

## Abstract

### **The Toponyms of Place Naming on Kampung Elo, Padaeweta Village, East Wejewa, Southeast Sumba: An etymology and oral tradition study**

Kampung Elo is one of the areas in Village Pada Eweta of Wejewa Timur District, North-West Sumba. Administratively it is a part of North West Sumba, but from the cultural perspective of the dichotomy West – East Sumba, its Marapu practice in West Sumba. The language spoken in Kampung Elo is the Wewewa dialect. This dialect/regional language is actively spoken by the children of this village, but their oral tradition has never been documented. Among its oral tradition, there is a unique tradition of naming places in this area. These names are still well known, but the younger generation doesn't have any knowledge about the origins let alone the story behind them. Preliminary observation shows that not everyone in the age gap of 40 – 50 years old knows the legend and only a few of the villagers below the age of 40 can answer questions about the origin of a name in this area and the story behind them. It has consequently raised an interest to look further and document the origin of the area name in Kampung Elo.

There are around 36 place names in Pada Eweta village which will be studied etymologically. We did ethnography in Pada Eweta village for several days to collect data. The data we collect is in the form of folklore or also the mythology that has been known and spread among the villagers about the names of places in their area. So, more or less in total there are about 36 different stories. Based on the data we have, we classify these names into several categories. This category is made based on the words that make up place names in the Wejewa language. Some of them are nature, trees and plants, land forms and buildings, objects, allotment of places, names of people, and events.

**Keywords: toponyms, etymology, wejewa language, Southeast Sumba**