

LEGO-LEGO AS AN ORAL TRADITION OF KUI PEOPLE IN ALOR, EAST NUSA TENGGARA, INDONESIA: The Expression of Ancestor Experience and Their Maintenance

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Lego-Lego is pantun (an oral traditional poetry) sung to accompany a circle dance done massively in Alor-Pantar Island, East Nusa Tenggara. All ethnic groups in Alor-Pantar know *lego-lego* as one of their traditional arts. Initially the medium of expression of *lego-lego* is ritual language in the form of archaic languages. In further development, *lego-lego* is spoken with languages from various ethnics in Alor-Pantar Island in a poetic manner. Nowadays many young generation in Alor-Pantar do not understand the use of archaic language in *lego-lego* anymore.

In fact there are two papers that discussed *lego-lego*, namely Bouman (1943) and Rodemeier (1993). But they do not discuss specifically *lego-lego* of Kui people and *lego-lego* as a culture practices in their language environment too. They more concentrate to *lego-lego* in general based on the place that is associated with social function and the social structure. Meanwhile, Rodemeier talking about *lego-lego* in the rites of death. By using performance ethnography through field research, this paper aim 1) to describe *lego-lego* of Kui people in their culture context (myth and material culture); 2) to explore the maintenance of *lego-lego* in their language ecology.

Key words: *lego-lego*, Kui, Alor, oral tradition, language ecology