HISTORICAL RELATIONS OF FLORES LANGUAGE KINSHIP
(A Comparative Historical Linguistic Study of Nine Languages in Flores)

Sugeng Raharja [1], Author Rawuh Yuda Yuwana [2]
SDN 1 Ngandong Klaten [1]
Musamus University University [2]
sraharja2@gmail.com [1], rawuhyudayuwana@unmus.ac.id [2]

Abstract

A Comparative Historical Linguistic Study of Nine Languages in Flores aims to prove the typology relationship of Flores languages. This research focuses on the typological linguistics study of nine Flores languages. The method in this study is descriptive qualitative-comparative. The results of this study reveal that the Flores languages (Km, Mg, Rb, Ng, Li, Pl, Sk, Lh, and Kd are related. The qualitative evidence is shown by phonological and lexical innovations experienced by the Flores language group at the Proto, Meso, and lower levels. Then, based on the typological linguistic study of 9 Flores languages that are the object of Fernandez's study can be said to be a language group based on genetic typology. However, the research results published by Nusa Indah publisher do not mean they have no shortcomings. Some of the shortcomings in question are not fatal errors, but readers who primarily do not have a linguistic or scientific background will experience a little confusion. Finally, Fernandez's rebuttal to previous research related to language grouping in the archipelago, by calling a single criterion in the form of specific syntactic characteristics as an inappropriate criterion seems to have to be straightened out. Considering the point of view of language typology, studies between syntactic criteria and criteria used in LHK have different final results. The first grouped languages based on the language's internal structure, while LHK looked at and grouped languages based on lineage.

Keywords: *language relation, Flores language, language typology, comparative historical linguistics*

Introduction

Language typology is a branch of linguistics that examines the patterns or types of all languages in the world. Languages with the same or at least similar patterns are grouped into one group or in the same class, classified as one type. The basis for grouping or classification is done; differently, and the results will differ.

In general, the world's languages are classified in three ways, namely (1) genetic classification, grouping based on genealogical relationships between those ascribed to the same proto-language, (2) typological calcification (structure), grouping based on the

same structural characteristics, and (3) areal classification, grouping based on the geographical position of these languages.

Genetic typology classification shows historical kinship. A group of languages developed from a common source constitutes a language family. The embodiment of genetic typology is the study of Comparative Historical Linguistics (LHK). LHK examines how languages develop or change from one period to another and the causes of these changes (Fernadez, 2013).

Genetic typology groups languages based on their kinship. The relationship can be studied and proven using LHK studies. To understand the LHK framework to determine genetic language grouping. Thus, it is necessary to review one of the results of LHK research.

Inyo Yos Fernandez is one of the linguists/experts in Comparative Historical Linguistics (LHK). Fernandez did much research in the field of LHK. Some of the works that have been produced include proto-reconstruction of the Flores language, in ILDEP bulletin, 1(1), 1990; the position of paluqe, rembong, and komodo languages in the Flores language group, in the Indonesian linguistic society magazine, 1(8), 1990; Tetum Bili: Its role as an efficient disseminator of development information in East Timor (1991); Indonesian language proficiency and learning achievement of elementary, junior high and high school students in East Timor (1993); Dili Malay in East Timor, in Humanities Bulletin No.1, (1994); Malayan Face in The Languages of Manado and Nagi: A Comparative Study In Phonology, Morphology, and Lexicon of Two Malay Dialects in Is East Indonesia, (1994); Subject-Verb Agreement in Ayamaru Dialect of Mai Brat and Ile Mandiri Dialect of Lamaholot: A Study of Non-Austronesian Language Influence Towards Austronesian Language (1995).

Of the many works mentioned, Fernandez has also published a book entitled "Historical Relations of Flores Language Kinship". Reflecting on his history in language studies, especially LHK, it is appropriate that his book is reviewed in this paper. It is to provide a brief explanation to understand the LHK framework. Next will be described how Fernandez conducted LHK studies on Flores languages

Result and Discussion

The Historical book Relations of Flores Language Kinship (1996) was originally a dissertation manuscript written by Inyo Yos Fernandez to obtain a doctoral degree from Gadjah Mada University (UGM). Armed with the knowledge in the field of general linguistics and Austronesian linguistics obtained from Leiden University (1982-1983), comparative linguistics from Frankfurt (1986) obtained through the cooperation of the Indonesian-German government, and the blood of Larantuka, East Flores, which flows in him, he also developed his interest in the study of languages in eastern Indonesia. One is evidenced by the birth of Historical Relations of Flores Language Kinship (1996), which aims to reveal historical relations and reconstruct Flores's protolanguages.

Various studies on the relations of languages in eastern Indonesia helped this research by conducting a critical study. For example, the works produced by Brandes (1884), Jonker (1914), Stressemann (1929), Esser (1938), Salzner (1960), Collins (1983), and so on. From some of the results of these studies, Fernandez paid considerable attention to Brandes, Jonker, and Esser.

Esser (1938) divided the languages of Flores into two groups. First is the Bima-Sumba Group (BS), which includes Manggarai, Rembong, Komodo, Ngadha, Palu'e, and Lio. The

second is the Ambon-Timor Group (AT) which includes Sika, Lamaholot, and Kedang languages. According to Fernandez, the classification carried out by Esser was greatly influenced by Jonker's opinion. According to Jonker, he was inspired by a language map made by Brandes (1884), which divided the languages of the archipelago into the West and East Nusantara. The dividing line between the two groups runs over the Flores and Solor regions. As a result, Flores' languages fall into two different groups, according to Brandes. These different groups are precisely what Esser argued above. However, the BS Group is named the West Flores group and includes West Indonesian, while the AT Group is named the East Flores Group and is included in the Eastern Indonesian language.

Brandes' grouping for Eastern Indonesian is based on a single criterion of syntax (reverse genetic construction) that differs from that of the Western Indonesian language group. Unfortunately, the criteria proposed by Brandes were refuted by Jonker, who revealed that the Banggai language in Sulawesi also has an inverse genetic construction even though, according to Brandes, it belongs to Western Indonesian. Therefore, research conducted by Fernadez in the book (1996) seeks to clarify the classification that previous studies have done. In this case, Fernandez relies on the study of Comparative Historical Linguistics (LHK) to find the historical relations of the compared nine languages in Flores. The nine languages in question are: (1) Manggarai language (Mg), (2) Komodo language (KM), (3) Rembong language (Rb), (4) Ngada language (Ng), (5) Lio language (Li), (6) Palu'e language (Pl), (7) Sika language (Sk), (8) Lamaholot language (Lh), and (9) Kedang language (Kd).

In order to support this research, Fernandez hypothesized (1) that Flores languages are closely related because they are thought to have originated from the exact origin. (2) the languages of the FB subgroup (Mg, KM, Rb, Ng, Pl, Li), one of the bipartite squirrels of the Flores group (Fl), have a closer relationship with each other when compared to the three East Flores languages (FT) (Sk, Lh, and Kd) which are thought to be the other bipartite nodes. (3) the languages of FB group members are allegedly derived from their native language, PFB, and the languages of the members of the FT subgroup are derived from their native language, FT. So, this study seeks to provide evidence for the above hypothesis and reconstruct the protolanguages of the nine Flores languages compared.

In the study of typological linguistics, Keraf (1990: 6-7) classifies languages into genetic or genealogical classification, typological classification, and areal classification. The genetic classification that includes research conducted by Fernandez (1996) results in lineage-bound language groups. Genetic classification is thus closely related to the study of Comparative Historical Linguistics (LHK). LHK examines how languages develop or change from one period to another and the causes of these changes (Fernadez, 2013). So, to prove the hypothesis built in his research, Fernandez applied the comparative method. In the comparative method, two approaches are used, namely quantitative and qualitative.

The quantitative approach deals with data networking with lexicostatistical techniques. In the study, Fernandez used Holle's data capture tool containing 1645 words. Swadesh's list contains 200 basic vocabulary, and Nothofer's list contains 750 words. The qualitative method is concerned with determining the joint innovation of a particular language (sub) group both phonologically and lexically. In addition, qualitative methods are also helpful for reconstructing protolanguages. In his research, Fernandez

(1996) first conducted a quantitative study to determine the level or percentage of kinship between the nine Flores languages compared. Next, he drew a picture of the Flores language family tree.

Following the results of observations based on a quantitative approach to thirteen languages in Flores and its surroundings with lexicostatistical calculations using a list of 200 basic Swadesh vocabulary, the percentage of cognates of all languages studied can be seen through the following table.

Table 1: Percentage of Cognate in Nine languages of Flores and surrounding languages according to Lexicostatistical calculations, 200 Swadesh base vocabulary

	Kd	Lh	Sk	Pl	Li	Ng	Rb	Mg	Miles	Bm	Kb	Rt	Hl	Dw	Tt
Lh	62														
Sk	60	65													
Pl	48	50	49												
Li	35	42	48	62											
Ng	41	45	47	56	61										
Rb	40	42	49	50	52	48									
Mg	41	47	50	49	55	50	70								
Miles	39	41	43	52	50	48	58	59							
Bm	21	26	24	26	28	27	25	27	29						
Kb	23	25	25	25	22	26	28	29	27	20					
Rt	22	20	21	21	21	19	-	21	-	25	27				
Hl	21	24	22	-	20	21	-	22	39	17	24	39			
Dw	20	20	19	-	18	17	-	19	-	20	23	34	30		
Tt	21	24	24	-	20	20	-	20	-	25	28	31	31	33	
Ks	23	23	22	-	21	19	-	22	-	20	22	27	29	24	28

Information: The nine languages in Flores include Mg (Manggarai), Rb (Rembong), Km (Komodo), Ng (Ngadha), Pl (Palu'e), li (Lio), Sk (Sika), Lh (Lamaholot), and Kd (Kedang). The seven languages in NTT and its surroundings are Bm (Bima), Kb (Kambera), Rt (Rote), Hl (Helong), Dw (Dawan), Tt (Tetum), and Ks (Kisar)

Table 1 shows that the percentage of cognition of Flores languages is higher when compared to other languages in the vicinity. The highest percentage of cognition is found in Mg-Rb (70%). Since the relationship between Mg-Km (59) and Km-Rb (58) is higher when compared to the percentage of kinship showing Mg, Rb, Km, with Ng, Li, and Pi, on the one hand. On the other hand, the relationship between the Ng, Li, and Pl languages reaches the highest number in the following order. It can be concluded that Mg, Rb, and Km appear to form separate groups in addition to other subgroups consisting of Ng, Li, and Pl (as separate groups).

The Mg, Rb, and Km (MKR group) languages are presumed to be derived from the same protolanguages as the Ng, Li, and Pl subgroups (NLP subgroups). Thus, it can be argued that the MKR and NLP subgroups are members of a higher group, namely the West Flores (FB) subgroup. The relationship between the Mg-Rb languages in the MKR subgroup is closer than the relationship between the two languages with Km. Therefore, the Mg-Rb relationship is thought to form a subgroup at a lower level called the MR group. An NLP group is a bipartite squirrel (in a lineage line) that, together with the MRK subgroup, forms the FB subgroup (at a higher rank) after the other bipartite hoops (Mr and Km) form the MRK subgroup.

Other Flores languages, namely Sk, Lh, and Kd, show a relatively high average percentage between each other when compared to the relationship between these languages and the languages of members of the FB subgroup. It allegedly formed a separate language subgroup called the East Flores subgroup (FT).

Based on observations of the relationship between FB subgroups, which are related to the average percentage of MRK (64) and NLP (59) subgroups, on the one hand, and the relationship between languages of FT subgroup members who are associated with a reasonably high average percentage (62). Conversely, the two FB and FT subgroups can be grouped into one separate language group because the average percentage difference does not exceed 5%. The group was named the Flores Language Group (Fl). The rest can be described as follows.
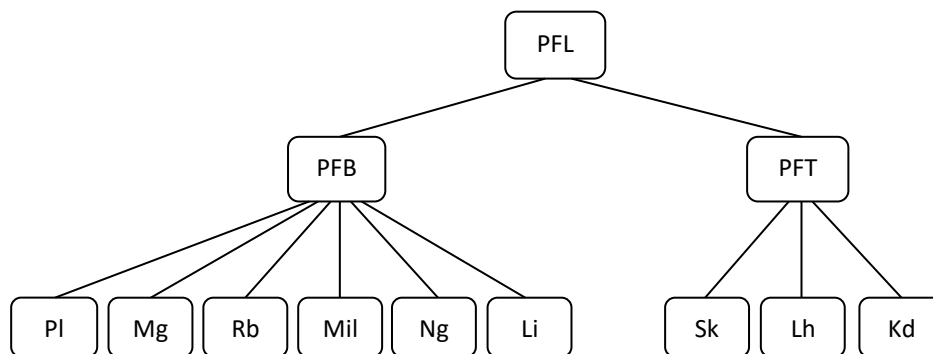

Diagram 1: Lineage of language kinship of the Fl group

From the previous information and the diagram above, it can be concluded that (1) The nine Flores languages compared are one language group related to a cognate percentage of 61% which reaches the cognate percentage limit for a language family according to the lexicostatistical criteria determined by Swadesh. (2) the West Flores (FB) subgroup consists of Mg, Rb, Km, Ng, Li, and Pl languages, while the East Flores (FT) subgroup consists of Sk, Lh, and Kd languages. (3) following quantitative criteria (lexicostatistics), the FB subgroup associated with a cognate percentage of 59% and the FT subgroup with a cognate percentage of 62% belong to one language subfamily.

Furthermore, as a form of qualitative evidence of grouping Flores languages in research conducted by Fernandez, elements of joint innovation were found, both phonological and lexical. The element of shared innovation shows the changes (renewals) experienced by members of a (sub)language group that are considered to occur in the same development period. Updates to the rules of phoneme change characterize innovations in phonology. The phoneme change in question can be in the

form of a merger, which is the merger of different phonemes into one common phoneme in a (sub)language group; split, the separation of the same phoneme into different phonemes; as well as various other types of sound changes (Fernandez, 1996:48-62). In the lexical field, joint innovations of a phonological nature made it possible to find new vocabulary devices helpful as markers of language grouping. Finally, languages that undergo joint innovation, both phonological and lexical, are grouped separately into (sub)language groups.

Per the evidence of joint innovation shown by Fernandez (1996), the grouping of Flores languages can be described in a more detailed lineage compared to the family tree of calculations based on lexicostatistical techniques, as shown below.
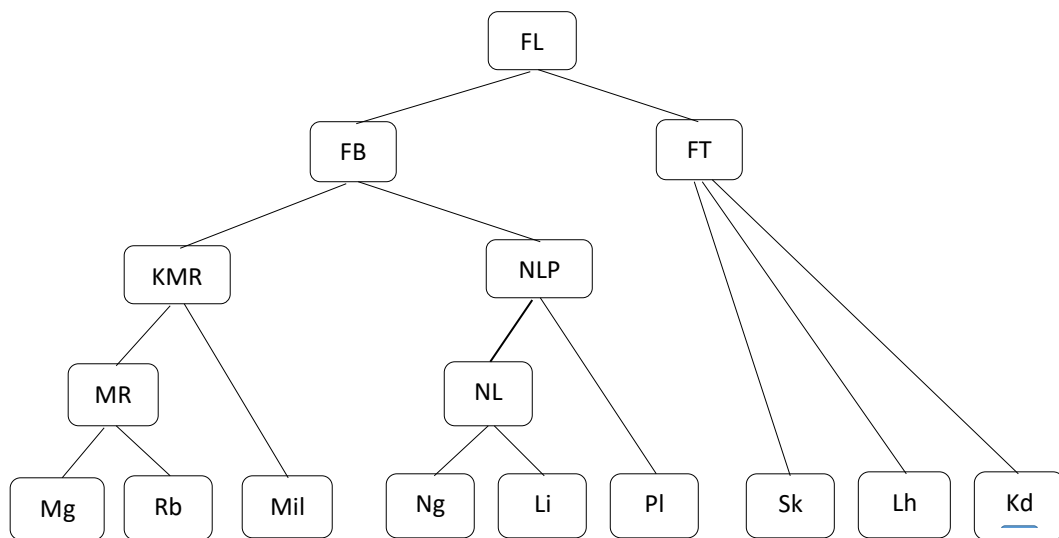

Diagram 2: Qualitative lineage of Flores language group kinship

Based on diagram 2, it can be concluded that (1) the languages of Mg, Rb, KM, Ng, Li, Pl, Sk, Lh, and Kd in Flores are a close group. (2) Flores language groups can be divided into West Flores (FB) and East Flores (FT) subgroups. (3) the West Flores subgroup consists of the Mg, Rb, Km, (KMR) subgroup and the Ng, Li, Pl (NLP) subgroup. (4) the Flores ffTimur subgroup consists of Sk, Lh, and Kd.

Conclusion

Based on the previous discussion, Fernandez thus proved that the Flores languages (Km, Mg, Rb, Ng, Li, Pl, Sk, Lh, and Kd are related. Fernandez proved it by presenting quantitative evidence with lexicostatistical calculations that reached the percentage of language kinship. Next, qualitative evidence is shown by phonological and lexical innovations experienced by the Flores language group at the Proto, Meso, and lower levels. Thus, based on the typological linguistic study of 9 Flores languages that are the object of Fernandez's study can be said to be a language group based on genetic typology.

However, the research results published by Nusa Indah publisher do not mean they have no shortcomings. Some of the shortcomings in question are not fatal errors, but readers who primarily do not have a linguistic or scientific background will experience a

little confusion. The description of the evidence of phonological innovations, especially in mergers and splits, still overlaps. In addition, this book does not contain maps of language groupings as had been done by predecessor researchers, even though Fernandez himself mentioned the existence of such maps. Finally, Fernandez's rebuttal to previous research related to language grouping in the archipelago by calling a single criterion in the form of specific syntactic characteristics an inappropriate criterion seems to have to be straightened out, considering that from the point of view of language typology studies between syntactic criteria and criteria used in LHK have different final results. The first grouped languages based on the language's internal structure, while LHK looked at and grouped languages based on lineage. However, Fernandez's research made a significant contribution to the study of linguistics in general

Reference

Blust, R.A. (1977). "The Proto Austronesian Subgrouping. A Preliminary Report", dalam Working Papers in Linguistics. University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

Brown, W. U. (1990). "Mai Brat Nominal Phrases", dalam Seri NUSA, Miscellaneous Studies of Indonesian and Other Languages in Indonesia, Part X, Vol. 32, 43—61.

Fernandez, I. Y. (1977). "Struktur Bahasa Lamaholot Ile Mandiri". Skripsi S-l. Yogyakarta, Fakultas Sastra UGM

(1981). "Refleks Fonem-fonem MelayuPolinesia pada Dua Bahasa di Flores Bagian Timur dan Tengah". Laporan Hasil Penelitian untuk Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa, Jakarta.

(1983). "Perbandingan Sistem Kab Bilangan Bahasa Lamaholot dan Sikka di Flores Tirnur", Makalah yang Disajikan pada Seminar Nasional Linguistik Historis Komparatif dan Linguistik Kontrasüf, 9— 14 November, di Tugu, Bogor.

(1984). "Perbandingan Morfologi Bahasabahasa di Flores Bagian Timur, Tengah, dan Barat'. Laporan Penelitian untuk Pusat Penelitian UGM, Yogyaka.

(1996). Relasi Historis Kekerabatan Bahasa Flores, Kajian Linguistik Historis Komparatif terhadap Sembilan Bahasa di Flores. Ende: Nusa Indah.

(1996). "In Search of Linga'istic Relationship Some Austronesian and Non

Austronesian Languages in East Indonesia". Makalah yang disajikan dalam Konferensi Intemasional mengenai Relasi Bahasa dan Budaya di Indonesia bagian Timur, Nugini, dan Australia, 24-25 Juni 1996 di Yogyakarta.

Keraf, G. (1978). Dialek Lamalera. Ende: Nusa Indah.

Lehmann, W. P. (1974). "Subjectivity", dalam Language, No. 1: 47-66.

Mathijsen, A. (1907). "Tettun Hollandsche Woordenlijst met Beknopte Spraakkunst' Verh. Bat. Gen. deel 56.

Silva, S. M. A. (1889). Diccionarño de Portuguez-Tetum con Regras grammaticaes sobre Tetum.

Sudaryanto. (1977). "Tipologi Bahasa menurut Tradisi Sapir, Greenberg, dan Lehmann", Mimeograf. Yogyakarta: KMSI Fakultas Sastra UGM.

Trubus. (1987). Struktur Bahasa Tetun. Jakarta: Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa.

Voorhoeve, C. L. (1975). "The Comparative Linguistics and the West Papuan Phylum", dalam Masinambow, E. K. M. (ed.) Maluku dan Irian Jaya. Buletin LEKNAS, Vol.3, No.1

Witanti, S. A. (1992). "Struktur Fonologi dan Morfologi Bahasa Mai Brat Ayamaru: Sebuah Studi Pendahuluan". Universitas Sanata Dharma Yogyakarta (Skripsi S-I).