

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 5.1. Conclusion

Based on the research findings explained in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that the traditional houses of Sumba contain symbols and meanings. The traditional Loli house in West Sumba is unique in that it reflects the cultural, social, and spiritual values of the local community. With its multi-storey architecture, towering roof (*Toko Umma*), sacred central space, main pillars and gender-based division of space, it not only functions as a place to live, but also as a symbol of human relationships with ancestors and the universe. The spatial arrangement and symbolism of this traditional house are founded on the Marapu belief, making it a form of cultural heritage full of philosophical meaning that should be preserved.

The symbols and meanings found in traditional Indonesian houses, such as those in Toraja, Aceh, Kudus and Java, are an important part of the cultural identity of various ethnic groups. Previous studies have emphasised that these elements contain philosophical, spiritual and social messages passed down through generations. In the context of the Loli traditional house in West Sumba, a review of the literature reinforces the idea that every part of the house has a symbolic meaning reflecting the relationship between humans, their ancestors, and nature within the Marapu belief system.

This research employs descriptive qualitative methods, collecting data through interviews and documentation. The informants were native speakers of the Loli language with in-depth knowledge of Sumbanese culture and traditional

houses, and were selected subjectively. The research was conducted in Weekarou Village in the Loli sub-district of the West Sumba regency. The data were analysed inductively to identify symbolic themes that emerged from the interviews. These themes were then interpreted using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory to reveal the meaning behind the symbols of traditional houses.

The results show that every part of the traditional Loli house is imbued with symbols and meanings relating to the cosmology, social structure and spiritual values of the Sumbanese people. For instance, the towering roof (*Toko Umma*) represents the vertical relationship between humans and their ancestors, while the central room (*Taruonga Umma*) serves as the hub for family activities and spiritual communication. The four main pillars (*Pata Pari'i Tillu*) represent the balanced social relationship between men and women. Additionally, the right and left sides of the house represent gender roles and balance in life.

It also reveals that the main door (*Mbinna*), the bale-bale (*Mbaga Kalada*), the lower room (*Salikabunga*) and the buffalo horns and pig jaws (*Kadu Karabbo Monno Ngiengi Wawi*) all play a symbolic role in protecting the house, demonstrating social status and maintaining harmonious relationships with the ancestors. These symbols demonstrate architectural aesthetics and serve as guidelines for the Loli people's way of life, as well as being a means of passing on cultural values from generation to generation.

## 5.2.Suggestions

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher makes some suggestions that may be helpful, both for English students, readers, and researchers.

Here are some points of suggestions:

- 1) For local communities: It is important to continue instilling an understanding of the significance of traditional houses in the minds of the younger generation through informal education and traditional ceremonies, to prevent these values from being eroded by modernisation.
- 2) For local government: Support in the form of cultural preservation programmes, assistance with restoring traditional houses, and promoting culture-based tourism is essential to maintaining the sustainability of this heritage.
- 3) For academics and researchers: Further in-depth research is needed on the relationship between traditional house symbols and social and economic changes in Sumbanese society, and on efforts to adapt traditional houses to modern life.
- 4) For tourists: Visitors are expected to appreciate and comply with customary rules when visiting traditional houses, so that cultural interactions can take place in harmony and with mutual respect.