

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Indonesia is a country that has a variety of cultures, ethnic groups, religions, race, languages, and so on. In diversity also has its own identity and characteristics. Thus, one thing that can be understood and recognized by each of diversity is a language. Under different conditions, language is one of the important products of a culture. Language is a symbol system that makes sounds and becomes a means of communication for everyone and gives birth to feelings and thoughts so that it will be easier for us to understand what that person will say (Wibowo, 2001: 3).

Linguistic is knowledge of the language. It is concerned with the nature of human language how it is learned and what part it plays in the life of the individual and the community so language has a very important role in human life. According to Finnochiaro (1974:177), language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols which permit all in given culture, or other people who have learned the system of that culture to communicate or to interact. In this case, Finnochiaro said that language is a systematic means of communications ideas or feeling by using conventionalized signs, sounds, gesture, or marks that have understood meaning.

There are some branches of linguistics and one of them is semiotic. Semiotic is the study of sign and symbol and their meaning. Semiotic became one of the studies in communication theory. Semiotic theory consists of a set of theories about

how signs represent the objects, ideas, circumstances, situations, feelings and conditions outside of the signs themselves (Miler, 2005:53). Semiotics concerned with everything that can be taken by sign.

Semiotic is not only study of what we refer to as 'signs' in everyday speech but it is also study about symbol and their meaning (Chandler, 2002:2).

According to Pierce in Copley (2001:31), semiotics is a study that describes a sign in an interpretative process to find a sign that focuses on an explanation in an interpretation so that the sign can indicate and focus on the object. The name for semiotics that we observe character signs as we know. Offered which triadic model consists of represent sign, interpreters, and objects. Based on the object, the divided sign becomes an icon, index, and symbol.

Signs and symbols are usually found in traditional wedding ceremonies. Each region and culture has different signs and symbols. Weddings influenced by both culture and religion and vary greatly between ethnic groups, countries, and social classes (Fukutomi, 2002). In other words, wedding also has many tradition and implementation manners in every region and country both traditionally and modern wedding. Traditional wedding has several stages and the signs used must be followed by people who want to get married in order to live together in bonds formalized by the state, social and religion.

In society, there are several steps and stages in the celebration starting from asking for marriage until the marriage contract and each step uses a different symbol

in celebration. In each stage of marriage has it is own meaning in the life of the bride and groom people who believe in it, and follow the process. Each region has a traditional wedding that is different from all aspects for example the stages, signs or symbols with different meanings used.

One of the wedding ceremonies is The Mekala-kalaan Ritual from Bali. In the Mekala-kalaan procession, all activities are carried out and communicated through signs both objects and actions. There are various signs found in The Mekala-kalaan ritual on Balinese wedding ceremony follows: *sapu lidi* ‘broom stick’, *keris* ‘ceremonial knife’, *sabuk kupakan* or *sabut kelapa* ‘coconut husk’, *suwun-suwunan* or *sarana jinjingan* ‘portable means’, and so on with their respective sign and meaning. In fact, there are so many people still do not know the meaning of each sign. The author knows more about this. Therefore, the author is interested in conducting research related to the symbols and meanings of symbols used in the Mekala-kalaan ritual at the Balinese Wedding Ceremony. This research is entitled “**SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF THE MEKALA-KALAAAN RITUAL IN THE BALINESE WEDDING CEREMONY AT PURA AGUNG GIRI KERTHA BHUWANA BY HINDUS IN KUPANG**”.

1.2 Research Problem

In the present research, the research intends to focus on the following problems:

1. What are the signs used in The *Mekala-kalaan* Ritual on The Balinese Wedding Ceremony at Pura Agung Giri Kertha Bhuwana by Hindus in Kupang?
2. What are the meaning of the signs used in The *Mekala-kalaan* Ritual in The Balinese Wedding Ceremony at Pura Agung Giri Kertha Bhuwana by Hindus in Kupang?

1.3 Aims Of The Study

Based on the research questions above, the aims og this study are as follows:

1. To know the signs those are used in The *Mekala-kalaan* Ritual in The Balinese Wedding Ceremony at Pura Agung Giri Kertha Bhuwana by Hindus in Kupang.
2. To describe the meaning of signs used in The *Mekala-kalaan* Ritual in The Balinese Wedding Ceremony at Pura Agung Giri Kertha Bhuwana by Hindus in Kupang.

1.4 Significance of the study

The results of this study have some implications and applications

1.4.1. Implication

It is expected that the findings of this study are significant theoretically. According to Pierce in cobley (2001: 13), semiotics is a study that describes a sign in an interpretative process to find a sign that focuses on an explanation in an interpretation so that the sign can indicate and focus on

the object. Based on the object, the divided sign becomes an icon, index, and symbol. The significance of this study is an important contribution to the development of semiotic studies, especially to the analysis of signs and the meaning of the signs in The *Mekala-kalaan* Ritual on The Balinese Wedding Ceremony.

1.4.2 Application

This study hopefully benefits for:

1. The readers, to give more knowledge and information about the semiotic study especially the signs and the meaning of The *Mekala-kalaan* Ritual in Balinese Wedding Ceremony
2. The writer, to increase the knowledge in this study based on the result of research.
3. Next researchers, who are interested in doing the research with the same topic, this can be reference for doing the research.