

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Overview

This chapter presents the introduction of the research, which consists of research background, problem identification, research limitations, research questions, research objectives, and research significance.

1.1 Research Background

A language carries the identity of its speakers, allowing them to differentiate one community from another. This includes distinctive vocabulary and grammatical structures, as well as idiomatic phrases and pronunciation that are passed down through generations. Language represents the culture of the people who use it, and allows the speakers to understand their identity properly through their language (Jyotika et al., 2022). Furthermore, language also serves as a medium for expressing emotions, knowledge, and cultural values, which are important for maintaining a sense of belonging in a community (Budasi et al. 2025).

One of the key aspects of a language is its vocabulary, also known as lexicons. Lexicons are conveyed as words, sentences, and expressions that contain various meanings and complex cultural contexts in a community (Karimah et al., 2025). Among communities that have a strong cultural influence, such as Bali, the lexicons are found in all aspects of human life, including everyday communication, religious rituals, dance, and architecture (Andini et al., 2023). The varying use of the lexicons shows the relationship between language and culture that is heavily influenced by each other, because when a language is endangered, the culture will fade along with the language, and vice versa (Suryandewi, 2023). Thus, language reflects cultural values and rituals that have been passed down from generation to generation.

As time progresses and the influence of foreign cultures increases, knowledge of the lexicons used in traditional rituals is gradually declining, especially among the younger generation (Diandra et al., 2023). The younger generation nowadays often lacks an understanding of the meanings and contexts of

the lexicons used in their own culture. This arises because parents or elders in the village tend not to pass on traditional lexicons to the young generation due to a lack of understanding of the lexicons, as well as the use of traditional lexicons is restricted in a particular context. Consequently, this contributes to the disappearance of the language and the possibility of cultural loss (Jammu et al., 2025; Setiawan et al., 2023).

People's understanding of the lexicons in traditional rituals is gradually declining. This is influenced by several factors, such as digitalization and modernization (Fatimatuzzakrah et al., 2020; Poddar, 2024). This aligns with a study by Darmawan (2023), titled “*The Lexicons Used in The Makepung Tradition by The People of Jembrana Regency.*” The study revealed that the development of science and technology is one of the reasons the young generation is starting to abandon the Makepung tradition. A similar situation was observed in a study by Putri et al. (2023) entitled “*Kearifan Lokal Leksikon pada Tradisi Ogoh-Ogoh di Desa Ambengan Denpasar Selatan*” which shows that while many young people participate in this tradition every year, they often engage in the practice of the tradition without understanding the meaning of the lexicons used in the tradition. Additionally, a study by Budasi et al. (2021) entitled “*The Status of Lexicons Used in Tabuh Rah Ritual in Menyali Village, North Bali*” found that only 16.97% of respondents pass on the *Tabuh Rah* lexicons to their children, while the majority do not pass on these lexicons to the next generation.

This results in a huge gap between the young generation and the language and culture that should be preserved, which leads to the possibility of endangered languages and the loss of culture as the speaker's identity. Thus, from the studies previously mentioned, it is clear that these rituals are at risk of being abandoned. Hence, these studies are urgently conducted in order to document and preserve the richness and the cultural influences of the existing lexicons.

One notable example of a traditional ritual that is rich in meaning and has a strong cultural influence in Bali is the *Siat Sampian* ritual, which takes place at *Samuan Tiga* temple, Bedulu village, Gianyar regency (Sutjaja et al., 2023). *Siat Sampian* is derived from the words “*Siat*,” which means war, and “*Sampian*,” which

means to have a connection between humans and God. This ritual is performed after the completion of three stages of ceremonies at *Samuan Tiga* temple, which is held every year. The origins of this ritual trace back to the long history of the Balinese community in Bedulu village, which perceives the universe as a battlefield between good and evil (N. Yoga et al., 2022). Furthermore, this ritual serves as an expression of gratitude to God, hoping for safety and prosperity.

There are several unique aspects in the *Siat Sampian* ritual, one of which is found in each stage of the ritual, as well as the various offerings and tools used, related to the lexicons in the ritual procession (Sutjaja et al., 2023). The ritual stages include *nampyog*, where the ritual practitioners dance while circling the temple area. Continue by *ngober*, where the ritual practitioners hold a sash that is tied around their waist while dancing around the temple. The next stage is *ngombak*, where they hand in hand encircle the temple area, imitating waves. The offerings include *dangsil*, *pesucian*, etc. The tools used in the ritual include incense, sash, *sampian*, etc. These are some of the unique aspects that make the *Siat Sampian* ritual differ from other rituals. Regrettably, this uniqueness may not be experienced by the young generations, as it begins to be abandoned by the local community due to the restricted use of the Lexicons, and the ritual performance limited only to those who meet certain criteria to perform the ritual. This leads to a lack of understanding of the ritual among the majority of people in Bedulu village. This is in accordance with the concept of ethnolinguistics, which focuses on how a language community maintains its cultural identity to prevent an endangered language (Noortyani et al., 2023; Wildani, 2023).

The preliminary observation conducted in Bedulu Village, Gianyar regency, shows that the *Siat Sampian* ritual is mostly practiced by the elders, with very few of the young generation participating in the ritual. This is supported by a preliminary interview, by asking the meaning of some specific terms such as *maombak* and *dangsil* that are used in the *Siat Sampian* ritual to several people in Bedulu village, shows that it is evident that despite the ritual having been carried out for many years and being very well-known, the community's understanding of the lexicons and the cultural meanings embedded in the ritual stages, as well as the

tools and offerings used in the *Siat Sampian* ritual, remains limited for both the elders and the young generation. Furthermore, previous studies on *Siat Sampian*, such as Bintang et al. (2024) and Budiastama et al. (2017), also state that the young generation often has a lack of understanding of the ritual, as it is considered a sacred ritual that not all Bedulu people have access to and understand the ritual lexicons and the cultural meaning of the ritual. Not only is there limited access to the ritual, but also a lack of intergenerational transmission, in which very few elders pass on the knowledge of the *Siat Sampian* ritual to their children (Widiantari, 2017; W. Yoga et al., 2024). If this continues to happen, then there is a possibility that the knowledge of the *Siat Sampian* ritual is decreasing over time. This lack of understanding leads to difficulties in ritual communication and significantly increases the risk of cultural identity loss, which threatens cultural preservation (Andini et al., 2023).

Therefore, if this possibility is not addressed immediately, all the lexicons within traditional culture, including that of the *Siat Sampian* ritual, is at risk of being abandoned and even extinct. This ritual must be maintained accordingly. It needs a proper understanding of the lexicons and its cultural meaning. The cultural practice of *Siat Sampian* and its existence as part of a religious ritual are fading with time. This is one of the characteristics of an endangered language. Thus, the existence of the lexicons in the *Siat Sampian* ritual is at risk of disappearing over time if not addressed immediately.

Despite the *Siat Sampian* ritual in Bedulu village being frequently practiced and well-known, the lexicons associated with this ritual has not yet been thoroughly documented through research. Therefore, this research should be conducted as soon as possible to ensure the documentation and preservation of the lexicons in the *Siat Sampian* ritual, preventing their potential loss over the years. A thorough analysis of the lexicons in this ritual can enhance the understanding of the role of language in culture and religious contexts. Thus, studying the lexicons in the *Siat Sampian* ritual is very important. This research can serve as a guide for performing the *Siat Sampian* ritual, ensuring that each stage and term align with the rituals and meanings passed down through generations.

1.2 Problem Identification

This research was initiated by the phenomenon of language used by the people in Bedulu village when performing rituals, specifically in the *Siat Sampian* ritual. There are several lexicons used in each stage of the *Siat Sampian* ritual. However, many practitioners and the young generation are not familiar with or do not even understand the lexicons used and the cultural meanings that exist in the ritual, which will result in an endangered language, and the ritual will be abandoned. Thus, the researcher will identify the lexicons and analyze the cultural meaning of the lexicons in the *Siat Sampian* ritual as an effort for people to preserve their cultural identity from extinction by understanding, documenting, and continuing the use of the lexicons in the *Siat Sampian* ritual.

1.3 Research Limitation

This research will limit the research in the context of the lexicons in each stage, tools, and offerings of the *Siat Sampian* ritual in Bedulu village, Gianyar regency. Besides the lexicons, this research is also limited to the context of the lexicons and the cultural meaning of the lexicons by Balinese speakers in Bedulu village, Gianyar regency.

1.4 Research Questions

- a. What are the lexicons used in the *Siat Sampian* ritual in Bedulu Village?
- b. What are the cultural meanings of the lexicons used in the *Siat Sampian* ritual in Bedulu Village?

1.5 Research Objectives

- a. To identify the lexicons used in the *Siat Sampian* ritual in Bedulu Village.
- b. To analyze the cultural meaning of the lexicons used in the *Siat Sampian* ritual in Bedulu Village.

1.6 Research Significance

This research has two significances: theoretical and practical. These two will be explained below.

1.6.1 Theoretical Significance

The results of this research will enhance our understanding of language and culture, particularly in the context of religious practices in Bali. This research can contribute to linguistic studies by examining the specific lexicons used in the *Siat Sampian* ritual in Bedulu village, as well as the cultural meanings associated with it, thereby preserving the lexicons as a cultural heritage.

1.6.2 Practical Significance

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- a. This research can help the people in Bedulu village, specifically the young generation, to understand the lexicons and the meaning of the lexicons used in the *Siat Sampian* ritual in Bedulu village.
 - b. This research can help preserve the culture in Bedulu village by providing information about the *Siat Sampian* ritual and its lexicons to all people, including tourists.
 - c. This research can be used by future researchers as a reference when conducting similar research because this research provides information about the relationship between language and culture, rituals, and rituals in Hinduism, namely the *Siat Sampian* ritual in Bedulu village, and also the Lexicons found and the cultural meaning in the *Siat Sampian* ritual in Bedulu village.