



RESEARCH ARTICLE

# The Preservation of Tae' Language in Luwu Regency (An Ethnographic Study)

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: Oct 28, 2024	This research is a qualitative research using ethnographic approach where the research is located in Belopa sub-district which is the capital of Luwu Regency, South Sulawesi consisting of 17 villages and sub-districts. The focus of this research is 'the preservation of Tae' language in Belopa City which is the capital of the early establishment of Luwu regency and when the capital of the Luwuese Kedatuan government was located in Kamanre, the Datu placed Kedatuan officers in charge of supervising and controlling the security of trade traffic in Belopa through the ulo-ulo port in Belopa sub-district. So the limit of this research is only to Tae' language speakers in Belopa sub-district. Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that. Tae' language is very important for the people of Luwu Regency because tae' language is the mother tongue for the people of Luwu. The ability of Luwu people in speaking tae' as a mother tongue or first language is very high because tae' is used in daily communication. The tae' language that is the focus of this research is reviewed in the realm of its users, including family communication, community communication, namely: neighbours, work/office, and public places and educational communication.
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a multilingual country that has approximately 718 languages and is the second richest country in languages after neighbouring Papua New Guinea (PNG) which has approximately 830 languages (Lewis, 2019). The use of regional languages which are Indonesia's cultural heritage is closely related to sociolinguistics which reveals the ways language is used to negotiate solidarity, and identity in society, and language politeness in society (Manan, 2019).

There are many regional languages in South Sulawesi. However, the number of speakers varies by language size. The number of speakers is up to millions of people like Bugis and Makassar. There is also a relatively large language size, the number of speakers is tens of thousands of people such as Toraja, Mandar, and Tae'. The local language or commonly referred to as the mother tongue in Luwu district is Tae'. Luwu is one of the districts in South Sulawesi province with Belopa as its capital. Since the beginning, Luwu Regency was an integral part of the Luwu Kingdom which was originally located in Ussu Malili (now included in East Luwu) as the centre of government control led by the first Luwu umbrella (Yamaguchi, 2010).

The Kingdom of Luwu is estimated to have been established in the VIIth century based on the I Lagaligo manuscript. The I Lagaligo manuscript or also called Sureq I Lagaligo is an ancient literary work or sacred book in the form of a mythological epic and is considered the longest literary work in the world that has been recognised by UNESCO. The mythological epic I laga Ligo from Luwu, South Sulawesi, became the longest manuscript in the world with 13,000 lines of text and 12,000 folio manuscripts 'I La Galigo is the longest mythical epic in the world and as a Memory Of The World that has been endorsed and recognised by UNESCO, (Arief Rachman, 2014), the Daily Chairperson of the

National Commission for UNESCO who explained that I La Galigo became a Memory of the World because it contains literature and collective memory of the world. . I La Galigo has also been performed in drama theatre stages in the country and abroad.(Feronike Rumere, 2019).

Tae' language is a local language that is the daily language of the people in the Luwu Regency area, being the centre where Tae' language is used in daily activities in various domains of life, be it in the realm of family, community environment, and education, as well as other social life. Tae' is one of the local languages that has a function as a symbol of the self-identity of the Luwu people and as a place to express the civilisation of the Tae' speaking community (Garing, 2016). Tae' language is also one of the regional languages in Indonesia so it needs to be fostered and preserved. because this is in accordance with language politics that the national language is enriched by regional languages, regional languages, and foreign languages (Halim, 2023).

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1. Sample and data collection**

The data used in this research is descriptive data which includes information, explanations, utterances, and answers in the form of words obtained from informants about the maintenance of the Tae' language in the research location. As explained by Bogdan and Biklen (2016) that data are specific parts that form the basis of analysis. Data includes what people actively record during the study, data also includes what others create and what researchers find, such as diaries, photography, official documents, and newspaper articles.

### **2.2. Instrument development**

In order for the results of this study to be as expected, the data needed are the community as the users of Tae' language, data referring to the preservation of Tae' language in terms of the realm of users and the situation of the users, data on the attitudes of the Luwu people towards Tae' language and the factors that influence the preservation of Tae' language, and data on the strategies and efforts of the government and the community in the preservation of Tae' language in Luwu district. Mahsun (2007) asserts that in research, a large sample language is not necessary because linguistic behaviours tend to be more homogeneous than other behaviours. For this reason, the main data source (primary) is the family which is determined based on a purposive approach with a snow ball technique. This research uses an ethnographic approach so what the researcher must do is to seek information through informants at the research location.

### **2.3. Measurement**

Data validity checking uses triangulation, which refers to sources such as observations, interviews, and documents and recordings. To support the results of this study in line with other sources related to the preservation of the Tae' language. This research uses two triangulation techniques, namely source triangulation and method triangulation. The source triangulation technique is used to double-check and compare the data obtained during interviews with informants and observation data, as well as documents related to the Tae' language. Meanwhile, method triangulation was used to obtain data through the results of one method, not only using observation and interviews, but also using notes on related documents.

Triangulation involves the use of multiple data sources, such as interviews with various resource persons (cultural figures, Luwuese leaders, community members and government), as well as data from literature and official documents, to ensure that the findings are not influenced by the researcher's subjective views. This ensures that the entire research process is well-documented, so that the research results can be tested by others to verify the accuracy and objectivity of the findings. In this way, the researcher can ensure that the research is based on verifiable data and not the researcher's personal interpretation.

## **3. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULT**

### **3.1. Domain analysis**

Domain analysis is an analysis used to obtain an overall picture of the object of this research, which includes larger units of cultural knowledge. Simply put, this domain analysis is an effort to categorise the findings of this research on tae' language. The domain analysis in this study is the tae' language

speakers in the realm of tae' language users, the situation of tae' language users, the language attitudes of the Luwu people towards tae' language, the factors of tae' language preservation from its speakers and the strategies and efforts of the government in the preservation of Tae' language.

### **3.2. Analysis taxonomy**

Taxonomic analysis is an analysis used to describe the domain that has been selected so that it is more detailed. simply put, taxonomic analysis is an effort to describe categorisation. The taxonomy analysis of this research is first, the user domain is family communication, community environment communication consisting of neighbours, workplaces/offices, and public places, and educational communication. Second, the user situations are official/formal situations and casual/intimate/non-formal situations. Third, attitudes are loyalty, pride, and awareness of community norms towards tae' language. Fourth, the factors that influence the preservation of tae' language are environment, habituation, and learning. Fifth, the strategies and efforts of the government and the community in maintaining the tae' language are government strategies, community strategies, and strategies of cultural figures in maintaining the tae' language in Luwu district.

### **3.3. Analysis componential**

Componential analysis is an analysis used to look specifically for each internal structure by contrasting elements in a clearly distinguishable and non-overlapping domain. Simply put, componential analysis is an effort to contrast and look for specific differences in each component. This study's componential analysis is a synonym of the words in the taxonomic analysis, namely the domain of use and the situation of use of non-tae' speakers. Attitudes of shame, prestige, inferiority in using tae' language. Factors influencing tae' language shift. The strategies and efforts of the government and the community that resulted in the reduced use of tae' language in Luwu district.

### **3.4. Cultural theme analysis**

Cultural Theme Analysis is an analysis used to look for relationships between domains and how the domains relate to the culture as a whole. The themes are then linked to the focus and subfocus of the research. Simply put, cultural theme analysis is to find the common thread of all the analyses above. The cultural theme analysis in this study is the maintenance of the tae' language in Luwu district by connecting the domains/categorisations from the three analyses above.

## **4. DISCUSSION**

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that. Tae' language is very important for the people of Luwu Regency because tae' language is the mother tongue of the Luwu people. The ability of Luwu people in speaking tae' as a mother tongue or first language is very high because tae' is used in daily communication. The tae' language that is the focus of this research is viewed in the realm of the wearer, including family communication, community communication, namely: neighbours, work / office, and public places and educational communication. In the situation of the wearer, namely official/formal situations and casual/intimate/non-formal situations. The language attitude of the community towards Tae' language. Factors that influence the preservation of Tae' language. Tae' language preservation in terms of strategies and efforts of the government and community in maintaining Tae' language.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The results of this study show that the use of tae' language in all user domains and user situations is positive. The same thing also applies to the use of Indonesian as two things that go hand in hand. However, there are already some areas (kelurahan) that have experienced a shift towards the tae' language. Therefore, the researcher recommends the following steps:

1. The researcher recommends other researchers who are interested in studying the tae' language to continue this research. The author recommends that the follow-up research be located in the interior of Luwu Regency where the originality of the use of tae' language is very high so that future researchers can find a more patent pattern in maintaining tae' language in Luwu Regency.
2. Research on Tae' language is still very little, so researchers recommend other researchers to continue to conduct and improve the research, both in terms of language shifts, language

maintenance, or varieties of tae' language in Luwu Regency so that tae' language can be categorised as one of the regional languages in South Sulawesi by Language Hall. Considering that this tae' language is the language of the Luwu kingdom in the past and has very many speakers in Luwu land, especially in Luwu Regency and has differences with other regional languages in South Sulawesi such as Toraja language, Bugis language and Wotu language.

3. Research on Tae' language is still lacking so researchers recommend other researchers to improve the research. Research on Tae' language can open the eyes of the government to pay attention to Tae' language and of course the government can try to take concrete policies so that Tae' language can be preserved in full. Tae' language is the identity of wija to Luwu (Luwu people) and part of Luwu culture so it needs to be preserved and defended to avoid extinction.

4. The role of mass media such as electronic media that speak tae' needs to be increased so that the intensity of the use of tae' language increases even more.

5. The tae' language can be utilised in the local content curriculum with the issuance of regent regulations as well as regional regulations that have been made by the Luwu DPRD so that the existence of the tae' language is maintained. Because our country is currently experiencing regional autonomy, the protection, preservation and empowerment of the tae' language needs to be improved so that the tae' language can survive and provide opportunities to survive and improve human resources in language.

6. The Luwu district government should immediately make Luwu as one of the tribes, just like other tribes in South Sulawesi, so that it will directly affect the use of tae language in the Luwu district community.

7. The government should often hold cultural festivals such as tae' language speech competitions in schools and communities of culture and regional language lovers so that the younger generation is proud to speak tae' and visualise stories in the form of stories and films using tae' language and the government gives awards to parties and all groups who continue to actualise the cultural values of Luwu.

8. The government immediately establishes the heritage area and the centre of the tae' language information area. Where in the area must speak tae' and wear Luwuese traditional clothes. The establishment of a tae' language information area and heritage city is a form of cultural preservation.

9. Grounding the tae' language with traditional events using Luwuese philosophies. The tae' language reflects the culture of Luwu or becomes a characteristic of Luwu people. in Luwu this is one nation and this nation consists of 12 tribes and 9 languages and this tae' language is widely used in Luwu and this is a reflection of Luwu people by speaking tae'.

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