CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. 1   The Background of the Study

Separated by the sea, each island has their language, customs, and way of life. Nina (2019) mentions that Indonesia has at least 300 ethnic groups, each with its unique set of customs and cultural items. That is not to say that there are no similarities or inclinations amongst cultures, and when reading this term, keep in mind the variety that comes with it. What is commonly referred to be Indonesian culture is often a picture of a dominating culture or a combination of several related cultures. Language is part of our culture that is closely related to thinking. Thus society and culture have a certain way of thinking that is expressed in his language. Language is the most flexible and powerful intellectual tool that actually developed by human. Through language we can understand the culture of the language user in it.

Indonesia is a multilingual and multicultural country. Lewis, Simons, and Fenning (2013) identify several hundred languages spoken throughout the archipelago (706 distinctive languages at the present count). While the languages are related in some circumstances, none of them are mutually intelligible; thus, they are classified as different languages rather than dialects. The languages spoken in Indonesia are classified as Austronesian or Polynesian Malay (Nababan, 1991: 18).

Communication and cooperation between two different social groupings lead language to grow and change throughout time (Nababan, 1991:17). Because of adjustments for communication fluency, this transformation results in a similarity in form and meaning between the two languages. If there are two or more groups of language speakers who have little interaction or are even isolated, these groups will experience comparatively distinctive changes and developments.

Dialect distinctions in one period of a language are becoming more pronounced. This results in a variety of languages, although all of them are connected or have a single proto (cognatic) language. Because the languages are related, they are grouped together in a single unit. Language is considered connected to a number of vocabularies from a specific language group if it contains the following features: When compared to other groupings, there are relatively considerable commonalities; phonetic changes in the history of particular languages also demonstrate an ordered character; The further the history of the connected languages is traced, the more similarities are discovered between the subjects of the languages being compared (Keraf, 1984:37).

At time, Indonesian use as the language of communication between ethnicities, problem will occur that are related with understanding language through the vocabulary used. Researchers have long been interested in the introduction of two or more languages. The questions that arose in the search for the relationship between one language and another in the past, or

whether there was once a single language that was then split into languages around the world, urged linguists to investigate this possibility.

The kinship of two different languages is discussed in this study. In Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia, the languages raised in this study are Javanese and Sundanese. Medan, as the capital of the province of North Sumatra in Indonesia, is a multicultural city with a diverse range of ethnicities and regional languages. The pronunciation of several vocabulary words in Indonesian regional languages is similar. Language interactions can result in regional language similarities. Based on the number of Javanese and Sundanese living in Medan, the researcher chose Medan Tembung and Medan Timur as study areas.

The Javanese were initially brought to Sumatra, particularly to Medan, by the Dutch to work as labourers on plantations, which were readily available in the city of Medan at the time, or as land clearing workers or road builders, as per Rahma (2016). And so do the Sundanese people first arrived in North Sumatra during the Dutch government in the early 1900s as "Koeli Contrac" employed at the Deli Matschapi plantation company imported from Java, which was plagued by poverty and high unemployment at the time (Irfas in Buiskool 2005:274 -5). Although the Javanese and Sundanese in Medan are no longer the first or direct descendants of the Javanese and Sundanese who were born in their place of origin (Javanese Island), one of their cultural characteristics/identities, namely language, is still maintained or preserved. Even though they are far

from their relatives and ancestral lands, they continue to use Javanese in their families and communities.

Javanese and Sundanese language are similar or closely related, we don't know if they are differ until the person tells us what language they are use. Most of people think that Javanese and Sundanese are still in one family language but some are not. This creates confusion among the society even the researcher, always misunderstanding that Javanese and Sundanese are actually similar, only some words differ them.

The Javanese and Sundanese languages kinship are related in terms of both lexical items and phonemic correspondence. The presence of kinship form can be noticed in the table below:

Table 1. 1 Example of Javanese and Sundane

Lexical Items	Javanese Language	Sundanese Language	Gloss/Indicator
far (jauh)	*tebih*	*tebih*	Identical
read (baca)	*moco*	*maca*	Phonemic
north (utara)	*ngaler*	*ler*	correspondence
for (untuk)	*kangge*	*kanggo*	One different

The comparative method in historical linguistics is concerned with the reconstruction of an earlier language or earlier state of a language on the basis of a comparison of related words and expressions in different languages or dialects derived from it. In comparative historical linguistics, the data from one or more language are studied, at least in two periods. These data are compared in order to obtain the rules changes that occur in the language (Keraf, 1992:22). The lexicostatistic technique is a technique in classifying languages by prioritising the recording of words (lexicons)

statistically by using research instruments in the form of a list of 300 Swadesh vocabulary words. In terms of language, this similarity can be seen in terms of phonology, morphology, and syntax. The level of kinship shows that there are clear similarities between words from different languages/dialects through grouping according to the category of kinship level, because in essence these languages are related to one another. Kinship level is a measure of the closeness between one language and another.

This study is limited to Javanese and Sundanese language in general, because both of the languages have similarities on their vocabularies which show them the language kinship. There are several researchers who conduct the same research of lexicostatistics (historical comparative linguistics), but in this case the historical comparative linguistics in Javanese and Sundanese languages are very limited.

Javanese and Sundanese language are the local languages that have similar vocabulary which will be analyzed by using the comparative historical language including the kinship level, phonemic correspondence and its separation time.

1. 2   The Problems of the Study

The problems of the study are formulated as the following.

1. What is the kinship level of Javanese to Sundanese languages?

2. What is the separation time of Javanese from Sundanese languages?

3.   How are Javanese and Sundanese languages considered as language kinship?

1. 3   The Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problems, the objectives of the study are:

1.   to evaluate the level of kinship in both Javanese and Sundanese languages,

2.   to ascertain the separate time in both Javanese and Sundanese languages,

3.   to describe the indicator of kinship words of both Javanese and Sundanese languages.

1. 4   The Scope of the Study

The main aspect of this study is to evaluate the level of kinship, to ascertain the separation time in both Javanese and Sundanese languages since most of people are confuse whether the both languages are in the same family or not and to describe the phonemic correspondence in Javanese and Sundanese languages.

1. 5   The Significance of the Study

Regarding the background and the objectives of the research, it is expected that findings of the research will contribute a great significance both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically,

   It is expected that the present study findings add up more horizons to lexicostatistics theory especially the level of kinship and the separation time of two languages then it will give additional information to the other linguistics researchers.

2. Practically, it is expected that findings of the study will be relevant

   a) for the students, this research can be used to give a better understanding on language phenomenon especially the level of kinship and separation time of two languages and how the vocabulary phonemic correspondence each other,

   b) for the other researcher, this research can be used as a valuable reference in investigating the same subject,

   c) for the readers, the readers will have new knowledge whether some languages has level of kinship, separation time and phonemic correspondence.