

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusion

This study aimed to analyze *Sabunese traditional kissing (Hengadho)* as a sociolinguistic marker of the identity of the Sabu people. Based on the findings and discussion presented in the previous chapter, several conclusions can be drawn.

First, the findings show that *Hengadho* is an ancestral tradition that has been continuously practiced by the Sabu people from generation to generation. The practice has only one form, namely touching the tips of the nose between two people, and it is performed during various social and cultural events, such as weddings, funeral ceremonies, family gatherings, traditional rituals, and daily greetings. The tradition symbolizes sincerity, honesty, and the unity of life, reflecting the Sabunese belief that breath is the source of human life.

Second, this study identifies several important functions and social values embedded in *Hengadho*, including kinship, mutual respect, unity, harmony, sincerity, and togetherness. These values contribute to maintaining social cohesion and strengthening relationships among members of the Sabunese community. The findings demonstrate that traditional kissing is not merely a physical gesture but also a cultural practice that embodies the moral values inherited from previous generations.

Third, the study reveals that *Hengadho* carries important sociolinguistic meanings. As a form of nonverbal communication, it expresses respect, affection, solidarity, and hospitality. The practice enables members of the community to

communicate emotions, social relationships, and cultural values without relying on spoken language. Therefore, Hengadho functions not only as a greeting but also as a meaningful communicative act that strengthens interpersonal relationships within the Sabunese community.

Fourth, the findings indicate that traditional kissing (*hengadho*) serves as a *sociolinguistic marker of Sabunese identity*. The unique form of nose touching, together with its accompanying gestures and cultural meanings, distinguishes the Sabu people from other ethnic groups. Through this practice, the Sabunese community preserves its ancestral heritage and continuously expresses its collective identity. The tradition also reflects the philosophy of equality because it is practiced without discrimination based on age, gender, or social status.

Finally, although modernization and globalization have influenced many aspects of social life, the findings suggest that Hengadho continues to be practiced and respected by the Sabu people. Nevertheless, preserving its original meaning requires continuous efforts from families, traditional leaders, communities, and educational institutions. Maintaining this tradition means preserving the cultural identity and local wisdom of the Sabu people for future generations.

Overall, this study concludes that *Hengadho is a significant nonverbal sociolinguistic marker that reflects the cultural identity, social values, and cultural continuity of the Sabu people*. The tradition remains an important symbol of ethnic belonging and demonstrates the close relationship between communication, culture, and identity within the Sabunese community.

## **5.2 Suggestions**

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the researcher proposes the following suggestions.

### **5.2.1 For The Community**

The Sabunese community is encouraged to continue preserving and practicing *Hengadho* as an important part of their cultural heritage. Traditional leaders, parents, and community members should actively teach the philosophical meanings and social values of the practice to younger generations so that they understand not only the physical gesture but also its cultural significance. By maintaining this tradition, the community can preserve its cultural identity and strengthen social harmony.

### **5.2.2 For Researchers**

Future researchers are encouraged to conduct further studies on nonverbal communication and sociolinguistic markers in other local cultures in Indonesia. Comparative studies between *Hengadho* (Traditional Kissing) and similar greeting traditions practiced by other ethnic communities may provide broader insights into the relationship between language, culture, and identity. Researchers may also employ different qualitative approaches or include more participants to obtain richer and more comprehensive findings.

### **5.2.3 For Educational Institutions**

Educational institutions, particularly schools and universities in East Nusa Tenggara, are encouraged to integrate local cultural studies into teaching and

learning activities. Introducing students to traditional cultural practices such as *Hengadho* can increase cultural awareness, strengthen appreciation for local wisdom, and encourage younger generations to participate in preserving Indonesia's rich cultural heritage. Universities may also support further research and community service programs related to the documentation and preservation of indigenous cultural traditions.