

ARTICLE

Bilingualism and Multilingualism Communities in the Border Region of Belu and Timor Leste

Wati Kurniawati¹ , Kristofel Bere Nahak² , Joni Endardi¹ , Buha Aritonang¹ , Yunus Sulistyono³ ,
Deni Karsana^{1*} , Aditya Wardhani¹ , Nani Darheni¹ , Sumadi¹ , Restu Sukesti¹ 

¹ Research Center for Preservation of Language and Literature, Archaeological, Linguistic and Literary Research Organisation, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Jakarta 10340, Indonesia

² Department of Indonesian Language and Literature Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Timor, Kefamenanu 85613, Indonesia

³ Department of Indonesian Language and Literature Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University Muhammadiyah of Surakarta, Surakarta 57162, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

The Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan tribes are among the communities living in the border region between Belu Regency and Timor-Leste. This study aims to determine the levels of multilingualism and bilingualism among speakers of these languages. This study uses a field method that combines quantitative and qualitative approaches. Ninety-six respondents were divided into four age groups: Under 20 years old, 21–39 years old, 40–59 years old, and over 60 years old. The respondents were Bunak speakers from Dirun Village, Kemak speakers from Umklaran Village, Tetun speakers from Teun Village, and Dawan speakers from Manleten Village. The average ability of the Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents was categorized as follows: understanding and speaking Indonesian well; understanding and speaking other regional languages well or not at all; and understanding and speaking foreign languages well or not at all. Based on the four age categories, the study's results show that 41.6%–75% of speakers of the four languages have an average of 82.5% in the category of frequently using regional languages. The four language groups tend to use Indonesian frequently,

*CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Deni Karsana, Research Center for Preservation of Language and Literature, Archaeological, Linguistic and Literary Research Organisation, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Jakarta 10340, Indonesia; Email: deni018@brin.go.id

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 26 May 2025 | Revised: 24 June 2025 | Accepted: 18 July 2025 | Published Online: 16 September 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30564/fls.v7i9.10205>

CITATION

Kurniawati, W., Nahak, K.B., Endardi, J., et al., 2025. Bilingualism and Multilingualism Communities in the Border Region of Belu and Timor Leste. *Forum for Linguistic Studies*. 7(9): 920–940. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30564/fls.v7i9.10205>

COPYRIGHT

Copyright © 2025 by the author(s). Published by Bilingual Publishing Group. This is an open access article under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>).

with an average usage of 85.8%. Based on the four age groups, the four language speakers tend to never or rarely use other regional languages, with an average value of 46.7%. The four language speakers rarely use foreign languages (English and Portuguese), with an average of 28.3%. Based on the data from the respondents, it can be said that speakers of the four languages are bilingual and multilingual.

Keywords: Belu Regency Community; Respondents; Regional Languages; Bilingual; Multilingual

1. Introduction

One of the regencies in the province of East Nusa Tenggara on the island of Timor is Belu Regency. The first tribe to inhabit the Belu Regency was the Melus tribe. The Melus people are called *Emafatuk Oan Ema Ai Oan*, which means people living in stone and wood. All the immigrants who live in Belu come from Sina Mutin Malaka. Malaka is the land of origin of the immigrants in Belu who sailed to Timor via Larantuka^[1]. Malaka regency has about six regional languages: Tetun Portu, Tetun Terik, Bunak, Dawan, Mambae, and Kemak. Meanwhile, the Belu Regency has four regional languages: Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan^[2]. Belu Regency is one of the regencies in NTT Province that has a direct land border with the Republic of Democratic Timor Leste (RDTL) along 126 km and there are two official gates as gateways on the RI-RDTL border, namely Motaain and Turiskain. The official languages of Timor-Leste are Tetun Portu (Tetun Dili) and Portuguese. State boundary markers are located on the banks of the river. The closest is a sign and a state boundary pillar. With this position, the Malibaka River becomes a neutral area for both countries. On the other side of this river is Maliana. Bobonaro District. Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste^[3].

Communities living in border areas face problems such as poverty, which requires economic empowerment of residents, technological backwardness, educational facilities and infrastructure that are still inadequate and health services that are still low compared to those living closer to the city. In addition, there are indications of both structural and functional social conflicts due to the government's lack of community involvement in policy-making. As a result, the boundary delineation does not align with the expectations of the local population, leading to disputes between two groups living along the border—the residents of six villages in North Central Timor Regency and the communities in Oecusse District. Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste^[4].

This requires the government's attention, as residents living in border areas often integrate with neighboring countries to obtain their livelihood needs or to find employment. Consequently, border communities often become fluent in two or more languages. The use of two or more languages by a person or community is called bilingualism^[5,6].

The main languages spoken in Indonesia are Indonesian, regional languages, and foreign languages. Indonesian is the official language at the national level. It is used for official state business, including administrative activities, public services, the judiciary, education, and political administration^[7]. Regional languages can function as official languages at the regional level, for example in various public ceremonies. At the international level, foreign languages such as English are used. However, Indonesian must be used in international meetings held in Indonesia. Law No. 24 on the Flag, Language, National Emblem and National Anthem even stipulates that the role of Indonesian as an international language should be strengthened^[8]. Indonesia is a country where people can become bilingual or multilingual by speaking one, two or more languages^[9,10]. Multilingual individuals have different levels of language competence. These range from limited vocabulary and basic expressions, such as greetings, to differences in communication skills ranging from rudimentary to proficient. These levels develop based on the speaker's need to use the language in a particular domain or activity. Speakers recognize that, while context influences language choice, it does not determine it. Additionally, they refer to social norms and meanings that are shared but not controlled by the community. They also tend to use the language in which they are more proficient more frequently^[11]. Language speakers who meet frequently, live together, and influence speakers of other languages. This condition is called language contact^[12,13].

A similar study. the people in the NTT border region, namely in the village of Silawan. have a more positive attitude towards regional languages than Indonesian and foreign

languages^[14]. In line with this study, the Banda community views Indonesian favorably, holds a positive attitude towards Walsa, but shows little enthusiasm for Papua New Guinea's national language^[15]. Meanwhile, the Kombut community has a positive perception of Indonesian, a fairly positive view of Muyu, and also a fairly positive attitude towards Papua New Guinea's national language. These attitudes are influenced by their sense of loyalty, pride, and familiarity with the norms of Indonesian, Walsa and Muyu. The Banda community's less favorable view and the Kombut community's moderate acceptance of Papua New Guinea's national language are due to the fact that it is not commonly used in their daily communication.

Dawan language speakers in Napan village accommodate because it is familiar and comfortable and to build a sense of trust with their interlocutors. Speakers of the Dawan language hold highly positive attitudes toward their native language, Indonesian, and the neighboring country's language, Tetun Portu (Tetun Dili). They demonstrate adaptability to Tetun Portu across various linguistic levels, including vocabulary, phrases, sentence structures, and expressions^[16]. The residents of Alas Selatan Village in East Kobalima, Malaka Regency, tend to switch between Indonesian and regional languages based on their conversation partners^[17]. Indonesian is typically used when speaking with individuals from different linguistic backgrounds, whereas regional languages are preferred when interacting with those who share the same ethnic language. This preference for Indonesian aligns with the overall language attitudes of border communities in the region. In general, these communities maintain a more favorable view of Indonesian compared to regional, foreign or neighboring countries' languages.

A similar studies using language in the border areas state that there is phonological, morphological and semantic interference. Morphological interference seems to be dominant. The results of this study will be used as teaching materials for students in Grade XI of high school to make it easier for teachers to use Indonesian in the border areas of Central Java and West Java^[18]. The people of Subang Regency generally show a positive language attitude, both to local languages, Indonesian, and English. The various languages that exist in Subang district live side by side. Each language is used by the community in different contexts according to its function and role^[19]. There are two factors,

both internal and external factors can lead to bilingualism^[20]. One internal factor is intermarriage, which frequently leads to children learning more than one language. External factors involve learning other languages as second languages. Bilingualism has a notable influence on children's language development, with research indicating that bilingual children are often viewed as more intelligent than those who speak only one language. Consequently, many schools have adopted early language learning programs to introduce additional languages during childhood.

The eight different languages are present in public spaces along the Indonesia–Timor Leste border. These include Indonesian, English, Tetun, Dawan, Kupang Malay, Kemak, Arabic, and Portuguese^[21,22]. The languages appear in a variety of formats, such as monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual signage or displays.

However, to determine language proficiency and language use in bilingual and multilingual communities in border areas. It is necessary to consider that residents living in border areas often integrate with neighboring countries that share their ancestry and culture. Most residents in Belu do not have passports. Residents entering the RDTL area must have a Border Crossing Movement Pass issued by the Immigration Department. This makes it easier for people in the RI-RDTL border area who do not have passports to shop or visit relatives/family in both countries^[23]. Based on this study, it is hoped to identify the conditions of proficiency and use of regional languages, Indonesian, and foreign languages in everyday life in the border areas of Belu Regency and Timor Leste.

2. Materials and Methods

This research, conducted in 2023, was based on Decree Number 10/III.8/HK/2023 of the Head of the National Research and Innovation Agency's Archaeology, Language and Literature Research Institute, concerning the implementation of research activities at the Institute's Programme House within the Agency's 2023 budget. The research took place in the border area between Belu Regency in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste. Four locations in Belu Regency were selected: Dirun (a Bunak-speaking area), Umklaran (a Kemak-speaking area), Teun (a Tetun-speaking area), and Manleten (a Dawan-speaking area). These villages were

selected to reflect the diversity of their residents' ethnic backgrounds. Upon arrival at the research location, the research team first visited the local government office (the Belu Regency Office) to report their intentions for being in the area. They also obtained information about traditional and community leaders and the linguistic situation.

The interviews took place in an informal setting, either at the village office or at the informant's home. There were three informants for each language speaker, consisting of traditional leaders, community leaders and village heads. Respondents also participated in a survey on language skills and the use of Indonesian, regional languages, and foreign languages by answering a questionnaire. There were 24 respondents per village, comprising 12 men and 12 women. Based on age, respondents were divided into four groups: <20 years/1, 21–39 years/2, 40–59 years/3, and >60 years/4. The respondents in this study were speakers of the Bunak language in Dirun village, speakers of the Kemak language in Umklaran village, speakers of the Tetun language in Teun village, and speakers of the Dawan language in Manleten village. Observations were conducted by attending traditional events such as welcoming guests or mourning ceremonies. The linguistic data collected was based on the agreement of the informant and respondent. This was conducted in accordance with the Decree on the Ethics Clearance of Social and Humanities Research, Number 239/KE.01/SK/05/2023. The informants fully understood the purpose of the face-to-face recordings. Therefore, the researcher emphasizes their professional and ethical responsibility to protect the privacy, dignity and lives of the informants and respondents by not disclosing their identities. All transcribed texts and respondents' answers have been approved by the participants to ensure cultural sensitivity. The informants and respondents agreed to participate in this linguistic research for the advancement of science and to preserve their language.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, as well as its alignment with the research objectives, a triangulation approach was adopted, involving the use of a survey questionnaire, an interview guide, and a recording device. The questionnaire contained context-appropriate questions. The interview guide included written and oral questions for informants and respondents. The questions covered the linguistic situation, the area's demographic and geographical details, socio-cultural factors and people's views on their language

and other ethnic languages.

The questionnaire contained questions about Indonesian language skills, other regional languages, and foreign languages, as well as the use of these languages. Respondents answered these questions individually and provided their own demographic data. In addition, observation sheets were used to record socio-cultural and linguistic observations. The researchers acted as the main tool for data collection and natural investigation. Participant observation was an important part of this field research. Some members of the research team were fluent in Tetun, and could speak Dawan, Bunak, and Kemak.

This study employs fieldwork methods, including quantitative and qualitative approaches. Interviews, surveys and participant observation, to collect data. Additionally, the theoretical approach refers to sociolinguistics, as this discipline encompasses theories related to communities^[24]. The methodological approach is quantitative, interpreting data related to facts, variables and phenomena occurring during the study and presenting them as they are^[25]. This quantitative approach links respondents' social characteristics to their views on language proficiency parameters and the use of regional languages. Indonesian, other regional languages and foreign languages. Based on the data from this study, it is possible to determine respondents' views on the language conditions in the areas where they live.

The population studied were the language communities in Dirun Village. Teun Village. Umklaran Village and Manleten Village in Belu Regency who were born and permanently reside in the area. The sample comprised the community living in the research area, including both men and women. In language research, a large sample size is not necessary because language behavior tends to be more homogeneous than other behaviors^[26]. Data for this study were collected via a seven-question questionnaire. These questions were about the community's ability to use and knowledge of regional languages, Indonesian, foreign languages and neighboring languages. For the purposes of this study, a foreign language is defined as a language that is neither a regional language nor Indonesian. Meanwhile, the term 'neighboring country language' specifically refers to foreign languages—excluding regional languages and Indonesian—used in Timor-Leste.

In addition to the data obtained from the questionnaire,

there is also data obtained through participant observation. This data is used to supplement the primary data. A total of 96 people filled out the questionnaire in this study, and they were categorized by social characteristics such as age. Sampling was done randomly. Each member of the population had an equal chance of being selected as a sample member^[27]. The populations of Dirun, Umaklaran, Teun, and Manleten were 2.594, 1.982, 2.063, and 899 people, respectively^[28].

The analysis process includes several stages. First, the recordings were transcribed into text form. Questionnaire data were processed by tabulating the data and calculating frequencies and percentages. Respondents' answers were tabulated and analyzed using a Likert scale (score 5, 4, 4, 2, 1). Frequency was calculated by adding up respondents' answer scores for each group of questions. Then dividing this sum by the number of respondents, multiplied by the percentage. In addition, the average was calculated. The percentage formula is $P = F/N \times 100\%$. Description: P (percentage) = average answer. F (frequency) = number of answers per indicator. N = number of samples.

The average answer is calculated based on the scoring of each respondent's answers as follows. Language proficiency that falls into category 1 = do not understand, or 2 = understand and cannot speak Indonesian (I), other regional languages (ORL), or foreign languages (FL) indicates that the language tends not to be mastered by the speaker. Conversely, if the speaker's language proficiency is in the category of understanding and 3 = can speak a little, 4 = good, or 5 = fluent in Indonesian, other regional languages, or foreign languages, it shows that the speaker tends to be proficient. Using language in the category 1 = never (N), 2 = rarely (R), 3 = sometimes (S), 4 = often (O) and 5 = always (A) shows that the speaker tends not to use or use the language. The total score for respondents who answered 'understand and fluent' or 'always', 'understand and good' or 'often' is $12 \times 5 = 60$ and $12 \times 4 = 48$; total = 108. The ideal score for all items is 5×24 respondents = 120 (if answering 'understand and fluent' in Indonesian/other regional languages/foreign languages, or 'always'). The total score for the age group is 5×6 respondents = 30. The level of understanding and fluency in Indonesian is $108/120 \times 100\% = 90\%$. This is described continuously as follows.

DUCSI	UCSI	UCSLI	USGI	USFI
0	24	48	72	90 96 120

Information:

DUCSI: do not understand and cannot speak Indonesian

UCSI: understand and cannot speak Indonesian

UCSLI: understand and can speak a little Indonesian

USGI: understand and can speak good Indonesian

USFI: understand and can speak fluent Indonesian

Based on data from 24 respondents, the average score for understanding and fluency in Indonesian is 90%^[25]. Data is grouped according to the research questions and then classified for analysis. This process ensures that the research data is analyzed appropriately to obtain useful conclusions.

3. Result

Border communities in the villages of Dirun, Umaklaran, Teun, and Manleten speak regional languages. Indonesian and foreign languages. These border communities are also confronted with speakers of the languages of neighboring countries who use Tetun Portu and Portuguese, the official languages of Timor-Leste. This paper relates the results of the data analysis to the language proficiency and use of the community in Belu. Language proficiency that falls into category 1 = do not understand, or 2 = understand and cannot speak Indonesian, other regional languages, or foreign languages indicates that the language tends not to be mastered by the speaker. Conversely, if the speaker's language proficiency is in the category of understanding and 3 = can speak a little, 4 = good, or 5 = fluent in Indonesian, other regional languages, or foreign languages, it shows that the speaker tends to be proficient Using language in the category 1 = never, 2 = rarely, 3 = sometimes, 4 = often and 5 = always shows that the speaker tends not to use or use the language. The discussion in this paper consists of language proficiency and language use by age group. **Table 1** below shows the proficiency and use of the Bunak language by age.

Table 1 shows that the proficiency of Indonesian among Bunak speakers in the two age groups tends to understand and speak Indonesian well, each at around 166%. Meanwhile, the proficiency of Indonesian among Bunak speakers in the age group 40–59 and >60 years tends to understand

and speak fluently in Indonesian (12.5%). The proficiency of other regional languages by Bunak speakers in the four age group tend not to understand or understand and be unable to speak other regional languages (8.4%–12.5%). Foreign lan-

guage skills of Bunak speakers in the age groups <20 years, 21–39 years, 40–59 years and >60 years are 16.6%, 25%, 20.8% and 20.8%, respectively, tend not to understand and not to speak a foreign language (English and Portuguese).

Table 1. Proficiency and use of the Bunak language by age.

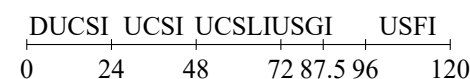
No.	Statement	Answers	Age (Years)								Amount	
			<20		21–39		40–59		>60			
			F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Indonesian Language Proficiency	3					1	4.2			1	4.2
		4	4	16.6	4	16.6	2	8.3	3	12.5	13	54
		5	2	8.4	2	8.4	3	12.5	3	12.5	10	41.8
2	Mastery of Other Regional Languages	1	3	12.5	3	12.5	3	12.5	2	8.4	11	45.9
		2							1	4.2	1	4.2
		3	3	12.5	2	8.3			2	8.3	7	29.1
		4			1	4.2	2	8.4	1	4.2	4	16.6
		5					1	4.2			1	4.2
3	Foreign Language Proficiency	1	4	16.6	6	25	5	20.8	5	20.8	20	83.2
		2					1	4.2			1	4.2
		3	1	4.2					1	4.2	2	8.4
		4	1	4.2							1	4.2
4	Use of Regional Languages	4	2	8.3			1	4.2	3	12.5	6	25
		5	4	16.5	6	25	5	21	3	12.5	18	75
5	Use of Indonesian Language	2							1	4.2	1	4.2
		3	1	4.2	1	4.2			1	4.2	3	12.6
		4	3	12.5	1	4.1	1	4.1	3	12.5	8	33.2
		5	2	8.3	4	16.5	5	21	1	4.2	12	50
6	Use of Other Regional Languages	1	3	12.5	2	8.3	2	8.3	2	8.3	9	37.4
		2	1	4.2			1	4.2	1	4.1	3	12.5
		3	2	8.3	3	12.5	1	4.2	1	4.1	7	29.1
		4			1	4.2	2	8.4	2	8.4	5	21
7	Use of Foreign Languages	1	4	16.5	5	21	5	21	4	16.5	18	75
		2	1	4.2					1	4.2	2	8.4
		3	1	4.2	1	4.2	1	4.1	1	4.1	4	16.6

The use of regional languages (RL) by Bunak speakers in the age groups 20 years, 21–39 years and 40–59 years tend to always use RL around 16.5%, 25% and 21% respectively. In the age group >60 years, 12.5% tend to use RL often and consistently. The age groups <20 years, 40–59 years and >60 years tend to use Indonesian often, around 16.5% and 12.5%. In the 21–59 and 40–59 years age group, 16.5% and 21% always use Indonesian. The age groups <20 years tend to never use other regional languages, around 12.5% respectively. In the 21–39 years age group, the tendency to use other regional languages sometimes is around 12.5%. In the 40–59 years and >60 years age group, the tendency to use other regional languages often is around 8.4%. In the <20 years and >60

years age group, around 16.5% tend never to use a foreign language. Similarly, in the 21–39 years and 40–59 years, around 21% of people tend never to use a foreign language.

The average answer, based on the scoring of each respondent's answers, is as follows:

$1 \times 3 = 3$; $13 \times 4 = 52$; $10 \times 5 = 50$; total = 105. Therefore, Bunak respondents have an understanding of Indonesian equivalent to 87.5% of the total score. The continuum is depicted as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level

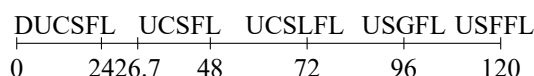
of understanding of Indonesian is 87.5%.

The average answer, based on the scoring of each respondent's answer, is as follows: $11 \times 1 = 11$; $1 \times 2 = 2$; $7 \times 3 = 21$; $4 \times 4 = 16$; $1 \times 5 = 5$; total = 55. The Bunak respondents demonstrated an understanding of, and an inability to speak, other regional languages amounting to 45.8% ($55/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



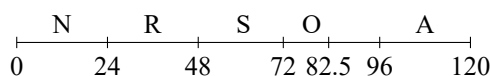
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of understanding and inability to speak other regional languages was 45.8%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $20 \times 1 = 20$; $1 \times 2 = 2$; $2 \times 3 = 6$; and $1 \times 4 = 4$, total = 32. The Bunak respondents' level of understanding and their inability to speak a foreign language equates to $32/120 \times 100\% = 26.7\%$. The continuum is depicted as follows:



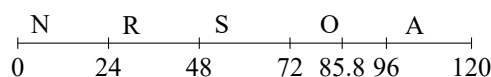
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of understanding and inability to speak a foreign language is 26.7%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is $4 \times 6 = 24$ and $5 \times 15 = 75$, giving a total of 99. The Bunak respondents have a frequency level of regional language use of 82.5% ($99/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



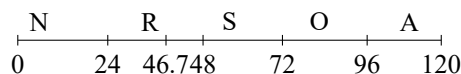
Based on data from 24 respondents, it was found that an average of 82.5% were at the frequency level of regional language use.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $1 \times 2 = 2$; $3 \times 3 = 9$; $8 \times 4 = 32$; and $12 \times 5 = 60$, giving a total score of 103. Therefore, 85.8% of respondents have a high level of frequent use of Indonesian. The continuum is depicted as follows:



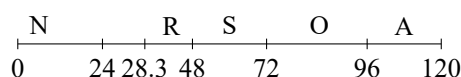
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average percentage of respondents at the high level of frequent use of Indonesian is 85.8%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $9 \times 1 = 9$; $3 \times 2 = 6$; $7 \times 3 = 21$; and $5 \times 4 = 20$, giving a total of 56. Bunak respondents have an average frequency of use of other regional languages of 46.7% ($56/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average percentage of respondents who use other regional languages infrequently is 46.7%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $18 \times 1 = 18$; $2 \times 2 = 4$; $3 \times 4 = 12$; total = 34. Twenty-eight per cent of respondents had used a foreign language at some point, namely $34/120 \times 100\% = 28.3\%$. The continuum is depicted as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average percentage of people who were found to frequently use a foreign language was 28.3%.

Table 2 below shows the proficiency and use of Kemak by age.

Table 2. Proficiency and use of Kemak by age.

No.	Statement	Answers	Age (Years)										
			<20		21–39		40–59		>60		Amount		
			F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
1	Indonesian Language Proficiency	1								1	4.2	1	4.2
		4	3	12.5	3	12.5	3	12.5	2	8.4	11	45.9	
		5	3	12.5	3	12.5	3	12.5	3	12.5	12	49.9	

Table 2. *Cont.*

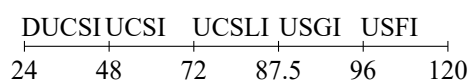
No.	Statement	Answers	Age (Years)									
			<20		21–39		40–59		>60		Amount	
			F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
2	Mastery of Other Regional Languages	1	3	12.5	3	12.5					6	25
		3	3	12.5	2	8.4	3	12.5	1	4.2	9	37.5
		4			1	4.2	3	12.5	3	12.5	7	29.2
		5							2	8.3	2	8.3
3	Foreign Language Proficiency	1	6	25	5	20.8	6	25	5	20.8	22	91.6
		2			1	4.2			1	4.2	2	8.4
4	Use of Regional Languages	2			2	8.3			1	4.2	3	12.5
		4	2	8.3	1	4.2					3	12.5
		5	4	16.7	3	12.5	6	25	5	20.8	18	75
5	Use of Indonesian Language	2			1	4.2			1	4.2	2	8.4
		4	3	12.5	5	20.8	5	20.8	4	16.6	17	70.7
		5	3	12.5			1	4.2	1	4.2	5	20.9
6	Use of Other Regional Languages	1	3	12.5	4	16.6			2	4.2	8	33.3
		2			1	4.2			1	4.2	2	8.4
		3	3	12.5	1	4.2	4	16.6	1	8.4	10	41.7
		4					2	8.4	2	8.4	4	16.6
7	Use of Foreign Languages	1	4	16.6	5	25	5	25	6	25	22	91.6
		2	1	4.2							1	4.2
		3	1	4.2	1		1				1	4.2

Table 2 shows that the proficiency of Indonesian among Kemak speakers in the three age groups tends to understand and speak Indonesian well/fluent at around 12.5% each. Meanwhile, the proficiency of Indonesian by Kemak speakers in the age group >60 years tend to understand and speak Indonesian fluently (12.5%). The proficiency in other regional languages Kemak speakers in the age group <20 years tend not to understand/understand and cannot speak/can speak a little in other regional languages (12.5%). The 21–39 age group tends not to understand or speak other regional languages (12.5%). In the 40–59 age group, the people tend to understand and speak a little/well in other regional languages (12.5%). The age group >60 years tends to understand and speak well in other regional languages (12.5%). In the age groups <20 years, 21–39 years, 40–59 years and 60 years, 25%, 20.8%, 25% and 20.8%, respectively, of the Kemak speakers tend not to understand and cannot speak a foreign language (English and Portuguese).

The use of regional languages (RL) by Kemak speakers in the age groups <20 years, 21–39 years, 40–59 years, and >60 years tend to always use RL, around 16.7%, 12.5%, 25%, and 20.8%, respectively. In the age group <20 years, they use Indonesian often and consistently, around 12.5%.

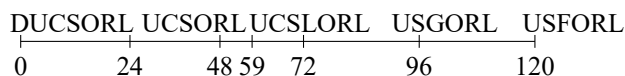
The age groups 21–39 years, 40–59 years and 60 years tend to use Indonesian, at around 20.8%, 20.8% and 16.6%, respectively. In the age group <20 years, they tend to never and sometimes use other regional languages, about 12.5% each. In the 21–39 age group, the tendency to never use other regional languages is around 16.6%. In the 40–59 age group, they sometimes use other regional languages, around 16.6%. In the age group >60, they sometimes and often use other regional languages, around 8.4%. In the age group <20 years old, they tend to never use foreign languages around 16.6%. Similarly, in the age groups 21–39, 40–59, and >60, they tend never to use foreign languages, around 25% in each case.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $1 \times 1 = 1$; $11 \times 4 = 44$; and $12 \times 5 = 60$. The total is 105. Therefore, Kemak respondents have an average understanding of Indonesian, with 87.5% achieving this level ($105/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



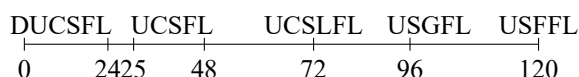
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of Indonesian understanding and a good is 87.5%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $6 \times 1 = 6$; $9 \times 3 = 27$; $7 \times 4 = 28$; and $2 \times 5 = 10$, total = 71. Kemak respondents have an understanding of, but an inability to speak, other regional languages, equating to 59% ($71/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



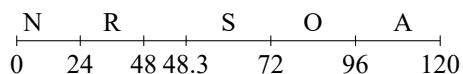
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of understanding and ability to speak other regional languages is 59%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $19 \times 1 = 19$; $4 \times 2 = 8$; and $1 \times 3 = 3$, giving a total of 30. Kemak respondents have an understanding of foreign languages, but an inability to speak them, equating to 25% ($30/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



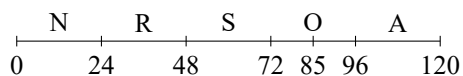
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of understanding and inability to speak a foreign language is 25%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $3 \times 2 = 6$, $3 \times 4 = 12$, $8 \times 5 = 40$. For a total of 58. A high proportion of Kemak respondents (48.3%) frequently use regional languages. The continuum is depicted as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average percentage of people who use regional languages infrequently is 48.3%.

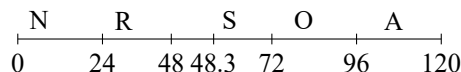
The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $2 \times 2 = 4$; $17 \times 4 = 68$; $5 \times 5 = 30$. For a total of 102. Therefore, Kemak respondents have an Indonesian proficiency level of 85% ($102/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is illustrated as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of Indonesian use is found to be 85%.

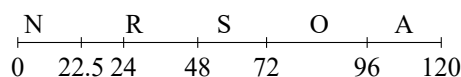
The average answer based on the scoring of each respondent's answer is $8 \times 1 = 8$; $2 \times 2 = 4$; $10 \times 3 = 30$; and $4 \times 4 = 16$; total number = 58. Kemak respondents have a level

of frequent use of other regional languages, namely $58/120 \times 100\% = 48.3\%$. The continuum is depicted as follows.



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average of 48.3% lies at the rare level in the use of other regional languages.

The average score for each respondent's answer is $22 \times 1 = 22$; $1 \times 2 = 2$; and $1 \times 3 = 3$; for a total of 27. Kemak respondents have a level of never using a foreign language, namely $27/120 \times 100\% = 22.5\%$. The continuum is depicted as follows.



Based on data from 24 respondents, an average of 22.5% are at the level of never using a foreign language.

Table 3 below shows the proficiency and use of Tetun by age.

Table 3 shows that the proficiency of Indonesian among Tetun speakers in the age group <20 years tends to understand and be able to speak Indonesian well, at around 16.7%. Proficient Tetun speakers aged 21–39 tend to understand and speak Indonesian well/fluent (16.6%). The mastery of Indonesian Tetun speakers in the age group 40–59 years tend to understand and be able to speak Indonesian fluently (12.5%). Meanwhile, the proficiency of Indonesian by Tetun speakers in the age group >60 years tend to understand and be able to speak Indonesian a little (12.5%). The proficiency of other regional languages Kemak speakers in the four age groups tend not to understand and cannot speak other regional languages (12.5%). The foreign language proficiency of Tetun speakers in the four age groups is around 12.5%, each tending not to understand and not speak foreign languages (English and Portuguese).

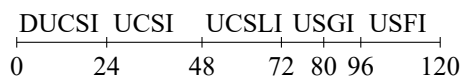
The use of regional languages (RL) by Tetun speakers in the age groups <20 years and 21–39 years tend to use RL frequently, around 12.5% each. In the age groups 40–59 years and >60 years. RL is always used, about 12.5% and 16.6%, respectively. The age groups <20 years, 21–39 years, 40–59 years, and >60 years tend to use Indonesian often, around 16.6%, 20.8%, 16.6%, and 12.5% respectively. In the age group <20 years, people tend never to use other regional languages, about 20.8%. In the age groups 21–39 years. 40–59

years and >60 years, the tendency never to use other regional languages is around 16.6%. In the age groups <20, 21–39, 40–59, and >60, around 16.6%, 16.6%, 20.8%, and 12.5%, respectively, tend never to use a foreign language.

Table 3. Proficiency and use of Tetun by age.

No.	Statement	Answers	Age (Years)								Amount	
			<20		21–39		40–59		>60			
			F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Indonesian Language Proficiency	1			1	4.2					1	4.2
		2					1	4.2			1	4.2
		3			1	4.2			3	12.5	4	16.7
		4	4	16.6	2	8.3	2	8.3	1	4.2	9	37.4
		5	2	8.3	2	8.3	3	12.6	2	8.3	9	37.5
2	Mastery of Other Regional Languages	1	4	16.6	4	16.6	4	16.6	4	16.6	16	66.4
		2	1	4.2			1	4.2			2	8.4
		3	1	4.2	1	4.2	1	4.2	1	4.2	4	16.8
		4			1	4.2			1	4.2	2	8.4
3	Foreign Language Proficiency	1	3	12.5	4	16.6	5	20.7	2	8.4	14	58.2
		2	2	8.4					1	4.2	3	12.6
		3	1	4.2	2	8.4			3	12.5	6	25
		5					1	4.2			1	4.2
4	Use of Regional Languages	2	2	8.4			1	4.2			3	12.6
		3			1	4.2					1	4.2
		4	3	12.5	3	12.5	2	8.3	2	8.3	10	41.6
		5	1	4.2	2	8.3	3	12.5	4	16.6	10	41.6
5	Use of Indonesian Language	2					2	8.3	2	8.3	4	16.8
		3							1	4.2	1	4.2
		4	4	16.6	5	20.8	4	16.6	3	12.5	16	66.5
		5	2	8.3	1	4.2					3	12.5
6	Use of Other Regional Languages	1	5	20.8	4	16.6	4	16.6	4	16.6	17	70.6
		2	1	4.2	1	4.2	1	4.2	1	4.2	4	16.8
		3							1	4.2	1	4.2
		4			1	4.2	1	4.2			2	8.4
7	Use of Foreign Languages	1	4	16.6	4	16.6	5	20.8	3	12.5	16	66.5
		2	2	8.4	2	8.4			3	12.5	7	29.3
		5					1	4.2			1	4.2

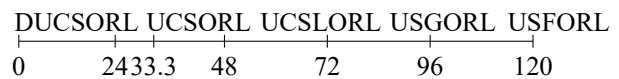
The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $1 \times 1 = 1$; $1 \times 2 = 2$; $4 \times 3 = 12$; $9 \times 4 = 36$; and $9 \times 5 = 45$. The total score is therefore 96. Tetun respondents have an intermediate level of understanding and proficiency in Indonesian: $96/120 \times 100\% = 80\%$. The continuum is depicted as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of understanding and proficiency in Indonesian is 80%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $16 \times 1 = 16$; $2 \times 2 = 4$; $4 \times 3 = 12$; and $2 \times 4 = 8$,

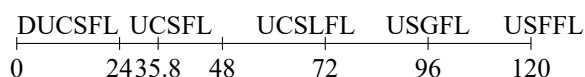
totaling 40. The Tetun respondents have an understanding of other regional languages, but are unable to speak them, equating to 33.3% ($40/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average percentage of people who understand and are unable to speak other regional languages is 33.3%.

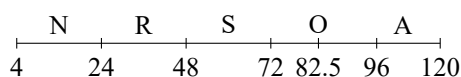
The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $14 \times 1 = 14$; $3 \times 2 = 6$; $6 \times 3 = 18$; and $1 \times 5 = 5$. The total score is therefore 43. The Tetun respondents

demonstrated an understanding of the subject matter, but an inability to speak a foreign language, equating to 35.8% ($43/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



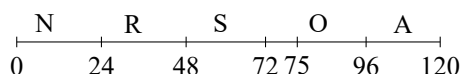
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average percentage of people in the understanding and inability to speak a foreign language category was 35.8%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $3 \times 2 = 6$; $1 \times 3 = 3$; $10 \times 4 = 40$; $10 \times 5 = 50$; for a total of 99. Tetun respondents have a regional language use frequency level of $99/120 \times 100\% = 82.5\%$. The continuum is depicted as follows:



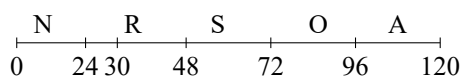
Based on data from 24 respondents, it was found that an average of 82.5% were at the regional language use frequency level.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $4 \times 2 = 8$; $1 \times 3 = 3$; $16 \times 4 = 64$; and $3 \times 5 = 15$, totaling 90. Tetun respondents have an Indonesian usage frequency level of $90/120 \times 100\% = 75\%$. The continuum is depicted as follows:



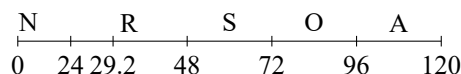
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average Indonesian use frequency level is found to be 75%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $17 \times 1 = 17$; $4 \times 2 = 8$; $1 \times 3 = 3$; and $2 \times 4 = 8$, totaling 36. Tetun respondents have a frequency level of use of other regional languages of $36/120 \times 100\% = 30\%$. The continuum is depicted as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average percentage of people who never use other regional languages is 30%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $16 \times 1 = 16$; $7 \times 2 = 14$; and $1 \times 5 = 5$, giving a total of 35. The percentage of Tetun respondents who have ever used a foreign language is 29.2% ($35/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average percentage of people who have ever used a foreign language is 29.2%.

Table 4 follows shows that the proficiency of Indonesian among Dawan speakers in both age groups tends to understand and speak Indonesian fluently, around 16.6% and 12.5% respectively. Meanwhile, proficient Indonesia speakers among Dawa in the 40–59 age group tend to understand and speak Indonesian fluently (12.5%). The proficiency of Indonesian Dawan speakers in the age group >60 years tend to understand and can speak Indonesian well (12.5%). The proficiency of other regional languages Dawan speakers in the age groups <20 years and 21–39 years tend to understand and speak a little in other regional languages, around (12.5%). The age group 40–59 years tends not to understand/understand and cannot speak a little in other regional languages (8.3%). The age group >60 years tends to understand and speak well in other regional languages (12.5%). In the age groups <20 years, 21–39 years, 40–59 years, and >60 years Dawan speakers tend not to understand and speak foreign languages (English and Portuguese) at around 12.5%, 25%, 25%, and 16.6% respectively.

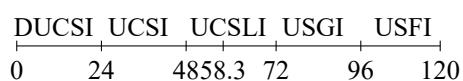
The use of regional languages (RL) by Dawan speakers in the age group <20 years tends to sometimes (8.3%) and always (8.3%) use RL. In the age group 21–39 years, the tendency to use regional languages is always (16.6%). In the 40–59 age group, people sometimes use regional languages (8.3%) and always (8.3%). In the age group >60 years, people tend to always (16.6%) use regional languages. In the age group <20 years tend to always (12.5%) use Indonesian. In the 21–39, 40–59, and >60 age groups, around 12.5% each tend to use Indonesian often. In the age group <20 years, they tend to never (12.5%), and sometimes (12.5%) use other regional languages. In the 21–39 age group, they sometimes use regional languages (12.5%). In the 40–59 age group, they tend never (12.5%) to use other regional languages. In the age group >60 years, they tend to use other regional languages sometimes (8.3%) and often (8.2%). In the age groups <20 years, 21–39 years, 40–59 years, and >60 years, the tendency to never use foreign languages is around (25%).

Table 4 below shows the proficiency and use of Dawan by age.

Table 4. Proficiency and use of the Dawan language by age.

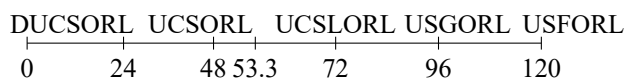
No.	Statement	Answers	Age (Years)								Amount	
			<20		21–39		40–59		>60			
			F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Indonesian Language Proficiency	3			1	4.2			1	4.2	2	8.4
		4	2	8.4	2	8.4	3	12.5	3	12.5	10	41.6
		5	4	16.6	3	12.5	3	12.5	2	8.4	12	50
2	Mastery of Other Regional Languages	1	2	8.3			2	8.3	1	4.2	5	20.8
		2	1	4.2	2	8.3	1	4.2			4	16.7
		3	3	12.5	3	12.5	2	8.3	2	8.3	10	41.6
		4			1	4.2	1	4.2	2	8.3	4	16.7
		5							1	4.2	1	4.2
3	Foreign Language Proficiency	1	3	12.5	6	25	4	16.6	6	25	19	79.1
		2	2	8.4			2	8.4			4	16.6
		3	1	4.2							1	4.2
4	Use of Regional Languages	2	1	4.2							1	4.2
		3	2	8.3							2	8.3
		4	1	4.2	2	8.4	3	12.5	2	8.4	8	33.5
		5	2	8.3	4	16.6	3	12.5	4	16.6	13	54
5	Use of Indonesian Language	2					1	4.2	2	8.3	3	12.5
		3	1	4.2	2	8.3			1	4.2	4	16.7
		4			3	12.5	3	12.5	3	12.5	9	37.5
		5	5	20.8	1	4.2	2	8.3			8	33.3
6	Use of Other Regional Languages	1	3	12.5	2	8.3	3	12.5	1	4.2	9	37.5
		2			1	4.2	1	4.2	2	8.2	4	16.6
		3	3	12.5	3	12.5	1	4.2	1	4.2	8	33.4
		4					1	4.2	2	8.3	3	12.5
7	Use of Foreign Languages	1	6	25	6	25	6	25	6	25	24	100

The average score for each respondent's answers is $2 \times 1 = 2$; $10 \times 2 = 20$; and $12 \times 4 = 48$, totalling 70. Respondent Dawan has an intermediate level of Indonesian, with a score of 58.3% ($70/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



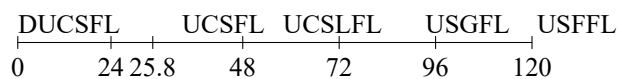
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of understanding and speaking Indonesian is 58.3%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $5 \times 1 = 5$; $4 \times 2 = 8$; $10 \times 3 = 30$; $4 \times 4 = 16$; and $1 \times 5 = 5$. The total score is therefore 64. Dawan's level of understanding and inability to speak other regional languages equates to 53.3% ($64/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



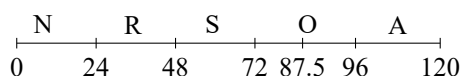
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of understanding and ability to speak other regional languages is 53.3%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $19 \times 1 = 19$; $4 \times 2 = 8$; $1 \times 3 = 3$; total = 30. Dawan's level of understanding and inability to speak a foreign language equates to $30/120 \times 100\% = 25\%$. The continuum is depicted as follows:



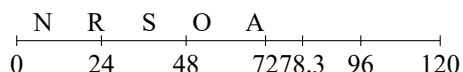
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of understanding and inability to speak a foreign language is 25.8%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $1 \times 2 = 2$; $2 \times 3 = 6$; $8 \times 4 = 32$; and $13 \times 5 = 65$, giving a total of 105. Dawan's frequency of regional language use is $105/120 \times 100\% = 87.5\%$. The continuum is illustrated as follows:



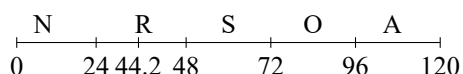
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average frequency of regional language use is found to be 87.5%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $3 \times 2 = 6$; $4 \times 3 = 12$; $9 \times 4 = 36$; and $8 \times 5 = 40$, giving a total of 94. Dawan's Indonesian language usage rate is $94/120 \times 100\% = 78.3\%$. The continuum is illustrated as follows:



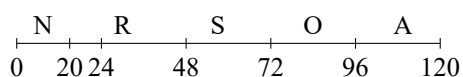
Based on data from 24 respondents, the average Indonesian language usage rate is found to be 78.3%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is as follows: $9 \times 1 = 9$; $4 \times 2 = 8$; $8 \times 3 = 24$; $3 \times 4 = 12$; total = 53. Respondent Dawan's frequency of using other regional languages is 44.2% ($53/120 \times 100\%$). The continuum is depicted as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average percentage of people who have used other regional languages is 44.2%.

The average score for each respondent's answers is 24, and the total score is also 24. Dawan's level of ever having used a foreign language is $24/120 \times 100\% = 20\%$. The continuum is depicted as follows:



Based on data from 24 respondents, the average level of never using a foreign language is 20%.

Meanwhile, the average answer, based on the scoring of each respondent's answer in the under-20 age group across four ethnic groups, is as follows: (1) $4 \times 4 = 16$ and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total = 26; (2) $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total = 27; (3) $4 \times 4 = 16$ and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total = 26; (4) $2 \times 4 = 8$ and $4 \times 5 = 20$; total = 28. Respondents Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan have a good level of understanding of Indonesian, with a score of $26/30 \times 100\% = 86.7\%$; $27/30 \times 100\% = 90\%$; $26/30 \times 100\% = 86.7\%$; $28/30 \times 100\% = 93.3\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the age group under 20 years old, the average level of understanding of Indonesian was

between 86.7% and 93.3%.

The average answer, based on the scores given by respondents in the 21–39 age group across four ethnic groups, is as follows: (1) $4 \times 4 = 16$ and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total = 26; (2) $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total = 27; (3) $1 \times 1 = 1$, $1 \times 3 = 3$, $2 \times 4 = 8$, and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total = 22; (4) $1 \times 3 = 3$, $2 \times 4 = 8$ and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total = 26. Respondents of the Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan ethnic groups have an advanced level of Indonesian, with an average score of 86%. Based on data from 24 respondents in the 21–39 age group, the average level of understanding of Indonesian was found to be between 73.3% and 90%.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 40–59 year age group in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $1 \times 3 = 3$, $2 \times 4 = 8$, and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total number = 26; (2) $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total number = 27; (3) $1 \times 2 = 2$, $2 \times 4 = 8$, and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total number = 25; (4) $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total number = 27; Respondents Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan have a good level of understanding in Indonesian, namely $26/30 \times 100\% = 86.7\%$; $27/30 \times 100\% = 90\%$; $25/30 \times 100\% = 83.3\%$; $27/30 \times 100\% = 90\%$; Based on data from 24 respondents in the 40–59 age group, an average of 83.3%–90% were at the level of understanding and being good at Indonesian.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group >60 years in 4 ethnicities is (1) $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total number = 27; (2) $1 \times 1 = 1$, $2 \times 4 = 8$; and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total number = 24; (3) $3 \times 3 = 9$, $1 \times 4 = 4$, and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total number = 23; (4) $1 \times 3 = 3$, $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total number = 25; Respondents Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan have a good level of understanding of Indonesian, namely $27/30 \times 100\% = 90\%$; $24/30 \times 100\% = 80\%$; $23/30 \times 100\% = 76.7\%$; and $25/30 \times 100\% = 83.3\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the <20-year-old age group, an average of 76.7%–90% were at the level of understanding and good at Indonesian.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group <20 years in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $3 \times 1 = 3$ and $3 \times 3 = 9$; total number = 12; (2) $3 \times 1 = 3$ and $3 \times 3 = 9$; total number = 12; (3) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 9; (4) $2 \times 1 = 2$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, and $3 \times 3 = 9$; total number = 13; Respondents Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan have a level of understanding and cannot speak other regional languages, namely $12/30 \times 100\%$

= 40%; $12/30 \times 100\% = 40\%$; $9/30 \times 100\% = 30\%$; and $9/30 \times 100\% = 30\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the <20-year-old age group, an average of 30%–40% were at the level of understanding and unable to speak other regional languages.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 21–39 year age group in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $3 \times 1 = 3$, $2 \times 3 = 6$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number = 13; (2) $3 \times 1 = 3$, $2 \times 3 = 6$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number = 13; (3) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 3 = 3$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number = 11; (4) $2 \times 2 = 4$, $3 \times 3 = 9$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number = 17; Respondents Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan have a level of understanding and cannot speak other regional languages, namely $13/30 \times 100\% = 43.3\%$; $13/30 \times 100\% = 43.3\%$; $11/30 \times 100\% = 36.7\%$; and $17/30 \times 100\% = 56.7\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents aged 21–39 years, an average of 36.7%–43.3% were at the level of understanding and unable to speak other regional languages for Bunak, Kemak, and Tetun respondents. However, for Dawan respondents, an average of 56.7% were at the level of understanding and able to speak a little in other regional languages.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 40–59 year age group in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $3 \times 1 = 3$, $2 \times 4 = 8$ and $1 \times 5 = 5$; total number = 16; (2) $3 \times 3 = 9$ and $3 \times 4 = 12$; total number = 21; (3) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 9; (4) $2 \times 1 = 2$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, $2 \times 3 = 6$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number = 13; Respondents Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan have a level of understanding and cannot speak other regional languages, namely $16/30 \times 100\% = 53.3\%$; $21/30 \times 100\% = 70\%$; $9/30 \times 100\% = 30\%$; and $13/30 \times 100\% = 43.3\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the age group <20 years, an average of 53.4%–70% were at the level of understanding and could speak a little in other regional languages for Bunak and Kemak respondents. However, for Tetun and Dawan respondents, an average of 30%–43.3% were at the level of understanding and could not speak in other regional languages.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group >60 years in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $2 \times 1 = 2$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, $2 \times 3 = 6$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number = 14; (2) $1 \times 3 = 3$, $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total number = 25; (3) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 3 = 3$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number = 11; (4) $1 \times 1 = 1$, $2 \times 3 = 6$, $2 \times 4 = 8$, and $1 \times$

$5 = 5$; total number = 20; Respondents Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan have a level of understanding and cannot speak other regional languages, namely $14/30 \times 100\% = 46.7\%$; $25/30 \times 100\% = 83.3\%$; $11/30 \times 100\% = 36.7\%$; and $20/30 \times 100\% = 66.7\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the age group >60 years, an average of 36.7%–46.7% were at the level of understanding and unable to speak other regional languages for Bunak and Tetun respondents. However, for Kemak respondents, an average of 83.3% were at the level of understanding and able to speak well in other regional languages. Meanwhile, for Dawan respondents, an average of 66.7% were at the level of understanding and able to speak a little in other regional languages.

The average answer, based on the scoring of each respondent's answer in the 20-year-old age group across four ethnicities, is as follows: (1) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 3 = 3$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total = 11, (2) $6 \times 1 = 6$; total = 6; (3) $3 \times 1 = 3$, $2 \times 2 = 4$, and $1 \times 3 = 3$ Total number = 10; (4) $3 \times 1 = 3$, $2 \times 2 = 4$, and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 10. Respondents of the Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan ethnicities have a level of understanding of foreign languages ranging from none to some, with the following percentages: $11/30 \times 100\% = 36.7\%$, 20%, 33.3% and 33.3% respectively. Based on data from 24 respondents aged under 20, the average percentage of those at the level of not understanding or being unable to speak a foreign language was 20% and 33.3%–36.7%.

The average answer, based on the scoring of each respondent's answer in the 21–39 age group across four ethnicities, is as follows: (1) $6 \times 1 = 6$; total number = 6; (2) $5 \times 1 = 5$; $1 \times 2 = 2$; total number = 7; (3) $4 \times 1 = 4$; $2 \times 3 = 6$; total number = 10; (4) $6 \times 1 = 6$; total number = 6. Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents either do not understand or have a basic understanding of foreign languages, with $6/30$ (20%) and $7/30$ (23%) respectively. $10/30 \times 100\% = 33.3\%$; and $6/30 \times 100\% = 20\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents aged under 20, the average percentage of those at the level of not understanding or understanding and not being able to speak a foreign language was 20%–23.3% (Tetun respondents).

The answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 40–59 year age group in 4 ethnicities is (1) $5 \times 1 = 5$ and $1 \times 2 = 2$; total number = 7; (2) $6 \times 1 = 6$; total number = 6; (3) $5 \times 1 = 5$ and $1 \times 5 = 5$; total number = 10; (4) $4 \times 1 = 4$ and $2 \times 2 = 4$; total number = 8;

Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have a level of not understanding or understanding and not being able to speak a foreign language, namely $7/30 \times 100\% = 23.3\%$; $6/30 \times 100\% = 20\%$; $10/30 \times 100\% = 33.3\%$; and $8/30 \times 100\% = 26.7\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the 40–59 year age group, an average of 20%–23.3% (Bunak and Kemak) and 26.7%–33.3% were at the level of not understanding or understanding and not being able to speak a foreign language.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group >60 years in 4 ethnicities is (1) $5 \times 1 = 5$ and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 8; (2) $5 \times 1 = 5$ and $1 \times 2 = 2$; total number = 7; (3) $2 \times 1 = 2$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, and $3 \times 3 = 9$; total number = 13; (4) $6 \times 1 = 6$; total number = 6; Respondents Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan have a level of not understanding or understanding and not being able to speak a foreign language, namely $8/30 \times 100\% = 26.7\%$; $7/30 \times 100\% = 23.3\%$; $13/30 \times 100\% = 43.3\%$; and $6/30 \times 100\% = 20\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the age group >60 years, an average of 20%–23.3% (respondents Kemak and Dawan) and 26.7%–43.3% were at the level of not understanding or understanding and not being able to speak a foreign language.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group <20 years in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $2 \times 4 = 8$ and $4 \times 5 = 20$; total number = 28; (2) $2 \times 4 = 8$ and $4 \times 5 = 20$; total number = 28; (3) $2 \times 2 = 4$, $3 \times 4 = 12$, and $1 \times 5 = 5$; total number = 21; (4) $1 \times 2 = 2$, $2 \times 3 = 6$, $1 \times 4 = 4$, and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total number = 22; Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have a rare level (Tetun Respondents) and frequent use of regional languages, namely $28/30 \times 100\% = 93.3\%$; $28/30 \times 100\% = 93.3\%$; $21/30 \times 100\% = 70\%$; and $22/30 \times 100\% = 73.3\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the age group <20 years, an average of 70% and 73.3%–93.3% were found to be at the level of rarely and often using regional languages.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 21–39 year age group in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $6 \times 5 = 30$; total number = 30; (2) $2 \times 2 = 4$, $1 \times 4 = 4$, and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total number = 23; (3) $1 \times 3 = 3$, $3 \times 4 = 12$, and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total number = 25; (4) $2 \times 4 = 8$ and $4 \times 5 = 20$; total number = 28; Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have a level of Bunak respondents have a level of frequency in using regional languages, namely

$30/30 \times 100\% = 100\%$; $23/30 \times 100\% = 76.7\%$; $25/30 \times 100\% = 83.3\%$; and $28/30 \times 100\% = 93.3\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the 21–39 age group, an average of 100% and 76.7%–93.3% were at the level of always (Bunak respondents) and often in using regional languages.

The average answer, based on the scoring of each respondent's answer in the 21–39 age group across four ethnic groups, is as follows: (1) $6 \times 5 = 30$; total = 30; (2) $2 \times 2 = 4$, $1 \times 4 = 4$, $3 \times 5 = 15$; total = 23; (3) $1 \times 3 = 3$, $3 \times 4 = 12$, $2 \times 5 = 10$ Total number = 25; (4) $2 \times 4 = 8$ and $4 \times 5 = 20$; total number = 28. Bunak, Kemak, Tetun and Dawan respondents have the same frequency of use of regional languages as Bunak respondents: $30/30 \times 100\% = 100\%$; $23/30 \times 100\% = 76.7\%$, 83.3% and 93.3% respectively. Based on data from 24 respondents in the 21–39 age group, the average was 100% and 76.7%–93.3% for always and often, respectively, in terms of using regional languages.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group >60 years in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total number = 27; (2) $1 \times 2 = 2$ and $5 \times 5 = 25$; total number = 27; (3) $2 \times 4 = 8$ and $4 \times 5 = 20$; total number = 28; (4) $2 \times 4 = 8$ and $4 \times 5 = 20$; total number = 28; Respondents Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan have a frequency level in using regional languages, namely $27/30 \times 100\% = 90\%$; $27/30 \times 100\% = 90\%$; $28/30 \times 100\% = 93.3\%$; and $28/30 \times 100\% = 93.3\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the age group >60 years, an average of 90%–93.3% were at the level of frequent use of regional languages.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group <20 years in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $1 \times 3 = 3$, $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total number = 25; (2) $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $3 \times 5 = 15$; total number = 27; (3) $4 \times 4 = 16$ and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total number = 26; (4) $1 \times 3 = 3$ and $5 \times 5 = 25$; total number = 28; Respondents Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan have a frequency level in using Indonesian, namely $25/30 \times 100\% = 83.3\%$; $27/30 \times 100\% = 90\%$; $26/30 \times 100\% = 86.7\%$; and $25/30 \times 100\% = 83.3\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the <20-year-old age group, an average of 83.3%–90% was found to be at the frequent level of Indonesian language use.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 21–39 year age group in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $1 \times 3 = 3$, $1 \times 4 = 4$ and $4 \times 5 = 20$; total number

= 27; (2) $1 \times 2 = 2$ and $5 \times 4 = 20$; total number = 22; (3) $5 \times 4 = 20$ and $1 \times 5 = 5$; total number = 25; (4) $2 \times 3 = 6$, $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $1 \times 5 = 5$; total number = 23; Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have a level of rare (Kemak respondents) and frequent use of Indonesian, namely $27/30 \times 100\% = 90\%$; $22/30 \times 100\% = 73.3\%$; $25/30 \times 100\% = 83.3\%$; and $23/30 \times 100\% = 76.7\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the 21–39 age group, an average of 70% and 76.7%–90% were found to be at the level of rarely and often using Indonesian.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 40–59 year age group in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $1 \times 4 = 4$ and $5 \times 5 = 25$; total number = 29; (2) $5 \times 4 = 20$ and $1 \times 5 = 5$; total number = 25; (3) $2 \times 2 = 4$ and $4 \times 4 = 16$; total number = 20; (4) $1 \times 2 = 2$, $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $2 \times 5 = 10$; total number = 24; Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have a rare level (Tetun respondents) and frequent use of Indonesian, namely $25/30 \times 100\% = 83.3\%$; $25/30 \times 100\% = 83.3\%$; $20/30 \times 100\% = 66.7\%$; and $24/30 \times 100\% = 80\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the 40–49 age group, an average of 66.7% and 80%–83.3% were at the level of rarely and often using Indonesian.

The average answer, based on the scoring of each respondent's answer in the >60 age group across four ethnic groups, is as follows: (1) $1 \times 2 = 2$, $1 \times 3 = 3$, $3 \times 4 = 12$, and $1 \times 5 = 5$; total = 22. (2) $1 \times 2 = 2$, $4 \times 4 = 16$, and $1 \times 5 = 5$; total = 23. (3) $2 \times 2 = 4$, $1 \times 3 = 3$ and $3 \times 4 = 12$; total = 19; (4) $2 \times 2 = 4$, $1 \times 3 = 3$ and $3 \times 4 = 12$; total = 19. Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents rarely use Indonesian (Tetun and Dawan respondents), with a frequency of $22/30 \times 100\% = 73.3\%$, $23/30 \times 100\% = 76.7\%$, $19/30 \times 100\% = 63.3\%$, and $19/30 \times 100\% = 63.3\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents aged 40–49, an average of 63.3% was found for infrequent Indonesian use and 73.3%–76.7% for frequent use.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group <20 years in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $3 \times 1 = 3$, $1 \times 2 = 2$ and $2 \times 3 = 10$; total number = 15; (2) $3 \times 1 = 3$ and $3 \times 3 = 6$; total number = 9; (3) $5 \times 1 = 5$ and $1 \times 2 = 2$; total number = 7; (4) $3 \times 1 = 3$ and $3 \times 3 = 9$; total number = 12. Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have levels of never, ever, and rarely (Tetun and Dawan respondents) in using other regional languages, namely $15/30 \times 100\% = 50\%$; $9/30 \times 100\% = 30\%$; $7/30 \times$

$100\% = 23.3\%$; and $11/30 \times 100\% = 36.7\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the age group <20 years, an average of 23.3%, 30%–36.7%, and 50% were at the level of never, ever, and rarely in using other regional languages.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 21–39 year age group in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $2 \times 1 = 2$, $3 \times 3 = 9$ and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number = 15; (2) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 9; (3) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number 10; (4) $2 \times 1 = 2$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, and $3 \times 3 = 13$; total number = 9. Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have levels of never, ever (Kemak respondents) and rarely in using other regional languages, namely $15/30 \times 100\% = 50\%$; $9/30 \times 100\% = 30\%$; $10/30 \times 100\% = 50\%$; and $11/30 \times 100\% = 53.3\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the 21–39 age group, an average of 30% and 50%–53.3% were at the level of ever and rarely using other regional languages.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 40–59 year age group in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $2 \times 1 = 2$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, $1 \times 3 = 3$, and $2 \times 4 = 8$; total number = 15; (2) $4 \times 3 = 12$ and $2 \times 4 = 8$; total number = 20; (3) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number = 10; (4) $3 \times 1 = 3$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, $1 \times 3 = 3$, and $1 \times 4 = 4$; total number = 12. Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have a level of ever (Tetun and Dawan respondents) and rarely in using other regional languages, namely $15/30 \times 100\% = 50\%$; $20/30 \times 100\% = 66.7\%$; $10/30 \times 100\% = 33.3\%$; and $12/30 \times 100\% = 40\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the 40–59 age group, an average of 33.3%–40% and 50–66.7% were at the level of ever and rarely using other regional languages.

The average answers based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group >60 years in 4 ethnicities are (1) $2 \times 1 = 2$, $1 \times 2 = 2$ and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 7; (2) $2 \times 1 = 2$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, $1 \times 3 = 3$, and $2 \times 4 = 8$; total number = 15; (3) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 9; (4) $1 \times 1 = 1$, $2 \times 2 = 4$, $1 \times 3 = 3$, and $2 \times 4 = 8$; total number = 16; Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have levels of never (Bunak and Tetun respondents), ever, and rarely (Tetun and Dawan respondents) in using other regional languages, namely $7/30 \times 100\% = 23.3\%$; $15/30 \times 100\% = 50\%$; $7/30 \times 100\% = 23.3\%$; and $11/30 \times 100\% = 36.7\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the age group >60 years, an average of 23.3%, 36.7%, and 50% are at the level

of never and ever rarely in using other regional languages.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group <20 years in 4 ethnicities is (1) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 2 = 2$ and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 9; (2) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 2 = 2$, and $3 \times 3 = 6$; total number = 12; (3) $4 \times 1 = 4$ and $2 \times 2 = 4$; total number = 8; (4) $6 \times 1 = 6$; total number = 6. Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have levels of never (Dawan respondents) and ever in the use of foreign languages, namely $9/30 \times 100\% = 30\%$; $12/30 \times 100\% = 40\%$; $8/30 \times 100\% = 26.7\%$; and $6/30 \times 100\% = 20\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the age group <20 years, an average of 20% and 26.7%–40% were at the level of never and ever in using a foreign language.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 21–39 year age group in 4 ethnic groups is (1) $5 \times 1 = 5$ and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 8; (2) $5 \times 1 = 5$ and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 8; (3) $5 \times 1 = 5$ and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 8; (4) $6 \times 1 = 6$; total number = 6. Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have levels of never and ever (Dawan respondents) in using foreign languages, namely $8/30 \times 100\% = 26.7\%$; $8/30 \times 100\% = 26.7\%$; $8/30 \times 100\% = 26.7\%$; and $6/30 \times 100\% = 20\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the 21–39 year age group, an average of 20% and 26.7% were at the level of never and ever using a foreign language.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the 40–59 year age group in 4 ethnicities is (1) $5 \times 1 = 5$ and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 8; (2) $5 \times 1 = 4$ and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 7; (3) $5 \times 1 = 5$ and $1 \times 5 = 5$; total number = 10; (4) $6 \times 1 = 6$; total number = 6; Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have levels of never (Kemak and Dawan respondents) and ever in the use of foreign languages, namely $8/30 \times 100\% = 26.7\%$; $7/30 \times 100\% = 23.3\%$; $10/30 \times 100\% = 33.3\%$; and $6/30 \times 100\% = 20\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the 40–59 year age group, an average of 20%–23.3% and 26.7%–33.3% were at the level of never and ever using a foreign language.

The average answer based on the scoring of each answer of respondents in the age group >60 years in 4 ethnicities is (1) $4 \times 1 = 4$, $1 \times 2 = 2$ and $1 \times 3 = 3$; total number = 9; (2) $6 \times 1 = 6$; total number = 6; (3) $3 \times 1 = 3$ and $3 \times 2 = 6$; total number = 9; (4) $3 \times 1 = 3$ and $3 \times 2 = 6$; total number = 9; Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents have levels

of never (Kemak respondents) and ever in the use of foreign languages, namely $9/30 \times 100\% = 30\%$; $6/30 \times 100\% = 20\%$; $9/30 \times 100\% = 30\%$; and $9/30 \times 100\% = 30\%$. Based on data from 24 respondents in the age group <20 years, an average of 20% and 30% were at the level of never and ever using a foreign language.

4. Discussion

This study presents a thematic analysis of responses the speaker of language in the use of language in the Belu border region with Timor Leste by four tribes, namely Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan. From the results of the study, presented in four tables, find that the percentage of speakers of the four languages. Based on age groups is 41.6%–75% who consistently use their mother tongue. Bunak, Kemak, and Tetun speakers generally use Indonesian at 49.9%–70%. Dawan speakers in age groups 2, 3, and 4 or 1, 2, and 3 tend to use Indonesian often or always, about 37.5% and 33.3% respectively. According to the four age groups, Bunak, Tetun, and Dawan speakers tend never to use other regional languages (between 37.5% and 70.6%) and some speakers use other regional languages occasionally or often. About 41.7% of Kemak speakers rarely use other regional languages. Meanwhile, the speakers of the four languages tend never to use other languages (between 66.5% and 100%). but there are speakers of Tetun, Bunak, and Kemak who have or rarely use foreign languages. The speakers of the four languages are bilingual and multilingual.

The results of the analysis of the respondents' language proficiency and language use by age can be seen in the following graph.

Figure 1 below shows language acquisition by age.

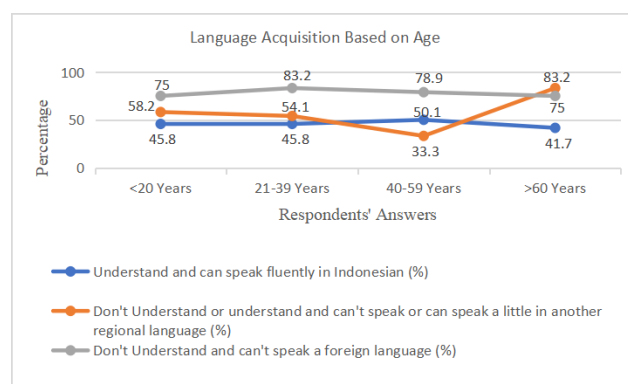


Figure 1. Language acquisition by age.

Indonesian language proficiency based on respondents' age shows a higher percentage in age group 3, which tends to understand and speak Indonesian fluently. This is because respondents in this age group are highly mobile, and there are mixed marriages. However, proficiency in other regional languages based on respondents' age shows a lower percentage in age group 3, who tend not to understand or understand and cannot speak or speak a little compared to other age groups. Proficiency in foreign languages based on respondents' age shows a higher percentage in age groups 2 and 4, who tend not to understand and cannot speak foreign languages. This is because the educational level of this age group includes secondary education.

Figure 2 below is a graph of language use according to the respondent's age.

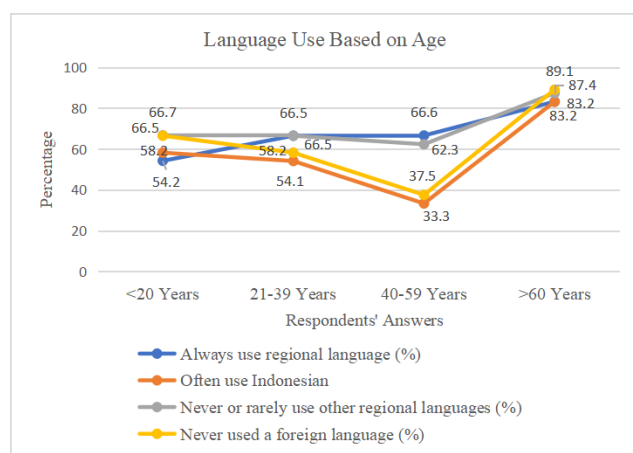


Figure 2. Language use by age.

The last actively used language by the respondent's age is a foreign language compared to regional languages, Indonesian and other regional languages. Respondents in age group 4 tend not to use foreign languages, with English and Portuguese being the highest percentage. Respondents in age group 4 tend to always use regional languages, with a higher percentage. The regional language is the respondent's mother tongue, a means of communication for the local community. This regional language is still used in traditional ceremonies as an official language at the regional level, such as welcoming guests to give the guests blessings from the ancestors, safety and smoothness in all matters^[29]. Indonesian is commonly used by respondents in age group 4, with a higher percentage using it as a means of inter-tribal communication in Belu. Other regional languages were never

used or were used by a higher percentage of respondents in age group 4. This is consistent with using Indonesian to communicate with other tribes.

5. Conclusions

The proficiency of Indonesian among Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan speakers in the four age groups of respondents tends to understand and speak Indonesian fluently. The proficiency in other regional languages by Bunak and Tetun speakers in the four age groups of respondents tends to be not understanding and not speaking other regional languages. However, some Bunak and Tetun speakers understand and speak other regional languages well. The mastery of other regional languages by Kemak and Dawan speakers in the four age groups of respondents tends to understand and speak a little in other regional languages. However, there are Kemak and Dawan speakers who do not understand other regional languages or who understand and speak other regional languages poorly or not at all. The foreign language proficiency of Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan speakers in the four age groups of respondents tends to be not understanding and not speaking foreign languages. However, some Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan speakers understand and cannot speak foreign languages or have little or no knowledge of foreign languages. The proficiency of Indonesian among respondents by age group tends to be better than other regional languages and foreign languages. The use of regional languages by Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan speakers in the respondents' four age tends to be their regional languages. The use of Indonesian by Bunak, Kemak, and Tetun speakers in the four age groups of respondents tends to be frequent use of Indonesian. However, Dawan speakers in age groups 2, 3 and 4 use Indonesian and tend to speak their regional languages often. However, there is the use of Indonesian by Dawan speakers in age group 1, who tend always to speak Indonesian.

On average, Bunak, Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents can understand and speak Indonesian well, understand other regional languages but cannot speak them or can only speak a little, and cannot speak foreign languages. Bunak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents often use regional languages and Indonesian, but Kemak respondents rarely use regional languages and Indonesian. Bunak and Kemak respondents

rarely use other regional languages and foreign languages, and never use them. Tetun and Dawan respondents rarely use other regional languages and foreign languages, and never use them.

Based on data from 24 respondents, the average Bunak person had a good understanding of Indonesian and could speak it well. They also had a good grasp of other regional languages and foreign languages, but were unable to speak them fluently. On average, Bunak respondents answered ‘often’ when asked about their use of Indonesian and regional languages, and ‘rarely’ or ‘never’ when asked about their use of other regional languages and foreign languages.

The average Kemak respondent had a good understanding of Indonesian and was able to speak it well, as well as having a good understanding of some regional languages, but was unable to speak foreign languages. On average, Kemak respondents answered “rarely”, “often”, “rarely” and “never” when asked about their use of regional languages, Indonesian, other regional languages and foreign languages, respectively. On average, Kemak and Dawan respondents had the ability to understand and speak well in other regional languages, and to understand and speak a little in other regional languages, respectively.

Among 20-year-olds, the average Kemak respondent had an understanding of a foreign language, but was unable to speak it. The average Bunak respondent was unable to understand or speak a foreign language. Among the 21–39 age group, the average Bunak, Kemak, and Dawan respondent was unable to understand or speak a foreign language. The average Tetun respondent could understand and speak a little foreign language. In the 40–59 age group, the average Bunak and Kemak respondent was unable to understand or speak a foreign language. The average Tetun and Dawan respondent could understand a foreign language, but could not speak it. Among those aged over 60, the average ability of Bunak and Tetun respondents was to understand a foreign language but not to speak it. The average Kemak and Dawan respondent was unable to understand or speak a foreign language.

Among respondents under 20 years old, Tetun respondents rarely used regional languages. Bunak, Kemak and Dawan respondents, on the other hand, responded ‘often’ when asked about their use of regional languages. For the

21–39 and 40–59 age groups, the average Bunak respondent answered ‘always’ when asked about the use of regional languages. The average answer from Kemak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents was ‘often’. For the over-60s, the average answer from these four ethnic groups regarding the use of regional languages was ‘often’.

For the under-20s and 21–39 age groups, the average response from respondents of the four ethnic groups regarding Indonesian usage was ‘often’. For the 40–59 age group, the average response from Tetun speakers regarding Indonesian usage was ‘rarely’. Among respondents aged over 60, the average response regarding Indonesian usage was ‘rarely’ for both Tetun and Dawan respondents. Among respondents under 20 years of age, the average response from Tetun respondents regarding Indonesian usage was ‘often’.

The average response from Tetun respondents regarding other regional languages was ‘never’. The average response from Kemak and Dawan respondents regarding the use of other regional languages was ‘yes’. The average response from Bunak respondents regarding the use of other regional languages was ‘rarely’. Among the 40–59 age group, the average response from Bunak and Kemak respondents regarding the use of other regional languages was also “rarely”. Among the 40–59 age group, the average response from Kemak and Bunak respondents regarding the use of other regional languages was ‘rarely’. The average response from Tetun and Dawan respondents regarding the use of other regional languages was ‘sometimes’. For the over-60s, the average answer from Bunak and Tetun respondents regarding the use of other regional languages was ‘never’. The average answer from Dawan respondents regarding the use of other regional languages was ‘yes’. The average answer from Kemak respondents regarding the use of other regional languages was ‘rarely’.

Among Dawan respondents aged under 20 or 21–39, the average answer regarding the use of foreign languages is ‘never’. The average response from Bunak, Kemak, and Tetun respondents regarding the use of foreign languages is ‘rarely’. Among the 40–59 and >60 age groups, Kemak respondents overwhelmingly answered ‘never’ when asked about their use of foreign languages. The average response from Bunak, Tetun, and Dawan respondents regarding the use of other regional languages is ‘rarely’.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization, W.K. and K.B.N.; methodology, J.E.; software, A.W.; validation, W.K., Y.S. and J.E.; formal analysis, W.K. and B.A.; investigation, K.B.N.; resources, R.S. and S.; data curation, Y.S.; writing—original draft preparation, W.K., K.B.N. and D.K.; writing—review and editing, W.K. and D.K.; visualization, A.W. and N.D.; supervision, W.K.; project administration, W.K.; funding acquisition, W.K. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding

This research received no external funding.

Institutional Review Board Statement

Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement

Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement

The study data were collected from all participants.

Acknowledgments

The authors sincerely thank all the respondents for their valuable time and insights in completing the questionnaire. and extends gratitude to the anonymous reviewers for their thoughtful suggestions. which significantly enhanced the quality of this research.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- [1] Pemerintah Kabupaten Belu, 2023. Belu Regency Profile 2023. Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan. Penelitian dan Pengembangan Daerah: Belu, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [2] Lauder, M.R.M.T., Harimansyah, G., Aritonang, B., et al., 2019. Language and Language Maps in Indonesia, 6th ed. Badan Pengembangan Bahasa dan Perbukuan: Jakarta, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [3] Damarjati, D., 2017. Turiskain. RI's Border Area Often Visited by Timor Leste Residents. Available from: <https://news.detik.com/berita/d-3469717/turiskain-tapal-batas-ri-yang-sering-disambangi-warga-timor-leste> (cited 2 January 2024). (in Indonesian)
- [4] Nino, H., 2018. Conflict Space in the Indonesia-Timor Leste Border Area: Case Study in North Central Timor Regency and Oecusse District. *Jurnal Kajian Ruang Sosial-Budaya*. 1(2), 92–100. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21776/ub.sosiologi.jkrb.2018.002.2.07> (in Indonesian)
- [5] Kridalaksana, H., 2013. Linguistic Dictionary, 4th ed. PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama: Jakarta, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [6] Warsiman, 2014. Sociolinguistics: Learning theory and applications. UB Press: Malang, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [7] Alwi, H., Moeliono, A.M., Lapoliwa, H., et al., 2017. Standard Indonesian Grammar. Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa: Jakarta, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [8] Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2017. Law Number 24 concerning the National Flag. Language and Emblem. and National Anthem. Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa: Jakarta, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [9] Sumarsono, 2014. Sociolinguistics. Pustaka Pelajar: Yogyakarta, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [10] Chaer, A., Agustina, L., 2010. Sociolinguistics: An Initial Introduction. PT Rineka Cipta: Jakarta, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [11] Wardhaugh, R., Fuller, J.M., 2015. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics, 7th ed. John Wiley & Sons: New York, NY, USA.
- [12] Suhardi, B., Sembiring, B.C., 2009. The Social Aspects of Language. In: Kushartanti, U.Y., Lauder, M.R.M.T. (eds.). *Pesona Bahasa: Langkah Awal Memahami Linguistik*. PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama: Jakarta, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [13] Suhardi, B., Sembiring, B.C., 2009. Social Aspects of Language. In: Kushartanti, Yuwono, U., Lauder, M.R.M.T. (eds.). *Language Charm: The First Step in Understanding Linguistics*. PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama: Jakarta, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [14] Winarti, S., 2015. Language Attitude of the People Around the Border of East Nusa Tenggara and Timor Leste: a Language Attitude Study in Silawan Villa. *Metalingua*. 13(2), 215–227. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26499/metalingua.v13i2.8> (in Indonesian)
- [15] Aritonang, B., 2017. Indonesian Regional and Foreign Languages in Border Areas: A Study of Walsa and Muyu Languages. *Jakarta: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Ke-*

- budayaan. 2(2), 180–200. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24832/jpnk.v2i2.661> (in Indonesian)
- [16] Kurniawati, W., 2019. Language Accommodation in Napan. East Nusa Tenggara. Indonesia-Timor Leste Border Region. *Ranah: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa*. 8(2). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26499/rnh.v8i2.1119> (in Indonesian)
- [17] Mukhamdanah, Handayani, R., 2020. Language Choices and Attitudes of Communities on the Border of Indonesia and Timor Leste. *Ranah: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa*. 9(2), 326–340. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26499/rnh.v9i2.2923> (in Indonesian)
- [18] Khanifah, M., Hendaryan, 2021. Use of Indonesian in the Central Java–West Java Border Region (Salem District). *Jurnal Ilmiah Diksatrasia: Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*. 5(1). DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.25157/diksatrasia.v5i1.6504> (in Indonesian)
- [19] Yusnia, E.A.S., Sumaryati, Sumaryoto, 2022. Bilingualism and Multilingualism in Subang Regency Society. *Diskursus: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Indonesia*. 5(1), 14–22. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.30998/diskursus.v5i1.12795> (in Indonesian)
- [20] Panjaitan, N.A.S., Rambe, M.H., Ahadi, R., et al., 2023. Literature Review: The Concept of Bilingualism and Its Influence on Children’s Language Development. *Journal on Education*. 5(2), 3788–3795. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31004/joe.v5i2.1061> (in Indonesian)
- [21] Sudarmanto, B.A., Wahyuni, T., Aji, E.N.W., et al., 2023. The languages on the border of Indonesia and Timor Leste: A linguistic landscape study. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*. 10(2), 2273145. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2023.2273145> (in Indonesian)
- [22] Sudarmanto, B.A., Benu, N.N., Wahyuni, T., et al., 2025. Language Preservation through Public Signage: Analyzing the Linguistic Landscape of the Indonesia-Timor Leste Border. *Forum for Linguistic Studies*. 7(4), 601–612. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30564/fls.v7i4.9052>
- [23] Admin, B.N.P.P., 2024. Motaain PLBN Expects Director General of Immigration to Assist Diplomacy in Activating Cross Border Passes to Timor Leste. Available from: <https://bnpp.go.id/berita/plbn-motaain-harapkan-dirjen-imigrasi-bantu-diplomasi-aktifkan-pas-lintas-batas-ke-timor-leste> (cited 9 March 2024). (in Indonesian)
- [24] Prasetyo, B., Jannah, L.M., 2010. *Quantitative Research Methods: Theory and Application*. PT Raja grafindo Persada: Depok, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [25] Sugiyono, 2017. *Research Methods: Quantitative, Qualitative and R&D*. Alfabeta: Bandung, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [26] Mahsun, 2017. *Language Research Methods: Stages, Strategies, Methods, and Techniques*. PT Raja Grafindo Persada: Depok, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [27] Sugiyono, 2017. *Statistics for Research*. Alfabeta: Bandung, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)
- [28] Badan Pusat Statistik Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Timur, 2024. Number of Population by Village and Gender in belu Regency. Result of Population Census 2020. Badan Pusat Statistik: Kupang, Indonesia. Available from: <https://ntt.bps.go.id/id/statistik> (cited 2 January 2024). (in Indonesian)
- [29] Mahsun 2000. Regional Languages as a Means of Increasing Understanding of Diversity within the Unity of Indonesian Society: Towards Thinking in Repositioning the Function of Regional Languages. In: Alwi, H., Sugono, D. (eds.). *Language Politics: Proceedings of the Language Politics Seminar*. Pusat Bahasa: Jakarta, Indonesia. (in Indonesian)