

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents the background, research problems, aims of study, and significance of study.

### **1.1 Background**

Semantics is the study of meaning in language. Semantics concerns the study of meaning as communicated through language while for some others, semantics studies all aspects of meaning and they have to add the label "linguistic" to arrive at a more precise definition (Altmann, 2002:26). This distinction, however is not generally given much importance and leaving aside special formulations. The history of semantics is not straightly forward. In this way, semantic studies can be traced back to the first studies of language by man.

Aitchison (1994:49). states that since the very first moment which man started to investigate the phenomenon of linguistic, communication, semantics had a central place in that endeavor. Thus ruminations on language included as part of the program questions about meaning in language. such questions have continued to be present in the most linguistic discussions up until in the century. talking about semantics can not be separated with semiotic because semiotic is the part of semantics.

According to Soekarningsi and Rohayani (2014:68). Traditional Dance is a dance that is born and grows in a society which is then passed down or passed on continuously from generation to generation. Traditional Dances usually have

various characteristics that light local philosophy, culture, and wisdom where the dance develops so that it can be guessed that each region will have its own uniqueness in an area. for example in the Alor district with its *Lego-Lego* Dance.

*Lego-Lego* Dance is classified as a traditional Dance which is one of the cultural treasures that has been passed down from generation to generation from ancestors. It is commonly used in all traditional ceremonial activities in Alor. However now more it is widely used when welcoming guests, at weddings, and so on by the people of Alor and is still being preserved now. or after carrying out joint activities as a form of gratitude, their sense of unity and joy. They express their gratitude by walking around the *Mesbah* (sacred holy place), while holding hands and singing songs of praise to God.

In general, it can be seen that the *Lego-Lego* Dance in Alor Regency has the meaning, Symbol, and the actualization togetherness or the unity of the Alor community. The spirit of mutual cooperation, a supportive attitude is the meaning about the *Lego-Lego* Dance. Such as with choreographed footwork, the dancer will move around the tree while betel nut and *sopi* are offered. Foot movements and singing in each region may differ, but the shape of the circle formation and other traditional components remain the same.

Based on the explanation above and the experience from observation, unfinished phrase of so are found in traditional *Lego-Lego* Dance in Alor Regency, Practiced by *Ternate Umapura* Villager. The writer is very interesting to analyze *Lego-Lego* Dance with the reason to know the meaning of words, and the

semiotic meaning of semantic found on the traditional *Lego-Lego* Dance. Therefore the writer is inspired to investigate “AN ANALYSIS ON SEMIOTIC MEANING FOUND IN TRADITIONAL *LEGO-LEGODANCE* OF ALOR REGENCY PRACTICED BY *TERNATE UMAPURA* VILLAGERS”.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

What are the symbols and meanings found in traditional *Lego-Lego* Dance in *Umapura* Village Alor Regency?

## **1.3 The aims of the study**

To find out the symbols and meanings of traditional *Lego-Lego* Dance in Alor Regency *Umapura* village.

## **1.4 The Significance of study**

The results of this study have some implications and applications.

### **1.4.1 Implication**

This study is conducted to support the theory by Bryan and Kolly (2002:21). They say that “Dance is the most basic art form in a performance, namely dance can involve all human senses and the basis of human existence in the world” and the writer also used the concept suggested by Saeed (2000). That study about the meaning of the word is also called a study of the meanings of symbols. With the theory analysis used semiotic approach.

### **1.4.2 Application**

1. To provide information to the society about the *Lego-Lego* Dance poetry From Alor District, North West Alor Subdistrict, *Ternate Umapura* Village.
2. To enrich researcher and common readers knowledge of semiotic meaning in *Lego-Lego* Dance.
3. It can be a source of semiotic study in semantics course.