CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

This study has explored the discourse functions of spatial, temporal, and referential deictics in the *Lii Hawu*, focusing on their usage in natural interactions among native speakers. The findings reveal that deixis in *Lii Hawu* is a rich, multifunctional system that encodes spatial relations, time reference, speaker–listener dynamics, and sociopragmatic intentions.

Spatial deixis forms such as *nène* 'that', *nad'ee* 'this', *nahère* 'those', *nid'e* 'there', *hid'e* 'there', and *nii* 'there' demonstrate a clear hierarchical system of distance and specificity. The forms *nène* 'that' and *nad'ee* 'this' are used to indicate referents located near the speaker, while *nahère* "those' extends this to plural referents. Importantly, the presence of *nid'e* 'that' near the listener, *hid'e* 'those' far but still accessible, and *nii* 'there' far and possibly out of sight shows that *Lii Hawu* encodes multiple degrees of distance, forming a three-way or four-way spatial distinction: proximal, medial, and distal. These forms allow speakers to precisely anchor referents within shared or shifting physical and cognitive spaces.

Temporal deixis is expressed through forms like *mid'a* 'yesterday' and *b'èri rai* 'tomorrow or soon', which reflect cultural conceptualizations of time that are less rigid and more contextually interpreted. These expressions help speakers situate events within recent or forthcoming time frames in relation to the moment of speaking.

Referential deictics, such as *napunène* 'that', are used to single out specific choices from a known set of alternatives. These forms are prominent in question–answer sequences and decision-making contexts and function to express specificity and shared knowledge.

Additional forms such as *nahed'ee* 'these', *mihed'ee* 'like this', and *minahed'ee* 'like this' highlight the extension of deixis to domains beyond location and time namely, to group reference and manner. These forms encode discourse strategies for instructing, exemplifying, or characterizing people and actions.

Overall, deixis in *Lii Hawu* plays a critical role in establishing referential clarity, managing participant roles, structuring discourse, and encoding culturally grounded interactional norms. The language demonstrates not only spatial and temporal precision but also rich pragmatic functionality, making deixis a central feature of *Lii Hawu* discourse.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the findings of this research, several suggestions are offered for future studies, language documentation, educational use, and cross-linguistic analysis:

1. **For future Research:**

Further studies are encouraged to examine the spatial deixis system of *Lii Hawu* in more depth, especially the distinctions between *nid'e* 'there', *hid'e* 'there', and *nii* 'there' as markers of medial and distal distance. Comparative studies across dialects of *Lii Hawu* or neighboring Austronesian languages could provide a broader understanding of deixis variation and its correlation with

geography, culture, and speech context.

2. **For language documentation:**

The detailed distinctions in spatial deixis and other deictic forms in *Lii Hawu* highlight the need for continued documentation of natural speech. These forms are essential components of everyday interaction and should be preserved as part of the language's grammatical and pragmatic structure. Audio and video recordings of authentic conversations can help capture how these forms function in context.

3. **For Educational and community-Based Programs:**

Deictic expressions should be incorporated into *Lii Hawu* language learning materials, especially for children and younger generations. Understanding and using deixis appropriately is essential for developing communicative competence. Introducing examples from daily conversation, such as the contrast between *nad'ee 'this'*, *nid'e 'that'*, and *nii 'there'*, can improve learners' awareness of how to express spatial and social relationships effectively.

4. **For cross-linguistic Comparison:**

The complex deictic system of *Lii Hawu*, including its fine-grained spatial distinctions and multifunctional expressions, provides valuable data for linguistic typology. Researchers working on deixis across languages can use *Lii Hawu* as a case study to explore how smaller languages express subtle referential relationships, both spatial and social, in discourse.