

# Unlocking the Relationship of Makassar Language with Click Language

Abdul Rahman Rahim<sup>1</sup>, Andi Sukri Syamsuri<sup>2</sup>, M. Agus<sup>3</sup>, Zulham Anugrah<sup>4</sup>, Muh. Akhir<sup>5</sup>  
{[Abdrahman@unismuh.ac.id](mailto:Abdrahman@unismuh.ac.id)<sup>1</sup>, [Sukri.syamsuri@uin-alauddin.ac.id](mailto:Sukri.syamsuri@uin-alauddin.ac.id)<sup>2</sup>, [magus@unismuh.ac.id](mailto:magus@unismuh.ac.id)<sup>3</sup>,  
[zlhmanugrah@gmail.com](mailto:zlhmanugrah@gmail.com)<sup>4</sup>, [m.akhir@unismuh.ac.id](mailto:m.akhir@unismuh.ac.id)<sup>5</sup>}

University of Muhammadiyah Makassar, Makassar, Indonesia<sup>1,3,5</sup>  
Alauddin Islamic University, Makassar, Indonesia<sup>2</sup>  
Selayar District Education Office, Indonesia<sup>4</sup>

**Abstract.** One of the regional languages in South Sulawesi is Makassar language. This regional language is used by several urban districts in South Sulawesi, including Makassar, Gowa, Takalar, Jeneponto, Bantaeng, some Bulukumba, and some speakers in the Selayar Islands Regency. This study aims to identify the level of kinship between the Makassar language and the Selayar language. The results of the identification become the basis for calculating the separation period between Makassar language and Selayar language. This research is quantitative descriptive. Data were collected through interview techniques and analyzed using lexicostatistics and glottochronology techniques. The results showed that based on lexicostatistical analysis, 60% of Makassarese and Selayarese languages were found to be related to each other, which classified the two into language subfamilies of the same proto-language. The glottochronological analysis shows the separation period between Makassar language and Selayar language for 378 years which occurred between 688 AD to 1066 AD. The separation period between Makassar language and Selayar language occurred in a period of 378 years. The applied glottochronological analysis results in data that the language separation occurred approximately between 1,333 to 955 years ago. It was also found that the Makassar language and Selayar language separated in 688 AD-1066 AD. Based on the time of separation according to Crowley, the Selayar language is a dialect of the Makassar language.

**Keywords:** Language kinship; *Makassar language*; *Selayar language*

## 1 Introduction

Language contact that occurs continuously over a long period of time causes the dialects of the language to change. Even so, there are many differences in general characteristics between dialects and their mother tongue. As the object of research, the Selayar Islands are divided into 11 sub-districts, but the Selayar language-speaking area is only found in 8 sub-districts. The other three sub-districts are the distribution of the Bugis and Butonese languages. The population of the Selayar Islands reaches 122,055 people spread over 11 sub-districts based on the 2020 population census by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS).

Several research results that are relevant to previous research have been carried out by previous researchers, including [1] research which focused its research on the phonological aspects of the Selayar and [2] which examined the kinship relationship between the Bugis language, the Palakka dialect and the Muna language, the Tongkuno dialect and how long the

two languages are it separates into a reference in this scientific study. The results of research by Alijah found data that the Bugis and Muna languages are included in the language family (*stock*). Furthermore, [3] is entitled *Lexicostatistics of Bugis and Toraja Language*. Another research is [4]. Mithun and Hasan Basri's research examines the phonological aspects of the Selayar language. Likewise, [5] which examines the Makassar Language Phonological System in the Cikoang Dialect of Takalar Regency.

According to [6] the ancient migration that occurred 40,000-4000 years ago became one of the many variables that caused the diversity of languages in Indonesia. The Austronesian language family as *proto* languages in the archipelago is estimated to have moved along with the migration of the Austronesian people from mainland Taiwan to the south on the island of Luzon and the Philippine archipelago in the past 3000-4000 years. That ancient migration brought with it innovative methods of survival. As Collins explained, the Austronesian people arrived in the archipelago 4,000 years ago with sophisticated technology. They live as farmers, not as hunters and gatherers. This culture is indeed different from the culture of the Australo-Melanesian population in the archipelago, which is thought to have generally not had an agricultural system at that time [6].

Selayar language is an Austronesian language spoken on the island of Selayar and several other islands in the Selayar Islands Regency as a mother tongue [7]. Selayar language is estimated to be actively spoken by approximately 100,000 speakers (Mithun and Basri, 1986:210). Until now, the Selayar language status is still debated. Some researchers think that it is a dialect of the Makassar language, others think that the Selayar language has become a separate language with its native speakers in Selayar.

Lexicostatistics is actually one of the quantitative analysis techniques in comparative linguistics that is used to see the kinship relations between languages. Johnson, in [8] describes the method of quantitative analysis with lexicostatistical techniques used in diachronic linguistic studies with 200 basic Swadesh vocabularies as a measure of the overall vocabulary of the language studied. The lexicostatistic technique is a statistically simple technique to estimate the degree of linguistic differences between related languages [8]. In the lexicostatistical technique, there are vocabulary categories that are the basis for determining language kinship.

The results of calculations using the lexicostatistics method are the basis for determining language kinship by underpinning the table below:

**Table 1.** Result of Calculation using the Lexicostatistics Method

<i>Dialect of language</i> (dialect of language)	81-100%
<i>of Subfamily</i>	61-81%
<i>Language of family</i> (language family)	36-61%
<i>Families of stock</i> (descendants of language families)	12-36%
<i>Stock of microphilum</i> (descendants of microphyllum)	4-12%
<i>Microphyla of mesophyllum</i>	1-4%
<i>Mesophyll of macrophilum</i>	0-1%

## 2 Method

The method used in this study is a quantitative method. This study uses a questionnaire as a data collection technique by considering the large number of respondents and the wide research area. Unstructured interviews were also conducted as a form of support in perfecting the data obtained [9]. Research data were collected through an instrument in the form of a *gloss*

*list* developed by Morrish Swadesh which consisted of 207 glossary vocabulary. Data analysis in research through the following steps:

1. Collecting the basic vocabulary of kin (lexicostatistics)
2. Define related vocabulary pairs (lexicostatistics)
3. Calculating the separation between the two languages (glotochronology)
4. Calculating the error term (glotochronology)
5. Calculating language separation years (glotochronology)

The number of words that have been observed is then used as data to calculate the percentage of kinship between the Makassar language and the Selayar language using the formula:

$$= \frac{C \times \text{Number of relatives' vocabulary}}{\text{Amount of gloss compared}} \times 100\%$$

Note:

C = percentage of kinship level

### 3 Result and Discussion

The most important element in this study so that lexicostatistical analysis can be carried out is the compilation of the Makassar and Selayar language vocabulary lists. The vocabulary data refers to 207 basic vocabularies compiled by Morris Swadesh which are then compared with words to determine related word pairs. Determination of related word pairs was carried out by lexicostatistical analysis after eliminating gloss that was not taken into account in the data that had been collected.

By following the procedure for calculating the number of lexico statistically related vocabularies, it was found that the Makassar and Selayar languages have identical vocabulary pairs of 97 words, 19 words of phonemic correspondence, and 8 different pairs of one phoneme. So the number of kinship vocabulary between Makassar language and Selayar language is 124 words. The results of the identification of the vocabulary of relatives are used as the basis for calculating the percentage of kinship in the Makassar language and the Selayar language which results in a kinship level of 60%.

**Table 2.** Result of Identification of Vocabulary

Dialect of Language	81-100%
Dialect of <i>Subfamily</i>	61-81%
Language family	36-61%
of <i>stock</i>	12-36%
<i>ock of microphilum</i>	4-12%
<i>Microphyla of mesophylum</i>	1-4%
<i>Mesophyla of macrophilum</i>	0-1%

Based on the table of linguistic kinship according to Crowley (1987), it can be described the genealogy of kinship between the Makassar language and the Selayar language from the proton language. This kinship can be seen from the common characteristics in terms of phonology, morphology, or syntax. The similarities can be seen in several aspects; (1) there are

identical vocabulary pairs between the two, such as: the word “eat,”/nganre/ (BM), /nganre/ (Sly). (2) there are word pairs that have both phonemic and phonetic correspondence but have the same meaning, for example: gloss “ini,”/anne/ (BM), /inni/ (Sly); and the three differences in one phoneme, for example: gloss “it,”/anjo/ (BM), /injo/ (Sly).

Languages that are derived from the parent language have correspondence in several aspects which are further known as related languages. Kridalaksana in Tampubolon (2018) said that language kinship is a relationship between two or more languages that are derived from the same parent language source which is called an ancient language. Basically, the ancient languages in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, were descended from the *proto* Austronesian ones on the mainland of Taiwan. Prehistoric migration by the Austronesian peoples brought with them a new language and culture and lifestyle to the mainland of the archipelago around 3000-4000 years ago. The gradual dialect differentiation and language separation that occurred led to the emergence of a new diversity of Austronesian mother languages in the archipelago.

The definition put forward by Kridalaksana produces an analogy that if several languages are derived from one *proto*, it can be hypothesized that the *proto languages* have kinship relations. Although further, the kinship relationship is seen by basing the percentage stated by Crowley. A language will never be separated from its parent language, although it cannot be denied that natural languages may experience changes from time to time. When experiencing changes, these languages also leave similarities in the same realm. The similarities and differences in the phonological, morphological, and syntactic systems are the basis for grouping cognate languages to analyze the percentage of kinship. In essence, languages can change with verbal and non-verbal influences [10] [13]. Dialect, according to JK Chambers and Peter Trundgill [11] [12], is a subsection of language that can distinguish one language from another. While language is a collection of shared understanding of several dialects. From this understanding, it can be understood that the difference between language and dialect is very significant. A language can have many dialects, and dialects into small parts.

Percentage of kinship between Makassar language and Selayar language which has been analyzed following the lexicostatistical procedure is an important variable for calculating the separation period between Makassar and Selayar languages following the glotochronological calculation procedure. So based on the analysis that has been done, it was found that the Makassar language and the Selayar language separated in a period of approximately 378 years which occurred between 1,333 to 955 years ago. It was also found that the year of separation of languages calculated when this research was conducted (in 2021), namely the Makassar language and the Selayar language separated between the years 688 AD to 1066 AD.

**Table 3.** Language Separation

Language Level	Time of Separation in Centuries
<i>Dialect of language</i> (dialect of language)	0-5
<i>Language of family</i> (language family)	5-25
<i>of stock</i>	25-50
<i>of microphilum</i>	50-75
<i>Microphyla of mesophylum</i>	75-100
<i>Mesophyla of macrophilum</i>	100 and above

Based on the table of language separation period according to Crowley (in Setiawan, 2020), Makassar language and Selayar language belong to dialects because the language separation period between 0-5 centuries (378 years).

## 4 Conclusion

Based on the results of data analysis and discussion conducted on the Makassar language and the Selayar language, it can be concluded: 1) The kinship relationship between the Makassar language and the Selayar language can be translated into the categories of 97 identical vocabulary pairs, 19 phonemic correspondence pairs of vocabulary, and 8 different phoneme pairs of vocabulary, so that the total number of related words between Makassar and Selayar is as much as 124 words out of 207 gloss tested. The results of the analysis of the kinship vocabulary of the two languages were then analyzed using the lexicostatistic method, so it was found that the language kinship percentage of Makassar and Selayar languages was 60%, which classified Makassarese and Selayarese into subfamily languages of the Austronesian mother tongue; and 2) The separation period between Makassar language and Selayar language occurred in a period of 378 years. The applied glotochronological analysis results in data that the language separation occurred approximately between 1,333 to 955 years ago. It was also found that the Makassar language and Selayar language separated in 688 AD-1066 AD [counting backwards from the year the research was conducted, namely 2021. With these findings, it can be said that the Selayar language is a dialect of the Makassar language.

## References

- [1] Wahidah: Selayar Language on Selayar Island A Study of Comparative Historical Dialectology and Linguistics. *Thesis.(Online)* Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University. (2009).
- [2] Alijah, S: The relationship between Bugis and Muna languages. *Journal of Humanika*, 1(16), March 2016. Kendari: HaluUleo University. (2016).
- [3] Mayangsari: Lexicostatistics of Bugis and Toraja languages. *Jalalanguage Vol. 16, No. 1, May 2020. Pages, 83-96.* Semarang: Central Java Language Center. (2020).
- [4] Suparman, S: Glotochronology of Massenrempulu and Mandar languages. *Proceedings of the National Seminar vol. 2 no 1, p. 621-628. Issn 2443-1190.* (2016).
- [5] Suparman: Glotochronology of Rampi Language and Wotu Language. *TelagaBahasa vol. 6, no. 1, June 2018. Pg. 496-489.* Gorontalo: Gorontalo Language Office. (2018).
- [6] Adelaar, A., & Nikolaus, P. H: *The Austronesian Languages of Asia and Madagascar.* London and New York: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group. (2005).
- [7] Intan, D. K: Maintenance of Selayar Regional Language Vocabulary in LabuhanKertasari Village: Sociolinguistic Studies. *Essay.* Mataram: Indonesian Language Education Study Program Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Muhammadiyah University of Mataram. (2019).
- [8] Sulistyono, Y., & Inyo, Y. F: Application of Lexicostatistical Techniques in a Comparative Study of Baranusa, Kedang, and Lamaholot Languages in East Nusa Tenggara. *Journal of Humanities Research, vol. 16, no. 1, February 2015. pp. 1-9.* Surakarta: Muhammadiyah University Press. (2015).
- [9] Sugiyono: *Quantitative, Qualitative, and R&D Research Methods.* Bandung: Alfabeta. (2013).
- [10] Dien, Z. K. S: Cultural Interaction between Austronesian and Non-Austronesian Influences Technological Development in the Austronesian Period. *Proceedings of the 2019 National Archeology Seminar, p. 167-174.* (2019).
- [11] Indrariansi, E. A: Lexicostatistics of Javanese and Sundanese. *PIBSI XXXIX.* Semarang: PGRI University Semarang. (2017).
- [12] Suyala, P: From Lexicostatistics to Glotochronology. *Humanities Research Junal no. 10, January-April 1999. pp. 69-75.* Surakarta: Muhammadiyah University Press. (1999).

- [13] Setiawan, L. G. Inten, P. S: The Kinship of Balinese and Sasak Languages in the Kenyuran Lexicon: A Comparative Historical Linguistic Analysis. *Journal of Research Innovation Vol. 1, No. June 1, 2020*. Mataram: Mataram Tourism College. (2020).