

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

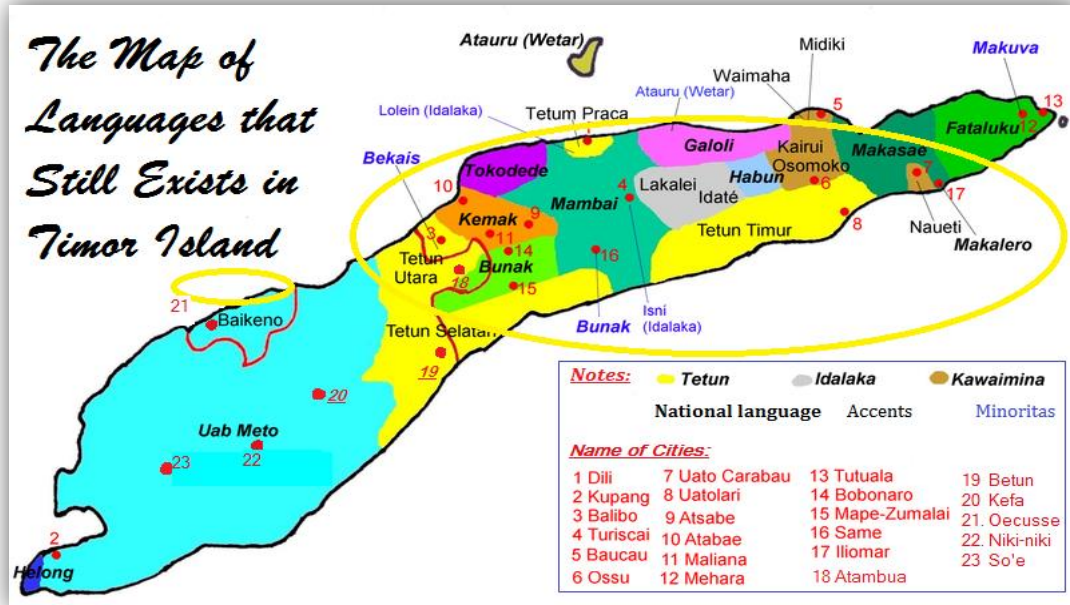
As a communication tool, language has an important function in social relationship among human beings. It is used as a medium to express ideas, opinions, thoughts, and feelings (Kramsch 1998: 10). There are thousands of languages used in human communication around the world.

Indonesia is an archipelago country which has a national language Indonesian language. With the Indonesian proclamation of independence on August 17, 1945 Malay was adopted and modified to become *Bahasa Indonesia* (Blust, 2013: 40). Because of Indonesian citizen spread on many islands, there are many ethnic groups with their own languages. The languages are covered on Austronesia languages family.

Tetun language is one of the living languages (there are also other languages) that are used in East Nusa Tenggara Province of Indonesia. It is used as a unifier (Bouk, 2011: 4) of the dialects in Central Timor (*Malaka* Regency and *Belu* Regency) and East Timor (Republic Democrat Timor Leste).

In *Malaka* Regency, *Tetun* is one of the three dialects used by *Malaka* citizen. Most people of *Malaka* use the dialect in their daily communication. There are also *Bunak* language area is in *Kobalima* and *Dawan* language in *Manlea*, but the users of these languages also understand *Tetun*. Therefore, *Tetun* dialect plays an important place in the social communication in *Malaka* Regency.

The following picture shows the geographical area of *Tetun*.



Picture 1. The map of languages that still exist in Timor Island (internet).

Looking for the geographic area of the *Tetun* language, we know that there are multi-linguist in Timor Island, the use of *Tetun* decreased during the language contact in social communication (Mesthrie, at all, 2000: 248).

As a native speaker of this dialect who has been studying a lot about linguistics, the writer is motivated to make a study on this dialect. As another language in the world, *Tetun* language spoken in *Malaka* Regency has grammatical system and phonological system. But the writer only wants to limit his study on the phonology especially the segmental phonemes of *Tetun* language spoken in *Malaka* Regency.

Here, the writer shows the examples of the segmental phonemes of *Tetun* language spoken in *Malaka* Regency, which is study on, present as following:

The vowels usually in pair words like ‘**ran**’/rʌn/ = ‘**blood**’ and ‘**rin**’/rɪn/ = ‘**pole**’. There are segmental phonemes distinguish two words, /ʌ/ and /ɪ/. The example of diphthong as in the word ‘**ai-oi**’ /ʌi’ɔi/ = ‘**puppet**’. There are two diphthongs /ʌi/ and /ɔi/ which is separated by a stress maker in the word above. There are consonant /b/, as in the word ‘**busa**’ /bʊsʌ/ = ‘**cat**’. The last example is consonant clusters as find in the word ‘**kwana**’ /kwʌnʌ/ = ‘**right**’ (Crystal, 2008: 361).

Based on the ideas presented above, the writer would like to investigate the sound system of *Tetun* language spoken in *Malaka* Regency. The writer tries to make a study entitled: “A STUDY ON THE SEGMENTAL PHONEMES OF TETUN LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN MALAKA REGENCY”.

1.2 . Problem Statement

Problem Statement is actually the specification of the topic of a thesis or research. The problem statement of the study is written down in the following:

What are the segmental phonemes of *Tetun* language spoken in *Malaka* Regency?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Objective of the study is the aim of doing this study. The objectives of this study are presented as follow:

To identify and describes the sound system or phonology, especially the segmental phonemes of *Tetun* language spoken in *Malaka* Regency.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This research has significance for the writer, and the readers as presented as follow:

1. The Writer.

This study is useful for him to improve his own knowledge particularly about linguistics, especially on the segmental phonemes of *Tetun* language spoken in *Malaka* Regency.

2. The Reader.

a. For General People

This study is beneficial for the readers to know the sound system or the phonology of *Tetun* language spoken in *Malaka* Regency.

b. For The Users of *Tetun* Language

This study is beneficial for the readers to know and aware of the need to preserve the language, especially to the younger generation.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

This study belongs to linguistics. There are two branches of linguistics, they are micro-linguistics covers phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics; and macro-linguistics covers psycholinguistics, philosophical linguistics, sociolinguistics, anthropological linguistics, stylistics, mathematical and statistical linguistics, language teaching, cultural linguistics and eco-linguistics. Segmental phonemes discuss in phonology.

This study focused on segmental phonemes of *Tetun* language spoken in *Malaka* Regency.

1.6. Definition of Terms

In order to help the readers to understand the study of the sound system of *Tetun* language spoken in *Malaka* Regency, here, the writer gives some definition of terms dealing with this topic.

1. Study

Study is the activity of learning or gaining knowledge of a particular subject, especially from books (Oxford, 1995: 441).

Descriptive study is the studies which are concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual, or of a group (Cothari, 2004; 37).

Study in this writing is refers the way to know phonology, especially the segmental phonemes of *Tetun* Language.

2. Segmental Phoneme

The Segmental phoneme discuss about consonant and vowel as the segments of sounds that distinguish two words in a language Indriani (2001: 8).

In this study, the writer wants to identify and to describe the segmental phonemes of *Tetun* Language.

3. *Tetun* Language

Tetun language is a language that used as unifier of dialects in most of Timor Island, in west Timor (*Malaka* Regency, *Belu* Regency), and Republic Democrat of Timor Leste (Bouk, 2011: 4).

This writing is focus on *Tetun* Language spoken in *Malaka* Regency.

4. *Malaka* Regency

Malaka Regency is the newest regency in East Nusa Tenggara Province. In this study *Malaka* Regency is the place where the writer will make his study.