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# Comparative Study of Bima Language (BM) with Komodo Language (KM) and Manggarai Language (MG)

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**Abstract**

This study compares the Bima, Manggarai, and Komodo languages. The three languages are spoken in East and West Nusa Tenggara. This study aims to describe the relationship between the Bima and Komodo languages , as well as the relationship between the Bima and Manggarai languages. Data collection is conducted using both the interview method and the listening method, and the data are analyzed descriptively and qualitatively in a diachronic study. The results of the study indicate that the Bima and Komodo languages have a close relationship. This can be demonstrated through descriptive analysis, utilizing both primary and secondary sources. Through primary rules, corresponding phonemes are found. In addition to primary rules, secondary rule phenomena are also found, such as prothesis, metathesis, dissimilation, assimilation, lenition, apocope, and extension for the sake of balance. Bima also has a close relationship with Manggarai. This can also be demonstrated through descriptive analysis, utilizing both primary and secondary sources. Through primary rules, corresponding phonemes are found. In addition to primary rules, secondary rule phenomena are also found, such as prothesis, dissimilation, apocope, lenition, apharesis, fusion, and changes in glottal stop sounds.



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## 1 Introduction

Language is one of the markers among several very important community markers because language is a place that accommodates change and provides an overview of the situation that occurred in the past and present. In relation to this, the languages in West Nusa Tenggara and East Nusa Tenggara, such as Bima, Manggarai, and Komodo, are interesting objects of study for language researchers because they are very unique and diverse. However, it can be said that the three languages have not been studied in depth by previous researchers in comparative historical linguistics (Wouk, 2006).

Bima is one of the regional languages on Sumbawa Island, West Nusa Tenggara. Manggarai is one of the regional languages in Manggarai, East Nusa Tenggara. Komodo is also one of the regional languages in Manggarai, East Nusa Tenggara. Comparative language studies are very necessary in an effort to explain the kinship of a society. In addition, this study is very important to be able to explain the origin of a language and its relationship to the surrounding languages. Comparative language studies can also provide information about the history of the development of a society (Bellegarda, 2004).

Comparative language studies can be carried out quantitatively and qualitatively. The results of quantitative studies usually have relevance to the results of qualitative studies (Asrorovna, 2021). Both studies support and strengthen each other in explaining the kinship of the languages being compared. Based on this explanation, comparative language studies are one of the most useful studies. Likewise, the results of the comparison of Bima, Manggarai, and Komodo languages are expected to provide information that can be used to establish cooperation and solidarity between speakers of the three languages. Based on this description, this study aims to (1) describe the kinship of the Bima and Komodo languages and (2) describe the kinship of the Bima and Manggarai languages.

*Theoretical Framework*

A hypothesis suggests that languages are basically related to each other because all existing languages come from a parent language. Therefore, comparative historical linguistic studies must be able to show similarities between the languages being compared.

Language is changeable in relation to changes that exist around it, both internal and external, both at the level of phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon (Poedjosoedarmo, 2008). As mentioned by Crowley & Claire (2010), all languages can change over time in various ways that are similar and worthy of study. In fact, experts argue that every thousand years, each language loses one-fifth of its basic vocabulary and is replaced with a new one (Fernandez, 1998). Meanwhile, this change is a process of inheritance of protolanguage to related languages that can occur in all aspects of language.

Comparative language studies can be conducted not only through diachronic linguistic reviews but also through synchronic linguistic reviews. Saussure defines diachronic language studies as language studies throughout the time the language is used, while synchronic studies are conducted by studying a language at a certain time period (Chaer & Muliastini, 2016). Therefore, Sabariyanto & Sudira (1991) state that in this synchronic analysis, it is intended that the language systems of the languages being compared can be observed better.

According to Greenberg (1957), if the kinship relationship between languages is close, several shared innovations will be found that are exclusively linguistic (exclusively shared linguistic features), and if no evidence is obtained or the evidence found is only single, then this indicates a loose relationship between the languages (Fernandez, 1995). The kinship relationship between languages can be proven based on a qualitative approach.

In addition to the quantitative approach above, the kinship relationship between languages can also be proven based on a qualitative approach through reconstruction techniques (Abutalebi & Green, 2007). Reconstruction techniques include internal and external reconstruction (Lehmann, 1973). Internal reconstruction is carried out when the languages being compared are at the dialect level, while external reconstruction is carried out when the languages being compared are at the language level. In addition, reconstruction can also be divided into a top-down reconstruction approach and a bottom-up reconstruction approach. Top-down reconstruction aims to describe inheritance, both linearly and with changes (Mbete, 2002). This reconstruction is carried out to find reflexes in the form of innovation and retention, both phonologically, lexically, and morphologically, found in the language used as the object of research. Meanwhile, bottom-up reconstruction aims to reconstruct the pre-language or protolanguage found in the object of research.

## 2 Materials and Methods

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach. Data provision is carried out using the conversation method and the listening method (Mahsun, 1995). The conversation method is carried out using the face-to-face conversation technique, namely visiting each research location and conducting conversations based on a bait in the form of a list of questions. The listening method is carried out using the tapping technique, followed by advanced techniques in the form of note-taking and recording techniques.

The collected data are then tabulated and analyzed according to the sequence of the objectives of this study. The data are analyzed both diachronically through qualitative methods. The methods used in this stage are the distribution method and the interlingual matching method with the comparison-equating (HBM) and comparison-differentiating (HBB) techniques (Mahsun, 2005).

## 3 Results and Discussions

In this comparative study, the level of kinship between the Bima, Komodo, and Manggarai languages is described phonologically and lexically. This study uses primary and secondary rule analysis. The discussion is divided into two things, namely the analysis of the level of kinship between the Bima language and Komodo and the analysis of the level of kinship between the Bima language and Manggarai.

*Comparative Study of Bima Language (BM) and Komodo Language (KM) Phonologically*

Based on the research data, the results obtained show the relationship between the Bima and Komodo languages. The relationship between the two languages can be explained using the following primary and secondary rules.

*A. Primary Rule with Correspondence*

This primary rule is used to analyze the level of correspondence in each word or with the correspondence of phonemes in the Bima Language (BM) with the Komodo Language (KM). The following example can show the primary rule in the form of correspondence between the two languages:

1. ɗ (BM) ≈ t (KM)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *ɗ'olu* | *tolu* | 'egg' | **tolu* |
| *wad'u* | *watu* | 'stone' | **watu* |
| *kud'u* | *kutu* | 'lice' | **kutu* |
| *ɗ'oku* | *toku* | 'cheat' | **toku* |
| *wod'o* | *woto* | 'many' | **woto* |
| *maɗ'a* | *mata* | 'eye' | **mata* |
| *aɗ'e* | *ate* | 'heart' | **ate* |
| *ɗ'eke* | *teke* | 'gecko ' | **teke* |
| *ɗ'ou* | *tou* | 'person' | **tou* |

This shows that the phoneme /d/ in Bima language corresponds to the phoneme /t/ in Komodo language.

2. f (BM) ≈ p (KM)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *afi* | *api* | 'fire' | **api* |
| *afu* | *apo* | 'ime' | **apu* |
| *fare* | *pare* | 'rice' | **pare* |

This shows that the phoneme /f/ in Bima language corresponds to the phoneme /p/ in Komodo language.

3. Ø (BM) ≈ ŋ (KM)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *ɗ'ire* | *tireŋ* | 'oyster' | **tireŋ* |
| *wura* | *wulaŋ* | 'moon' | **wulaŋ* |

This shows that the empty phoneme /symbol Ø/ in Bima language sometimes corresponds to the phoneme /ŋ/ in Komodo language.

4. l (BM) ≈ r (KM)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *waru* | *walu* | 'eight' | **walu* |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *wari* | *wale* | 'turn' | **balik* |
| *mpuru* | *mpulu* | 'ten' | **puluh* |

Data number (4) shows that the phoneme /l/ in the Bima language sometimes corresponds to the phoneme /r/ in the Komodo language. The symbol ≈ in the data above means that both glosses (words) correspond. Based on the explanation of the primary rules, the Bima and Komodo languages have a close relationship, such as the existence of regular correspondence in several phonemes.

*B. Secondary Rules*

In addition to the primary rules, the relationship between the Bima and Komodo languages can also be explained through secondary rules. Secondary rules are irregular changes that can apply to any language. In the Bima and Komodo languages, secondary rule phenomena such as prothesis, metathesis, dissimilation, assimilation and elongation for balance are also found, namely as follows:

a) **Prothesis** is a sound change due to the introduction of an additional initial sound; for example:

*-d'ire-tireŋ '*oyster*' *tireŋ*
*-wura-wulaŋ* moon*' *wulang;* it is also the existence of correspondence *(r-l)*
*-upa-paq '*four' **epaq*
*-ud'u-utung '*garbage pile' **utung*
*-nahu-ahu* 'I' **(n)ahu*
*-ao-laho* 'go' **laho*

b) **Metathesis** is a sound change due to two sounds changing places; for example:

*wad'i –wita* 'no, not' **wita*

c) **Dissimilation** is a sound change due to the transfer of sound from the pronunciation of adjacent sounds; examples are:

*dindi-rinding* 'wall' **dingding*
*afu-apo '*lime' **apu*
*be-ba* 'where' **ba*
*kabu-kepuq* 'close' **kepuq*
*wontu-wentu* 'rising' **wuntu*
*du'wa-tuba* 'tuba' **tuba*
*wuru-wunu* 'finger' **wu(r,n)u*
*d'uma-tume* 'lice' **lice*
*wea-wia* 'to give' **wia*
*d'uqu-tuku* 'wake up' **tuku*
*aru-alu* 'alu' **alu*
*duma-tume* 'flea' **tuma*
*beni-wening* 'sneeze' **bening*
*wonto-wuntu* 'rising' **wuntu*
*mudu-muntung* 'burned' **mu(n)tung*
*waru-walu* 'eight' **walu*
*mpuru-mpulu* 'ten' **mpuluq*
*wari-ware '*(re-)reversed' **wali*
*mboho-boho '*spill' **mbohoŋ*
*mbaju-waju* 'pound rice' **mbaju*
*dahu-ndahu* 'scared' **(n)dahu*
*mbani-bani* 'angry' **(m)bani*
*mbud'a-buta* 'beautiful' **(m)blind*
*mbike-bike* 'broken' **(m)bike*

d) **Extension** for balance; this is caused in the framework of sound balance; for example:

*fuqu- pu* is read (*pū* ) 'tree' *puq

e) **Apocope** is final sound deletion; for example:

*-wiwih-wiwi* ‘lips’ **wiwi*
*-nipis-nipi* ‘thin’ **nipi*

f) **Lenition**; this is caused by the weakening of the sound from a strong sound to a weak sound. The (-) sign indicates a corresponding phoneme sound. For example:

/a-o/: *mara-maro* ‘dry’ **mara*
/a-e/: *kamudi-kemudi* ‘steering’ **kamudi*

In addition to the phenomenon of sound variation, there is also an innovation that gives rise to a change in the glottal sound of one of its vowels such as *ni’u-niu* ‘coconut’ from the proto language **niu*. However, this glottal sound change needs to be reviewed for its validity and cause because it only appears once out of 70 glosses. Based on this explanation, the Bima and Komodo languages are related, as there are phenomena of prothesis, metathesis, dissimilation, extension for balance, apocope, and lenition.

*Comparative Study of Bima Language (BM) and Manggarai Language (BG) Phonologically*

Based on the research data, the results obtained show the relationship between the Bima language (BM) and the Manggarai language (BG). The relationship between the two languages can be explained using the following primary and secondary rules.

*A. Primary Rules with Correspondence*

The following example can show the primary rules in the form of correspondence between the two languages:

1. d’- (e) (BM) ≈ t –(i) (MG)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *mad’a* | *mata* | ‘eye’ |
| *d’eke* | *teke* | ‘gecko’ |
| *wad’u* | *watu* | ‘stone’ |
| *d’oku* | *doku* | ‘cheat’ |
| *d’uma* | *tuma* | ‘lice’ |
| *ad’e* | *ati* | ‘heart’ |
| *hudu* | *hutu* | ‘ice’ |
| *dana* | *tana* | ‘soil’ |

This shows that the implosive stop phoneme /d’/ in the Bima language corresponds to the dental stop /t/ in the Manggarai language, which can occur in ultima and penultima. However, the phoneme /e/ in the BM language experiences innovation with the phoneme /i/ in the MG language due to the similarity of sounds.

2. f (BM) ≈ p (MG)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *afi* | *api* | ‘fire’ |
| *nifi* | *nipi* | ‘dream’ |
| *afu* | *apo* | ‘lime’ |
| *fare* | *pare* | ‘rice’ |

This shows that the phoneme /f/ in the Bima language corresponds to /p/ in the Manggarai language, which generally occurs in ultima.

3. r (BM) ≈ s (MG)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *maro* | *masa* | ‘dry’ |
| *mori* | *mose* | ‘live’ |

This shows that the phoneme /r/ in the Bima language corresponds to /s/ in the Manggarai language in ultima.

4. o (BM) e(MG)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *pocu* | *pesu* | ‘fart’ |
| *tolu* | *telu* | ‘three’ |

This shows that the phoneme /o/ in the Bima language corresponds to /e/ in the Manggarai language in the penultimate.

5. r (BM) l(MG)
   *aru* *alu* ‘eight’
   *rima* *lime* ‘five’
   This shows that the phoneme /r/ in the Bima language corresponds to /l/ in the Manggarai language.

6. a (BM) ≈ e (KM); this also includes lenition or weakening of sound;/a-e/.
   *ina* *ine* ‘mother’
   *ama* *ame* ‘father’
   This shows that the phoneme /a/ in the Bima language corresponds to /e/ in the Manggarai language in ultima.

The symbol ≈ in the data above means that both glosses (words) correspond. Based on the explanation in the primary rules, the Bima and Manggarai languages have a close relationship, such as the existence of regular correspondence in several phonemes, both vowel and consonant phonemes.

*B. Secondary Rules*

In addition to the primary rules, the relationship between Bima and Manggarai languages can also be explained through secondary rules. Secondary rules are irregular changes that can apply to any language. In Bima and Manggarai languages, secondary rule phenomena such as prothesis, dissimilation, apocope, lenition, apharesis, fusion, and changes in glottal stop sounds are found, namely as follows:
a) **Prothesis** is a sound change due to the introduction of an additional initial sound; for example:
-*wura-wulaŋ* ‘moon’: it is also the possibility of correspondence (r-l)
-*upa-pat* ‘four’: it can also be categorized as an unpacking phenomenon (two sounds become one sound)
-*wod’o-do* ‘many’: it can also be categorized as an unpacking phenomenon (two sounds become one sound)
b) **Dissimilation** is a sound change due to the transfer of sounds from the pronunciation of adjacent sounds; for example:
*mboho-boho* ‘spill’
*beni-wenang* ‘sneeze’
*mudu-muntung* ‘burn’
*nahu-aku* ‘I’
*mpuru-pulu* ‘ten’
c) **Apocope**; this is caused by the removal of the final sound
-*wiwir-wiwi* ‘lips’
-*nipis-nipi* ‘thin’
d) **Lenition**; This is caused by the weakening of the sound from a strong sound to a weak sound.
For example:
/e-i/ : *ate-ati* 'heart'
/a-o/ : *wau-wou* 'smell'
/e-i/ : *hena-hina* 'hit'
e) Afaresis; this is caused by the removal of the sound on the initial consonant; for example:
-*mbod'o-do* 'many'.
f) Fusion; It is a change from two sounds to one sound; for example:
*upa-pat* 'four'
In addition to the phenomenon of sound variation, there is also an innovation that gives rise to a change in the glottal stop sound from one of its vowels, such as *d'oku-doku* 'coconut'. However, this glottal sound change needs to be reviewed for its validity and cause because it only appears twice out of 70 glosses. Based on the explanation, Bima and Komodo languages are related languages, such as the phenomena of prothesis, dissimilation, apharesis, lenition, apocope, and fusion. In addition, the data shows that there is no glottal stop sound /d'/ in the Manggarai language.

## 4 Conclusion

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the Bima and Komodo languages have a close relationship. This can be demonstrated through descriptive analysis, utilizing both primary and secondary sources. The phoneme /d/ in Bima corresponds to the phoneme /t/ in Komodo, the phoneme /f/ in Bima corresponds to the phoneme /p/ in Komodo, and the phoneme /l/ in Bima sometimes corresponds to the phoneme /r/ in Komodo.

In addition to primary rules, secondary rule phenomena such as prothesis, metathesis, dissimilation, assimilation, lenition, apocope, and elongation for balance are also found. Bima also has a close relationship with Manggarai. This can also be demonstrated through descriptive analysis, utilizing both primary and secondary sources. The implosive stop phoneme /d'/ in Bima language corresponds to the dental stop /t/ in Manggarai language which can occur in ultima and penutilma, the phoneme /f/ in Bima language corresponds to /p/ in Manggarai language which generally occurs in ultima, the phoneme /r/ in Bima language corresponds to /s/ in Manggarai language in ultima, the phoneme /o/ in Bima language corresponds to /e/ in Manggarai language in penultima, and the phoneme /r/ in Bima language corresponds to /l/ in Manggarai language, and the phoneme /a/ in Bima language corresponds to /e/ in Manggarai language in ultima. In addition to the primary rules, secondary rule phenomena are also found, such as prothesis, dissimilation, apocope, lenition, apharesis, fusion, and changes in glottal stop sounds.

*Conflict of interest statement*
The authors declared that they have no competing interests.

*Statement of authorship*
The authors have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The authors have approved the final article.

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