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**GROUPING OF KABOLA, HAMAP, AND KLON LANGUAGES  
ON THE ISLAND OF ALOR, EAST NUSA TENGGARA**

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**ABSTRACT**

Associated with the language development in Nusa Tenggara Timur (East Nusa Tenggara), especially in Alor Regency, in-depth research needs to be done to the linguistic phenomenon. The phenomenon involves the grouping of languages genetically. Overall language data collection is analyzed by comparative linguistic study

Regional languages in Alor regency show unique characteristics, as inspite of the people place to stay between one tribe to another tribe is quite close and there are differences in the language. The diversity of regional languages has an enormous influence on public life.

Research on language groupings Kabola, Hamap, and Klon language Clones in Alor Island i is based on the study of the theory of comparative historical linguistics, supported by theory of Antila (1972) and Bynon theory (1979). The study is quantitative using syncomparative lexicostatistic technique with 200 vocabulary of Swadesh (1972). Based on lexicostatistic techniques, between Kabola language and the language of Hamap, the highest percentage was found, namely 53%. The percentage between Hamap and Klon languages

reached 46%. Furthermore, the percentage between Kabola and Koln languages reached 36% which is the lowest cognate.

The three languages percentage indicates a kinship of language, compared with fifteen other languages as neighbouring languages. The lowest cognate reached an average of 1.5% and the highest ceognat average is 11.1%. The fifteen languages can be categorized as mesofilium, microfilium, and a family of languages that belong to the languages that are not related.

*Keywords:* grouping and comparative historical linguistics

## **1. Introduction**

Comparative linguistics is a branch of linguistics (linguistic) which seeks to lay the foundations of an understanding of the historical development and the kinship between languages in the world (Keraf, 1990: 1). Data from a language learned from two or more periods are compared carefully to obtain the rules changes that occur in the language. The same elements are compared based on the reality in the same period and the changes that occurred between periods (Keraf, 1996: 22).

Antilla (1972: 20) revealed that the comparative historical linguistics is a branch of linguistics that has primary responsibility for establishing the facts and the level of closeness and kinship interlanguage, closely related to the grouping of related languages.

Related to the enhancement and development efforts in the language of East Nusa Tenggara region, especially in Alor district, in-depth research needs to be done to the linguistic phenomenon. The phenomenon involves the survey of language grouping.

Alor Regency is a regency in East Nusa Tenggara province which was established by Act No. 69 of 1958 concerning the Establishment of Daerah Tingkat II in the province of Bali, West Nusa Tenggara and East Nusa Tenggara (LNRI 1958 No. 122). Historically, Alor regency has undergone various developments, especially developments in the field of good governance in the past to be the formation of a regency as it exists today (Stonis, 2008: 1).

Regional languages in Alor regency show unique characteristics, as inspite of the people place to stay between one tribe to another tribe is quite close and there are differences in the language. The diversity of regional languages has an enormous influence on public life.

According to research by Stokof (1982; band with Laino, 2013: 6) there are two language groups in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), including one group of languages belonging to the Austronesian language and 12 non-Austronesian languages. Based on the perception of the general public, in Alor island there are 18 languages in accordance with the data the Department of Education and Culture of Alor regency. The local languages are: (1) Local Language of Alores; (2) Local Language of Kabola / Adang; (3) Local Language of Abui / A'fui; (4) Local Language of Hamap; (5) Local Language of Klun; (6) Local Language of Kui; (7) Local Language of Kafoa; (8) Local Language of Panea; (9) Local Language of Kamang; (10) Local Language of Kailesa; (11) Local Language of Wersin / Kula; (12)

Local Language of Talangpui / Sawila; (13) Local Language of Blagar / Pura; (14) Local Language of Retta; (15) Local Language of Taiwa; (16) Local Language of Nedebang / Bintang / Kalamu; (17) Local Language of Deing / Diang; and (18) Local Language of Lamma (Retika, 2012: 1-10).

The author examines the grouping of three regional languages in Alor regency, namely Kabola, Hamap, and Klon languages using syncomparative historical comparative linguistic approach.

## **2. Concept and Theoretical Framework**

### **2.1 Concept**

#### **2.1.1 Language Kinship**

Language kinship is a language origin relationship as evidenced by grouping and reconstruction of the proto-language. Linguistic facts in the form of order and equivalence found in languages relatives showed evidence of authenticity, inherited from a common ancestor (Bynon, 1979: 47; Antila, 1972: 20; Keraf, 1996: 22).

#### **2.1.2 Language Grouping**

Grouping means of determining the position of languages in an arrangement or a family tree. Efforts to prove language kinship and language origin, in general, lead to the grouping of languages and reconstruction of proto-languages

#### **2.1.3 Sound Correspondence**

Sound correspondence or sound equivalence is the sound alignment in the same position, contained in the derivative languages collected by cognate basis in research. This alignment appears on the similarity or semblance of form and meaning (Hock, 1988: 557-558).

Hoenigswald (1963: 13) says that the correspondence appears in two or more languages, which have a corresponding segment and is a form of language as a replacement of the other forms of the language

### **2.2. Theoretical Framework**

Antila (1972) revealed that the genealogical kinship of language can be studied through the grouping of languages as well as the determination of the language group for the clarity of its genetic structure. By grouping the position and its relationship with other language relatives of each language being compared can be known. According Bynon (1979) the language facts in the form of order and equivalence found in relative languages showed evidence of shared authenticity inherited from the same ancestor. The characteristics of the same heritage as well as the closeness relationship between relative languages can be found and the proto-language system can be traced.

### 3. Research Method

Alor island consists of five districts including: the District of Alor Barat Laut, District of Alor Barat Daya, District of Alor Selatan, District of Alor Timur, and District of Pantar (Stonis, 2008:11). The research location of Kabola language is in the district of Alor Barat Laut, while the study of Hamap and Klon languages is located in the District of Alor Barat Daya.

The research data consist of primary data and secondary data. The primary data were taken from the number of native speakers that are used as informants. The secondary data were obtained from the existing research as a comparison. Data digali dengan menggunakan daftar 200 kosakata Swadesh. The data were extracted using Swadesh list of 200 vocabulary. The number of informants in this study amounted to a minimum of three people in each language studied. If the data obtained were in doubt, then recheck on informants was done consulting other informants in order to obtain an accurate language data.

Data acquisition is done by observation and interview methods. Observation was done by listening to spoken language usage by tapping techniques to tap the talk of informants in the field. Interview method was used by interviewing the informants, aided by the elicitation techniques that informants were encouraged to speak. This technique was aided by technical notes, record, and translation (Sudaryanto, 1988: 2; Mashun, 2007: 92; band Bungin, 2008: 8).

Lexicostatistics is one language grouping technique with figures as the basis of its sorting. The technique is used to find kinship of two languages or more by taking into account the elements contained in the comparable common vocabulary. Thus, lexicostatistics a grouping technique languages or dialects which prioritizes the calculation of words statistically to determine the amount of related words being compared. The percentage of related words between 81-100% is classified as dialect, the percentage of 36-80% belong to a language, the percentage of between 12-35% belong to a family of languages, the percentage of 4-12% belongs to the family of languages, the percentage classified microfilum 2-3%, and the percentage of 0- 2% classified mesofilium (Grimes, 1987: 14)

Research on the language grouping applying lexicostatistics technique could be described by the following formula.

$$H = \frac{J}{G} \times 100\%$$

Description: H = Kinship Relationship  
J = Number of relative words  
G = Gloss (item)

### 4. Research Findings and Discussions

A research conducted by Woisika (1975) found that there are 17 regional languages in Alor island. Documentation done by the Department of Education and Culture of Alor

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regency found 18 regional languages (Retika, 2012: 7). The local languages are: (1) Local Language of Alore; (2) Local Language of Kabola / Adang; (3) Local Language of Abui / A'fui; (4) Local Language of Hamap; (5) Local Language of Klon; (6) Local Language of Kui; (7) Local Language of Kafoa; (8) Local Language of Panea; (9) Local Language of Kamang; (10) Local Language of Kailesa; (11) Local Language of Wersin / Kula; (12) Local Language of Talangpui / Sawila; (13) Local Language of Blagar / Pura; (14) Local Language of Retta; (15) Local Language of Taiwa; (16) Local Language of Nedebang / Bintang / Kalamu; (17) Local Language of Deing / Diang; and (18) Local Language of Lamma.

The following few examples illustrate that the language vocabulary of Kabola has sameness and similarities in Hamap and Klon languages

Kabola	Hamap	Klon	Gloss
/naba/	/nab/	/nabe/	'what'
/hiu/	/hif/	/hi/	'chicken'
/tara/	/taru/	/ta/	'lay down'
/mihi/	/mih/	/mih/	'sit'
/ut/	/u't/	/ut/	'four'
/bo'oi/	/ba'oir/	/bo'gor/	'yellow'
/koin/	/oin/	/pkoin/	'bug'
/batan/	/batin/	/bah/	'needle'
/lete/	/let/	/let/	'far'

The following few examples illustrate that the language vocabulary of Hamap has sameness and similarities in Kabola and Klon languages

Hamap	Kabola	Klon	Gloss
/o'puin/	/kokopuin/	/go'puin/	'hold'
/ta'u/	/ta'au/	/ta'ka/	'steal'
/masan/	/masan/	/mah/	'shoot'
/pet/	/poco/	/pat/	'tie'
/duit/	/dumu/	/dup/	'suck'
/te/	/te'e/	/tek/	'stab'
/arot/	/haroto/	/ha'rot/	'sew'
/tat/	/tatu/	/gat/	'mouth'

The following few examples illustrate that the language vocabulary of Klon has sameness and similarities in Hamap and Kabola languages

Klon	Kabola	Hamap	Gloss
/tuu/	/tun/	/tuu/	'year'
/ge'tan/	/katan/	/tatan/	'hand'
/a'dang/	/do/	/do/	'egg'
/lir/	/lili/	/lil/	'fly'

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/te'tek/                      /te'ei/                      /tadung/                      'thin'  
/tum/                          /kumu/                      /ume/                          'blunt'

Based on lexicostatistic techniques, between language and the language Hamap Kabola, the highest percentage was found, namely 53%. The percentage between Hamap and Klon the languages reached 46%. Furthermore, the percentage between Kabola and Klon languages reached 36% which is the lowest cognate. The three languages percentage indicates a kinship of language, compared with fifteen other languages as neighbouring languages. The lowest cognate reached an average of 1.5% categorized as mesofilium. The fifteen languages can be categorized as languages that are not related as having low average percentage, such as: (1) the local language of Alore/Alurung with the percentage of 4 %; (2) Abui/A'fui 1,8 %; (3) Kui with the percentage of 7,4 %; (4) Kafoa with the percentage of 7,9 %; (5) Panea with the percentage of 2,5 %; (6) Kamang with the percentage of 2,6 %; (7) Kailesa /Wersin/Kula with the percentage of 7,6 %; (9) Tanglapui/ Sawila with the percentage of 8,3 %; (10) Blagar/Pura with the percentage of 10,3 %; (11) Retta with the percentage of 11,1 %; (12) Taiwa with the percentage of 6,7 %; (13) Nedebang/Bitang/Kalamu with the percentage of 7,3 %; (14) Deing/Diang with the percentage of 5,5 %; and (15) Lamma with the percentage of 4,5 %.

Kabola, Hamap, and Klon are group of closely related separate languages which further lower the subgroup language that is the Kabola and Hamap languages, whereas Klon language is a language of its own. This is evident from a lexicostatistic calculations that the cognate percentage between Kabola and Hamap amounted to 53%, the cognate percentage between Hamap language and Klon is 46%, and the cognate percentage between Kabola language and Klon is 36%.

The language grouping, of Kabola, Hamap, and Klon is presented in the following chart

The grouping, of Kabola, Hamap, and Klon  
(Quantitatively)

Vocabulary Percentage	Language Group	Language Status
0 %-2%	Abui	Mesofilium
2%-3%	Kamang, Panea	Microfilium

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4%-12%	Alores, Kui, Kafoa, Wersin, Tanglapui, Blagar, Retta, Taiwa, Nedebang, Deing, and Lamma	Language group
12%-35%		Language family
36%-80%	Kabola, Hamap, and Klön	Language

### Description

Based on the calculation of lexicostatistic technique, Abui language has a percentage of 1.8%, thus classified as mesofilium. Kamang language has a percentage of 2.6% and Panea has a percentage of 2.5%, classified as microfilium. Alores, Kui, Kafoa, Kailesa/Wersin/Kula, Talangpui/Sawila, Blagar/Pura, Reta,, Taiwa, Nedebang/Klamu, Deing, and Lamma vary from 4 % to 11,1 % so that belong to language group. Kabola, Hamap, and Klön are categorized as language.

### 5. Conclusion

Based on the results of research and discussion stated previously, the following conclusion can be presented

A quantitative approach is used to classify the three languages genetically so that i the language kinship of Kabola, Hamap , and Klön languages in Alor island could be seen.

Quantitative evidence shows a breakdown of interlanguage kinship on a number of basic vocabulary and the groups of language kinship based on their percentage can be determined.

Based on lexicostatistic techniques, between Kabola language and the language of Hamap, the highest percentage was found, namely 53%. The percentage between Hamap and Klön languages reached 46%. Furthermore, the percentage between Kabola and Klön languages reached 36% which is the lowest cognate.

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