

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Indonesia is a country with more than 17,000 islands. Not only famous for its natural beauty, Indonesia is also known as a country with abundant cultural such as local languages, traditional houses, traditional clothes, traditional dances, folk songs and traditional crafts. Each region must have its own culture and customs. The culture become the identity of the region and become a characteristic of an area that will always be remembered by everyone who sees it. Culture is habit of the people that are always carried out and are unique to other regions.

The Lio tribe is one of the tribes that inhabit the Ende Regency, east Nusa Tenggara. The Lio people still adhere to their inherited customs. These cultural heritages include traditional ceremonies, traditional dances, traditional houses, traditional musical instruments and traditional clothing. These noble values and customs are preserved and passed on as the wealth of the Lio community as a form of appreciation and respect for the struggles of their ancestors (YLSA, 2016).

In the Lio community, traditional houses have a deep philosophical meaning not only as a place to live but also to contain cultural values. These cultural values are believed to regulate the social and cultural life of the Lio people in their behavior towards others and nature in the environment. In other

words, cultural values serve as guidelines and directions and act as well as speak words.

The *Sa'o Ria* (traditional house) is a manifestation of the culture of the Lio people in Ende Regency. The people of the Lio tribe still adhere to the customs and culture that have been passed down by their ancestors. *Sa'o Ria* is a form of the presence of culture and customs among the Lio community. *Sa'o Ria* for the Lio community is believed to be a form of a woman / mother who gives fertility and welfare. *Sa'o Ria* has a unique shape with a towering roof. *Sa'o Ria* is an under house with many rooms which have their respective functions. *Sa'o Ria* usually has carvings and cultural symbols that are made and have a meaning and function for the indigenous people of Lio.

Sa'o Ria as traditional house or commonly known as Mosalaki traditional house is one of the traditional houses of Lio tribe in Ende Regency which is occupied by Mosalaki. So Mosalaki is the customary leader. As the name implies, the Mosalaki traditional house is a special house inhabited by tribal chiefs or customary leaders of the Ende Lio tribe. Apart from being the residence of the traditional leader, this traditional house also functions as a place to carry out traditional ceremonies, traditional deliberations, certain rituals, and other traditional events.

Today, in line with the times, based on researchers' observations, most people experience shifts in values and understanding of their culture and customs and are more interested in new cultures that have entered their daily lives. For example, people only know about the name of their traditional house, but not

with the meaning and social function of each symbol that exists and is binding on the traditional house itself. As known in the traditional house symbol, is an intermediary tool that comes from the ancestors to describe all forms of knowledge messages to the community, as the next generation that is manifested in their daily actions as cultural creatures, and then expected to be able to provide understanding for the user community. In essence, as Geertz (1992) in Lebang (2015) says “Meaning can only be stored in symbols”.

Based on the above understanding and knowledge of traditional houses which are not only a place to live, but also an expression of belief and adaptation of humans to nature as a place of residence that is loaded with religious, historical and philosophical values, the researcher wants to conduct a study entitled "**The Semiotic Analysis on *Sa'o Ria* (The Traditional House) of Lio Ethnic in Wologai Village, Ende Regency**".

1.2. Research Problem

Based on this background, the researcher took the formulation of the problem through the following questions:

1. What are the meanings of the symbols found in the *Sa'o Ria* as Traditional House?
2. What are the social functions of the symbols found in the *Sa'o Ria* as Traditional House?

1.3 Aim(s) of Study

Based on the formulation of the problem, the researcher can describe the purpose of writing in this study as follows:

1. To describe the meaning of the symbols on the *Sa'o Ria* (Traditional House).
2. To describe the social functions of the symbols that exists in the *Sa'o Ria* (the traditional house).

1.4 Significance of Study

The results of this study have some implication and application.

1.4.1. Implications

Even though, within the scope of semiotics, (Pierce, 1839) often repeats that in general a sign is what represents something for someone. Besides that, actually there are many other things that we can explain, such as signs which can be in the form of engraved images, paintings, and photographs so that sign are also included in art and photography.

1.4.2. Application

The applications of this research is to give information as a resource for the learners and people who want to know or conduct further study related to semiotics and also to enrich the writer's ability in writing and knowing more details about the meaning and social functions of the symbol that found in a traditional house of Lio Ethnic