

# CONSERVATION OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND SCRIPT OF BALINESE THROUGH DIGITAL MEDIA

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## ABSTRACT

*Technology is often seen as the biggest challenge in the conservation language, literature, and script of Balinese. Several studies report concerns that technology is accelerating the erosion of local languages. Currently, people easily communicate across regions, countries, and continents and choose to use languages that are more universal and understandable by a wider audience, such as national languages or foreign languages. However, it cannot be denied that saving regional languages can be started by maximizing the benefits of technology. This paper aims to show the importance of technology and its relation to preserving Balinese language, literature, and script. In the end, we recommend several perspectives on how technology can contribute and become an essential part of the conservation language, literature, and script of Balinese*

Keywords: *digital, language, literature, a script of Balinese*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language, literature, and script of Balinese are part of the culture of the Balinese people, which must be maintained and preserved. All of that is part of local wisdom that has noble values. The Balinese language is one of the regional languages that the Balinese still use in communicating (Ariana: 2022). The Balinese language is one of the regional languages in the Indonesian Archipelago used by Balinese ethics in Bali and Lombok and those who live in the Bali transmigration areas, such as in Lampung, North Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, and Sumbawa. Balinese language as a regional language has a significant position and function for the Balinese people. In this regard, the important position of Balinese is as the first language used, taught in the family environment, and generally in the area of residence. Balinese literature is one of the treasures of Indonesian literature. Like literature in general, Balinese literature was actualized in oral and written forms. According to the category of periodization of Balinese literature, there are those called *Bali Purwa* Literature and *Bali Anyar* Literature. *Bali Purwa* Literature means Balinese literature which is traditionally inherited in the form of old texts. *Bali Anyar* Literature is a literary work created when Balinese society experienced modernization. Some call it Modern Balinese Literature. Balinese script, also known as *Hanacaraka*, is one of the traditional Indonesian scripts developed on Bali island. Balinese, Sanskrit, and Kawi languages mainly used this script. Still, in its development, it is also used to write several other regional languages, such as Sasak and Malay with additions and modifications. The Balinese script is a derivative of the Indian Brahmi script through the intermediary of the Kawi script and is closely related to the Javanese script.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses the type or approach of library research. According to Mastika Zed (2004), library studies can be interpreted as a series of activities related to methods of collecting library data, reading and recording, and processing research materials. The data collection technique in this study is documentation, namely finding data on matters or variables in the form of notes, books, papers or articles,

journals, etc. (Arikunto, 2010). After all the data has been collected, the next step is to analyze the data to draw a conclusion. The writer uses critical analysis techniques to obtain correct and precise results in analyzing the data presentation techniques using informal techniques. The informal technique is the presentation of the results of data analysis using ordinary words.

### **3. RELATED RESEARCH/LITERATURE REVIEW**

The following is a literature review of the research conducted. The first is research by Giri (2017) in a study entitled Preserving Balinese Language, Script and Literature through Optimizing the Three Centers of Education. This study describes that language, script, and literature of Balinese are cultural entities of the Balinese people. Its existence has a very important position and function, namely as a pillar of the development of national culture. Along with the development of globalization, its existence is also experiencing a dynamic. The loyalty of the speaking community has decreased, which is seen by a decrease in the quantity and quality of the use of the Balinese language. This is increasingly threatening its sustainability as the cultural ethic of the Balinese people. In fact, regional language, script, and literature have a very important role in the development of national character or identity.

For this reason, preserving the Balinese language, script, and literature is essential by optimizing the educational tricerter, namely the family, school, and community environment. These three institutions are very important and should support each other. So far, the most sought-after is the formal environment, which seems to forget the family environment. In fact, the family environment is the first and foremost environment for a child. Language acquisition obtained through the family environment also needs to be strengthened by learning in the school environment which is the second environment for children to socialize and interact. The community environment is also crucial for children to apply the Balinese language, script, and literature. The role of pakraman villages and community leaders is very important in supporting them by providing as much space as possible for the Balinese language, script, and literature to develop. The Balinese language, script, and literature preservation must be connected to various challenges and obstacles. However, and handled appropriately.

The second research was written by Ryandewi (2016), entitled Preservation of Balinese Language in Balinese Print Media: Sociolinguistic Studies. In this study, her study explained that the supporting factor for preserving the Balinese language in Balinese print media is the community's enthusiasm for this rubric which is so encouraging. There was much input from the public to fill in the news in the Balinese language rubric, both in the form of short stories and poetry. This is certainly a success in efforts to preserve the Balinese language in print media. The inhibiting factors for preserving the Balinese language in print media are the limited portion of the pages provided by Mediaswari and Bali Orti for Balinese-language news, the frequency of news being published only once per week.

### **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Efforts to preserve the Balinese language, literature, and script through digital media will be described as follows. Digital media consists of content in the form of a combination of data, text, sound, and various types of images stored in digital format and can be disseminated through networks based on optical broadband cables, satellites, and microwave systems (Flew, 2008). Digital media can help learn Balinese language, literature, and script. The benefit of digital media is to make learning more exciting and easy to understand. In addition, media access is also greatly assisted by the internet network so that users can access it from anywhere as long as they are connected to the internet network.

McQuail (2010) defines digital media as electronic devices with different uses. This new electronic media includes several technological systems such as a transmission system (via cable or satellite), miniaturization system, information storage and retrieval system, image presentation system (using a flexible combination of text and graphics), and control system (by computer). Digital media is an electronic media that is stored in a digital format (as opposed to an analog format) that can be used to store, transmit and receive digitized information.

The use of digital media has enormous benefits in the world of education, one of which is in supporting teaching and learning activities carried out by students. The main benefits obtained from digital media in learning activities are:

- 1) Availability of extensive access to information, being able to search for all kinds of information through digital media, both domestic and foreign information. Therefore, students' knowledge will significantly develop with this digital media. In addition, the information provided by digital media can be accessed anytime and anywhere as long as there is an internet network. This is one of the exclusivity offered by digital media because we can find information quickly.
- 2) Able to help others with more digital media that have concern for others, of course, it will be beneficial for helping media such as assistance in the form of educational and health tools donations to less fortunate people.
- 3) Being able to help others, the increasing number of digital media that have concern for others, of course, will be very useful for helping media such as assistance in the form of educational and health equipment donations to less fortunate people.
- 4) With digital media, we can get to know people without having to meet because social media allows us to connect and get to know each other.
- 5) As a means of education with an easy and practical e-book. For students, the delivery of learning materials can be uniform, and the learning process becomes transparent and exciting, more interactive, time and effort efficient, allows the learning process to be carried out anywhere, and changes the teacher's role in a more positive and productive direction.

The following examples of digital media related to Balinese conservation language, literature and script.

#### 1. Bali Simbar Dwijendra Application

The Bali Simbar Dwijendra program is one of the most popular digital media among Balinese people. The Bali Simbar program began in 1994, and was completed in mid-1995. In mid-1996, with the sponsorship of AKEN LIFE, this program was donated to the people of Bali. In 1999 an improved version of the Bali Simbar program was released, this improved version is known as Bali Simbar-B. In October 2008, the Balinese script program using Keyman began. In April 2009, this program was finally distributed to the community in collaboration with the Dwijendra Foundation. This program is named the Bali Simbar Dwijendra Program. Dwijendra's Bali Simbar program can be used on Windows-based programs. Microsoft Office made program development, and it turned out that the 2009 Bali Simbar Dwijendra application program could not operate normally when used to type on Microsoft Office 2013. Therefore, based on input from Bali Simbar

Dwijendra 2009 users, the 2009 Bali Simbar Program was revised and perfected in 2021 Improvements to the Bali Simbar Dwijendra 2021 program include:

- I It is improved the minor flaws in typing the Balinese script.
- II Introduction of more comprehensive page pairs. Bali Simbar Dwijendra 2009 contains 596 pairs of pageh words, so in Bali Simbar Dwijendra 2021 it contains 1963 words of pairs of pageh. The program can also recognize the pageh pairs in the hanging position. So, the Bali Simbar Dwijendra program contains 3926 pairs of pageh words.
- III Bali Simbar Dwijendra 2009 for Latin script (Kawi) contains only 117 pairs of pageh words. Bali Simbar Dwijendra 2021 contains 3120 pairs of pageh words. With the introduction of pageh pairs, the program will correct the typing according to the rules for writing the Balinese script. The list of words in the list of pageh pairs was done by Mr. Drs. I Nyoman Sujana, M.Si.. He has practiced, used this additional program, and felt the benefits.
- IV The Bali Simbar Dwijendra Program 2021 includes a Balinese Music Notation typing program. This program may be optional for many users. However, it is necessary to type textbooks or manuscripts used in groups of traditional song singers.



Figure 1. Bali Simbar Dwijendra 2021 Installation

## 2. Bali – Indonesia Online Dictionary.

The online dictionary is formed from two words, namely dictionary and online. Hasan Alwi (2003) defines a dictionary as a treasury of vocabulary of a language that describes the level of civilization of the nation that owns it. Holtom M.A. (2005) defines a dictionary as a reference book containing words and expressions that are usually arranged alphabetically, along with a description of their meaning. It can be concluded that the dictionary is a book that contains words or terms arranged alphabetically, along with their descriptions and meanings. Meanwhile, online is an activity that uses internet network facilities to carry out various activities that can be done online, such as searching, looking for news, stalking, business, lecture lists, and others (Kurniawan: 2014).

Here are some online Balinese – Indonesian dictionary names:

a. BASAbali/BASAibu Wiki



Figure 2. BASAbali/BASAibu Wiki

BaseBali/BASAibu Wiki is a community-developed digital platform with the purpose of providing a locally-developed, inviting space for the community to speak out about civic issues in a way that is meaningful to the community and a place for policymakers to listen, solicit and respond to those ideas. Basebali Wiki stated, as a community-developed multimedia dictionary based on the unpublished work of Fred Eiseman. When the community saw the power of the BASAbali dictionary wiki, they suggested that we morph the wiki into a platform where artists, especially those only known in their villages, could be promoted to the larger world. In response, we added a 'virtual library' section to the wiki, which ultimately became 'Community Spaces'. In this place, millennials and others can speak out about civic issues -- in their own language, via videos, audio, poetry, prose, photos, or other formats -- on a platform that the community is co-creating.

b. Balinese – Indonesian Dictionary Language Center of Bali Province

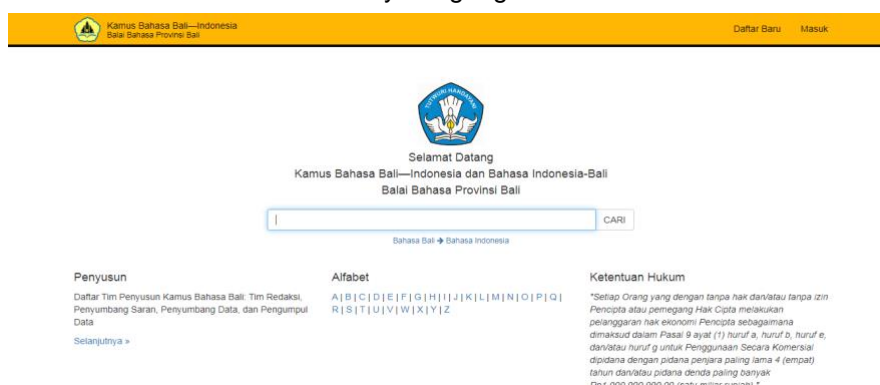


Figure 3. Balinese – Indonesian Dictionary Language Center of Bali Province

This dictionary is a revised edition of the first publication. The improvements, among other things, involved improving the grouping of main entries and their sub-lemmas which were less consistent in the first issue. In addition, this revised edition also adds new entries and supplements relating to Balinese script, scribing, pangider-ider, naming birth order, and others.

c. Balinese – Indonesian Glosbe Dictionary

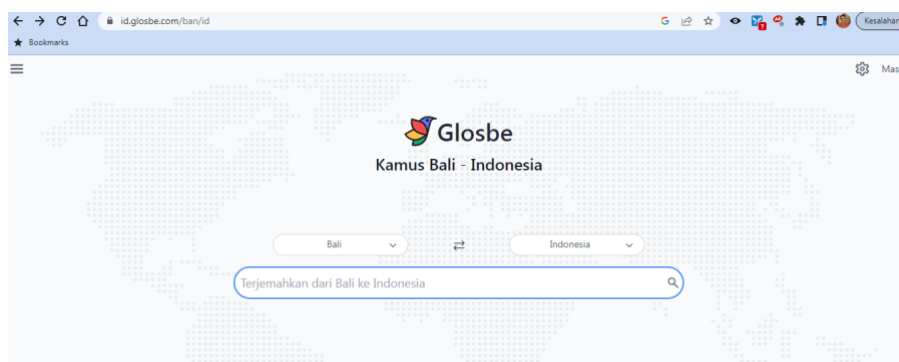


Figure 3. Balinese – Indonesian Glosbe Dictionary

On Glosbe, we will find translations from Balinese to Indonesian from various sources. Translations are sorted from the most common to the least popular. Each expression has a definition or information about inflection. Unique Glosbe dictionary. On Glosbe, we can check not only Balinese or Indonesian translations, but they also offer usage examples showing dozens of translated sentences. We can see the translation of the phrase and how to translate it, depending on the context.

The younger generation already lives with gadgets, and they are gadget natives. When we want to get the younger generation to participate in preserving the Balinese language, literature, and script, we should use the tools already within their grasp. Starting a local language community requires using media built close to social media and other information technologies, such as YouTube, internet forums, and online dictionaries. We need to create new speakers with the help of the internet. An online community where speakers of the same regional language can meet, interact and communicate in their respective regional languages. It can see from this tool the level of practicality and the fact that social media and technology are preferred in language learning (Schreyer, 2014). By making local languages accessible traditionally or digitally, the general population, children, and others feel a sense of purpose for their language. If language functions, is valuable, and has a place in the broader world, chances are they will have a higher desire to learn the local language. For the younger generation who have not yet learned their language, the existence of tools and technology will be very helpful. For others, technology gives a more substantial and valuable language status to learn and makes regional languages feel normal among other languages in the broader scope of communication. An anonymous said technology helps our regional languages become real for the children of technology users, and they are the future of our language (Galla, 2010). The existence of a language on the internet might increase the prestige of that language. The internet helps local languages in some forms of passive communication, such as internet radio or short videos; written passive forms, such as bilingual websites or websites that use only regional languages; and active forms, such as blogs or forums. The internet changed the culture and how to follow it. It is important to share, reproduce, and interact in a digital world. All of these areas are embedded in the life of the younger generation. If living with a minority culture and language means breaking away from the internet. Regional languages will not be able to develop or become part of the younger generation's life and will disappear with the old.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The use of technology to save the Balinese language, literature, and script is very important. Some things that can be done include audio and visual documentation, flooding the internet with regional language content, and starting to teach it again. With all the efforts to preserve the local language, it is hoped that we will have a new generation that speaks our local language, inheriting our ancestors' culture, stories, and wisdom. We must keep caring for these roots so that the younger generation will always have a place.

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