of research background, problem identification, limitation of the research, research questions, research objectives, and significances of the research.

### 1.1 Research Background

Language and culture are two inseparable aspects that shape and influence humans in defining the way they communicate and also create their identity. According to Sapir (1921) language is not only a tool to express thoughts in communication, but also reflect the cultural reality of a society. Language is the core of human communication that makes it act as the bearer of a culture and also as the standards of the society who utilize it. Language becomes ingrained with culture. They define how humans actively use and perceive objects in their surroundings in a way that is frequently subtle (Arslan et al., 2024). With the emergence of globalization, culture has also been affected, causing society less familiar with the language or the terms used in their local culture.

Indonesia has incredible language diversity because Indonesia has up to 750 distinct languages, but in 2016 Indonesia was threatened with the extinction of 139 native Indonesian languages (Sewell, 2022). That threat can make a language in endangered status that can cause language death in Indonesian native languages. In Indonesia itself, there are disproportionate relationship between the number of languages and the number of speakers because the number of

speakers of each heritage language are not counted because in many cases, speakers switch to other languages and dialects instead of retaining their heritage languages (Collins, 2022). To reduce the number endangered language in Indonesia, it is necessary to recognize the lexicon used from local cultures or languages in Indonesia.

Lexicon refers to the entire set of words and expressions used within a language, including specialized unique terminologies to specific fields (Bloomfield, 1933). Indonesia with so many local languages also make the lexicon in Indonesia very diverse, mainly due to the many cultures and traditions that exist in Indonesia. Bali as one of the regions in Indonesia that is known for its rich culture and traditions also has many lexicon contained in its culture and traditions, even in traditional music found in Bali also has its own lexicon. Certain lexicon used in traditional music in Bali have been passed down orally for generations, making them more vulnerable to loss if not systematically documented. These lexicon are deeply embedded in Balinese rituals, ceremonies, and artistic expressions, making them an essential part of the island's cultural legacy.

Balinese traditional music is an essential part of Balinese culture. In discussing about Balinese traditional music, it is important to know about the type of traditional musical ensemble in Bali called Gamelan. One of the unique forms of traditional gamelan in Bali is Jegog. Jegog is a traditional gamelan from Jembrana in which all instruments are made of bamboo. Jegog was created by an artist named I Wayan Geliguh in 1912 (Artayani & Putri, 2021). Jegog instruments that consist of big size bamboo tubes can produce low pitch but high

intensity noise when being played together (Setiawan & Maryati, 2018). Gamelan Jegog serves multiple important functions in Balinese culture, ranging from religious rituals (*seni bebali*) to entertainment (*seni balih-balihan*) and international promotion (Sudana & Adi, 2023). Jegog's unique qualities that distinguish it from other types of traditional Balinese musical assembly are what make it so special and important as a research object. Jegog is made entirely of giant bamboo, in contrast to the majority of Bali's gamelan ensembles, which are made of bronze. Native to Jembrana Regency, traditional gamelan of Jegog is particularly well-preserved in Sangkaragung Village. Furthermore, Jegog is rich with lexicon that are deeply rooted in West Bali tradition, and can't be found in the other regions. The Balinese musical tradition is greatly enhanced by the distinctive lexicon related to Jegog. However, due to a lack of documentation and the increasing popularity of other global languages in modern discourse, these lexicon are progressively disappearing from the public's awareness. The preservation of Jegog's traditional lexicon is crucial for maintaining Balinese cultural and linguistic legacy because current generations are moving toward other global languages, which puts local lexicon at risk of being forgotten.

Based on the researcher's preliminary observation, it was found that many Balinese youths nowadays are unfamiliar with the specific lexicon used in gamelan Jegog, even when some people familiar with the lexicon used in gamelan Jegog, they don't really know about the meaning of each lexicon used in gamelan Jegog. Lexicon used in the gamelan Jegog holds deep cultural and historical significance, but as fewer people familiar and understand the lexicon used in gamelan Jegog, the linguistic and cultural essence of gamelan Jegog are

at risk of being lost. Many younger generations may appreciate Jegog as a musical performance, but they do not understand the meaning embedded in its lexicons. That can lead to a shift in perception from a rich cultural tradition to pure entertainment. If this phenomenon continues, the tradition of gamelan Jegog may lose its authenticity and its role as a medium of cultural transmission could weaken, leading to an urgent need to document the knowledge of lexicon used in gamelan Jegog.

Sangkaragung Village, located in Jembrana Regency, Bali, is widely known as the conservation center of Jegog. The village is home to several Jegog ensembles and institutions dedicated to preserving and promoting this traditional art form. However, while the performance aspects of Jegog continue to grow, the linguistic aspects, such as traditional lexicon have not been systematically documented, making this an urgent area for research. As the hub of Jegog conservation, Sangkaragung serves as an ideal setting for studying the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog.

Several researchers have conducted research with the topic of lexicon used in Balinese culture, but that research used different objects as the research object. Those previous research also mainly used Balinese dance or Balinese ritual as the object of the research which is different from this research's object which is about traditional Balinese gamelan named Jegog. Those previous researches are different from this research because this research is more in depth analysing the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog and also analyzing the cultural meaning of each lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog in Sangkaragung Village as the research setting.

Although various studies have explored lexicon used in Balinese culture, there remains a gap in research specifically examining the Lexicon used in the Traditional Gamelan of Jegog in Sangkaragung Village. This study is important because it aims to document and analyze the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog. The lexicon used in Jegog are not only essential for understanding the lexicon used in this traditional gamelan, but also serve as a reflection of Balinese cultural identity. The increase of globalization leads to many local lexicon, especially those related to traditional gamelan, are at risk of being forgotten. By conducting an in-depth analysis of the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog, this research can contribute to the preservation of lexicon used in Balinese traditions and enhance awareness of how language functions within traditional music. Furthermore, this study provides valuable insights in serving as a reference for future research on Balinese traditional gamelan and language preservation. The results of this research encourage attempts that promote the sustainability of Balinese culture in regional and international contexts in addition to preserving the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog.

## **1.2 Problem Identification**

Based on the research background above, it is known that language and culture are deeply interconnected, shaping the way individuals communicate and maintain their cultural identity. However, with the increasing influence of globalization, many local lexicon are at risk of being forgotten or it can lead to a language death. This research comes from the endangered language phenomenon that happens nowadays. Balinese traditional gamelan like Jegog

contains a wealth of lexicon that is unfamiliar for today's generation. Despite Jegog's functions in religious rituals, entertainment, and cultural preservation, its linguistic aspects remain understudied and undocumented. As younger generations nowadays prioritize using Bahasa Indonesia and global languages, the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog is fading from public awareness.

Additionally, previous research on Balinese lexicon has primarily examined rituals and dance, with limited studies focusing on the lexicon used in traditional Balinese gamelan. Therefore, there is a clear gap in research regarding the documentation and analysis of the cultural meaning of lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog, making it an urgent and valuable area of study for the preservation of Balinese linguistic and cultural heritage.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Research**

This research focused on identifying and analyzing the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog in Sangkaragung Village, Jembrana. The study is limited to identify the cultural meaning of the lexicon used in the gamelan jegog within its ritual before doing the performance. This research does not identify and analyze the other elements of gamelan Jegog such as its historical evolution, or influences from external cultural interaction.

This research is based on data gathered through observations and interviews, and its findings depend on the availability of knowledgeable informants who are familiar with the lexicon used in gamelan Jegog. The reliability of the research findings depends on the extent to the informants that can recall and explain the lexicon used in gamelan jegog. Additionally, this research is focused only on

gamelan jegog in Sangkaragung Village, and it does not explore the comparison with other traditional Balinese music or with gamelan forms from different cultural backgrounds.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

Based on the background of the study above, the research questions that raised are:

1. What lexicon are used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog in Sangkaragung Village?
2. What are the cultural meanings of each lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog in Sangkaragung Village?

#### **1.5 Research Objectives**

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To identify lexicon that are used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog in Sangkaragung Village.
2. To analyze the cultural meanings of each lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog in Sangkaragung Village.

#### **1.6 Significance of the Research**

This research is expected to provide useful information both theoretically and practically for readers, especially for those who are interested or studying linguistics. the significance of this research is divided into two, namely theoretical and practical significance.

### **1.6.1 Theoretical Significance**

The result of this study is expected to be significant in providing positive information and knowledge to readers and the public, especially in the ethnolinguistics field. Analyzing the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog in Sangkaragung village in order to increase insight and in-depth understanding in the ethnolinguistics field of the cultural meaning of each lexicon found in the traditional gamelan of Jegog in Sangkaragung village and provide an overview to the community about the importance of maintaining Balinese culture. In addition, the information about the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog can also be used to increase public knowledge about the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog, so that language extinction can be avoided and the language can still exist.

### **1.6.2 Practical Significance**

#### **a. For the Government**

This study provides the government some crucial data to support initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting Indonesia's local culture. By analyzing the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog, the government can include these findings in cultural preservation programs, ensuring that traditional practices are maintained and respected.

#### **b. For Balinese People**

This research provides an educational opportunity for Balinese people to deepen their understanding of lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog and its cultural meaning, and foster a sense of pride in Balinese cultural identity. Using a proper lexicon also ensures that the

culture is known well, which is important for maintaining the culture's well-being.

**c. For English Language Education Department**

Through a deeper comprehension of the connections between language and culture, this research helps English Education students in improving their understanding in linguistics field, especially in ethnolinguistic study. Students can understand the importance of language in maintaining cultural Identity, which is crucial for cross-cultural communication, by studying the lexicon used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog.

**d. For Future Study**

The result of this study is expected to be a reference and valuable insight for other researchers who will conduct study in the same field, especially in the traditional gamelan of Jegog at Sangkaragung Village.

**1.7 Definitions of Key Terms**

The definition of the key terms is intended to encompass related terminologies. The purpose is to avoid misunderstanding on the use of the terms. The definition of key terms is elaborated as follows.

**1.7.1 Ethnolinguistics**

Ethnolinguistics refers to the study of the relationship between language and culture, particularly how language reflects the beliefs, values, and practices of a specific cultural community. In this study, ethnolinguistics is used to analyze how the lexicon in Jegog gamelan represents the cultural identity of the Sangkaragung Village.

### 1.7.2 Lexicon

Lexicon is the set of words or vocabulary used within a particular language or specific field. In this study, lexicon refers to the specific terms used in the traditional gamelan of Jegog, including names of instruments, playing techniques, sound concepts, performance sequences, types of tabuh, and ritual terms.

### 1.7.3 Cultural Meaning

Cultural meaning refers to the symbolic and contextual meaning of words that are shaped by cultural beliefs, traditions, and shared understanding in a certain community. In this study, cultural meaning refers to the deeper meaning of each Jegog lexicon as understood by the people of Sangkaragung Village.

### 1.7.4 Traditional Gamelan of *Jegog*

The traditional gamelan of Jegog is a bamboo-based musical ensemble originating from Jembrana, Bali. It consists of large bamboo instruments that produce distinctive low-frequency sounds and is used in both ritual and entertainment contexts.

### 1.7.5 Endangered Language

Endangered language refers to a language that is at risk of being forgotten because it is no longer actively used by younger generations. In this study, the decreasing use of lexicon in Jegog gamelan is linked to this phenomenon.

### 1.7.6 Language Maintenance

Language maintenance refers to efforts made by a community to preserve and continue using their native language across generations. In this study, documenting the lexicon of Jegog is considered a form of language maintenance

