

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains six subtopics, namely background of the study, research questions, purposes of the study, scope of the study, significances of the study, and definition of key terms

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an essential thing in human life. It is due to the fact that language is used as a medium of communication between two or more people to share their thoughts or idea (Finnegan, 2008). Besides, Keraf (1996) asserts that language is created to deliver an opinion, feeling, and idea in the form of arbitrarily vocal symbols. Therefore, it cannot be separated from human life. This is because it will be difficult for a human to share their idea or thoughts with others in their society without using language. Besides, it can be considered that language also connects people to other people to have some kind of interaction (Bloomfield, 1962).

Actually, there are 7100 languages that can be found around the world (Berg, 2014). Besides, Indonesia is the second country with the largest number of languages in the world after Papua Niugini. This can be seen from the fact that Indonesia has various languages that are used by Indonesian people based on their area. One example is in Bima regency, where there are several languages that can be found there. One of them is Sambori language.

It could be seen in Budasi's study in 2019, which showed that Sambori language became one of the languages that exist in Bima regency, Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB) as the result of lexicostatistics. It was done to seek kinship level between Sambori language and other languages in Bima regency. It showed that Sambori has 50% kinship level with the other languages existing in Bima regency, NTB.

Moreover, Budasi (2019) asserts that Sambori language has two dialects used by people in Bima regency based on descriptive quantitative analysis, namely, Sambori and Teta dialects. The reason is that Sambori and Teta dialects have a significant relationship, according to Budasi's research conducted in 2019. The result of the lexicostatistic analysis shows that Sambori and Teta dialects have 98% kinship level. Moreover, he had determined some lexicon form of Proto SamboriTeta (PSmTe) dialects based on Swadesh's 200 wordlists by using Bottom-up reconstruction approach. In his previous study in 2019, he determined that Sambori and Teta dialects are derived out from Sambori language. In addition, Sambori language is a language used by people who live in Sambori village. In fact, Sambori language is used in Teta village, in which people are mostly immigrants from Sambori. However, the language brought by Sambori immigrants is believed to be acculturated with other languages brought by other immigrants at Teta village.

Up to now, many studies have been conducted about Sambori language in terms of linguistic level such as sociolinguistics, ecolinguistics,

and syntaxes as well as grouping Sambori language as one of the languages in Bima regency, NTB. Nevertheless, there is no study that conducts about the history and relation of Proto Sambori-Teta (PSmTe) toward Proto Austronesia (PAN). Moreover, Budasi's study in 2019 which was about the grouping Sambori as one of Bima languages has not looked for its relation into language family whether it is a derivation language of Proto Austronesia language family or from non-Austronesia language family. At the same time, Proto Austronesia is believed to be the ancient language deriving out all of the languages from Madagascar to Rapanui Island and from Taiwan and Hawaiian to New Zealand (Keraf, 1983). In addition, Collins (2014) says that the various existence languages in Indonesia are influenced by Austronesia Migration. Therefore, Proto Austronesia (PAN) is considered as the ancient language that derives out of the number of languages existing in Indonesia.

The process of grouping Sambori language as one of the languages in NTB is considered to be completely done if the relationship of Proto Sambori-Teta toward Proto Austronesia has successfully been done. Therefore, it can be considered that the grouping of Sambori language under the Austronesian language is not completed yet. However, it also has to look at the relationship between Sambori and Teta dialect with the overall proto of Bima language that has not been reached in this study. Thus, the determination of grouping Sambori language as a derivative of PAN in NTB can be scientifically justified. In connection with that, in this study, the researcher tried to determine the Proto of Sambori-Teta language in a bottom-up and top-down

approach by conducting a study entitled "Reconstruction of Proto Sambori-Teta."

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the problem statement explained in the research background, the research questions of this study are:

- 1) How is the form of the proto of Sambori and Teta dialects seen from the Bottom-up reconstruction approach?
- 2) How is the form of the proto of Sambori and Teta dialects seen from Top-down reconstruction approach?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

Based on the research questions mentioned above, the purpose of this study are:

- 1) To describe the form of the proto of Sambori and Teta dialects seen from the Bottom-up reconstruction approach.
- 2) To describe the form of the proto of Sambori and Teta dialects seen from the Top-down reconstruction approach.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The discussion of this study only focuses on the form of proto-language of Sambori and Teta dialects seen from bottom-up and top-down reconstruction approaches.

1.5 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to give theoretical and practical significances. The theoretical and practical significances of this study can be described as follows.

1) Theoretical Significance

The theoretical significance of this study is to broaden knowledge of linguistic theory in the reconstruction of protolanguage of Sambori and Teta dialects.

2) Practical Significance

In practice, the results of this study are useful for the following parties;

a. For linguistics field

The result of this study can be used as reference to do other studies about Sambori and Teta dialects as representative of Bimanese language.

b. For Indonesian government

Secondly, this study is expected to help the government because this study can be used as an authentic document in determining the proto-language of Sambori and Teta dialects seen from bottom-up and top-down reconstruction approach.

c. For other researchers

This study can be used as a reference for future researchers who have similar topics.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding among the readers, there will be 4 key terms which are defined conceptually and operationally.

1.6.1 *Conceptual Definition*

a) ***Proto language***

Proto language can be defined as the ancient language that can be determined as the origin language of derived languages by utilizing some rules (Bynon, 1979 as cited in Marshuki, 2002)

b) ***Reconstruction***

Reconstruction is a process of determining proto language of some kinship languages (Keraf, 1983).

c) ***Bottom-up reconstruction***

Bottom-up reconstruction is used to construct the proto language between some languages which are usually used to classify languages in the lower level towards higher level proto language (Budasi, 2003).

d) ***Top-down reconstruction***

Top-down reconstruction is a technique of reconstruction which is intended to gain the evidences that strengthen the

relation of the kinship languages with the language family
(Mbetse, 1990)

1.6.2 Operational Definition

a) Proto language

Proto language is considered as the language derived from Sambori and Teta dialects in Bima regency, Nusa Tenggara Barat.

b) Reconstruction

Reconstruction is the effort that is done in this study in order to find out the proto language of Sambori and Teta dialects

c) Bottom-up reconstruction

Bottom-up reconstruction is a technique used in this study in order to seek for the form of proto language of Sambori and Teta dialects. It compares the cognates from both dialects.

d) Top-down reconstruction

Top-down reconstruction is a technique of reconstruction used by reflecting the result of bottom-up reconstruction to its comparability in Proto Austronesia dictionary.