

Partial Lectical Innovation in Devayan Language:

Lingual data review in a geographical perspective

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Abstract—Innovation includes two sides, namely process and result. As a process, innovation is the creation of new forms or meanings due to the changes in the original form or meaning, whether it refers to the original word itself or the emergence of new words. The purpose of this research is to observe lexical changes in the two dialects of the Devayan language that show similarities in structure (phonotactic) and the word assumed to be known before. Words that show partial lexical changes are indicated by the omission, addition, or replacement of sounds from the original word. The method used in this research is descriptive method. Data collection technique uses the listening method. Data analysis is conducted using comparative-synchronic method. Data analysis is in the form of lingual unit analysis, while identity method is used to analyze the similarities and differences of dialectal elements, and data validity is conducted using triangulation technique. After comparing and analyzing the two dialects of the Devayan language, it can be concluded that partial lexical innovation in the language includes innovation by the omission at the end of the word, namely in the phoneme $y \rightarrow \emptyset$ and $n \rightarrow \emptyset$, and the replacement of the lexicon between vowels, for example in phonemes $a \rightarrow i$, $u \rightarrow o$, and $i \rightarrow e$, and also the form changing of consonants such as $f \rightarrow w$, $l \rightarrow r$, $b \rightarrow w$, and $d \rightarrow r$.

Keywords—innovation; lexical variation; Devayan language

I. INTRODUCTION

The Devayan language is a language spoken by the Devayan tribe that inhabits the central and southern Simeulue Island. The number of speakers of this language is small in the province of NAD compared to the other six languages. It can be seen from the distribution area on two islands which are on a separate island (outside Sumatra Island). Devayan language is spoken in Teluk Nibung Village area, Pulau Banyak District, Aceh Singkil Regency (division of South Aceh District) and in Simeulue Timur District, Simeulue District, Aceh Province. Devayan language consists of two dialects, namely (1) Singkil Pulo dialect spoken in Teluk Nibung Village, Pulau Banyak District, Aceh Singkil Regency and (2) Lugu dialect spoken in Simeulue Timur District, Simeulue Island, bordering the Sigulai language in the West End. Based on the results of dialectometry calculations, the percentage difference between the Singkil Pulo dialect and the Lugu dialect ranges from 51% to 80%. Isolek of Devayan is a language with a difference of 82.75% compared to Sigulai, Gayo, and Aceh [1].

Through language humans can understand each other [2]. In other words, language is one of the social activities. Language, as a property that only humans have and distinguishes it from other creatures. With language, humans can exchange information or express their feelings so that humans are able to produce very high traditions and cultures.

Human natural language as an arbitrary and conventional sound system that functions as a communication tool for its speakers is dynamic and creative. This dynamic can be seen from the change in the language system, especially at the lexicon or vocabularies level. Meanwhile, creativity can be observed in the emergence of variations due to changes controlled by the language system. These changes can be observed in words that experience partial lexical changes, that is changes which occur in word structures or phonotactics [3]. One of the characteristics of language is not fixed, but it develops or always changes for various reasons. Basic changes are those that are fast or clearly visible, such as phonological, morphological, syntactic, or semantic changes. These changes are influenced by several things, such as the geography, politics, and culture of the area of use or user of the language [4].

A language knows so many terms to accommodate one entity, while other languages only know a few terms. The most frequently used example to describe this is how Javanese (perhaps Indonesian people in general) named and distinguished rice and their derivative products. Because it is a staple food so that it plays a very important role in the survival of life, rice and all derivative products are distinguished by different terms. Meanwhile, the word 'rice' by Westerners is used to represent everything about rice and its derivatives [5].

Language changes occur gradually so that it can be used to trace the existence of lexical diffusion phenomena and geographical diffusion of language elements. By assuming this, the existence of recognized and observable variations can be shared by language researchers. These geographical variations are often characterized by lexical differences. Lexical differences occur due to lexical changes. Lexical changes can be complete if the new word (new word is an innovative variant) is very different from the word assumed previously known. Lexical changes can be partial if a new word shows a similar structure (phonotactic) with a word assumed to be known before. Words that show partial lexical changes are indicated by the removal, addition, or replacement of sound

from the original word. The second nature of lexical change can show the fact of gradual and systematic language change. This partial lexical change also refers to the term phonetic change. In this study only the term lexical change will be used.

Based on the characteristics of innovation found in geographical variations, innovation in geolinguistics, as this concept is known in dialectology and historical linguistics, can be grouped into two types, namely internal innovation and external innovation. Internal innovation is the emergence of new linguistic elements by utilizing the potential belong to variations of innovation itself. This internal innovation can occur at one observation point, it can also occur at several observation points [3].

Regarding external innovation, Mahsun argues that this occurs due to the influence of inter-dialects or interdialects and the influence of other languages on dialects or sub-dialects of languages whose dialects or sub-dialects are studied, both geographically close and far apart, but speakers have made contact with another [6]. External innovation is usually called a loan (borrowing).

Thus, based on the research background, the research questions can be formulated as follows. What is the partial lexical innovation in Devayan language and what is the tendency for the innovation realization?

II. RESEARCH METHODS

Data collection is accomplished by using direct observation methods in the research field or listening method [7]. The techniques applied are interviews, note taking and recording. Interviews are conducted using the question list guide. When interviewing, note taking and recording were also carried out. Interviews are conducted using directional conversation techniques, asking directly, asking questions indirectly, and provoking answers and multiple questions and answers [8].

Data analysis used the comparative-synchronic method so the determination of this dialect variation was synchronic; the data analysis was in the form of lingual unit analysis which was essentially the same as determining the aspects of the lingual unit [9]. The equivalent method for analysing equations and differences in dialectal elements, data validity is used triangulation technique. The matching method or the method of identity is used to examine or determine diagonal units using certain tools that are outside the language, the determinant is referent, the utterance of language (written), the distributional method is basically the behaviour or lingual units behaviour related to other units. The technique is in the form of equating comparison (HBS) [10]. The application is carried out as follows. To determine the partial lexicon changes in the field, one variant, both form and meaning, compared to other variants, both at the same observation point and at different observation points in one isolek region, then the entity changes the benchmarking results identified internal structure after compared with other variants identified as origin.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Partial Lexical Changes with the Existence of Lexicon

1) Phonetic removal in the beginning section of the word

a) l → Ø

(1) mala → 'allala' walking'

b) m → Ø

(2) me → e'on'

c) t → Ø

(3) tumatang → 'umatang' sit down'

d) i → Ø

(4) ituturu → tuturu 'pointed finger'

2) Phoneme removal in the middle of words

a) l → Ø

(5) olol → o'ol 'rain'

b) a → Ø

(6) karano → karno 'because'

3) Phoneme removal in the end part of the word

a) y → Ø

(7) ahuy → ahe 'fire'

(8) sasay → sasa 'washing'

(9) matay → mate 'dead'

(10) ilay → ile 'lick'

b) n → Ø

(11) mantun → mantu 'selam'

c) h → Ø

(13) ummah → umma 'vomit'

B. Partial Lexical Changes with the Addition of Lexicon

1) Phonemes addition in the beginning part of the word

a) Ø → u

(14) wi → uwe 'water'

d) Ø l

(15) awut → lawut 'sew'

e) Ø → h

(16) ela → hela 'pull'

2) Phonemes addition in the middle of the word

a) Ø → a

(17) mariḡ → ma'ariḡ 'sharp'

b) Ø → r

(18) akin → arkin 'close/near'

c) Ø → w

(19) sa'o → sawo 'one'

d) Ø → m

(20) matabalal → matambalal 'sun'

3) Phonemes addition in the end part of the word

a) Ø → e

(21) omay → omaye 'where'

c) Ø → o

(22) eye → eye 'dry'

(23) telufu → telufwo 'three'

d) Ø → u

(24) mancinaw → masculine 'fighting'

(25) or → or 'or'

e) Ø → h

(26) dila → tongue

(39) loŋkul → liŋkul 'sky'

(40) arop → arip 'chest'

p) i → e

(41) aŋin → ŋen 'wind'

(42) Umidik → Umedik 'stand up'

2) Replacement of consonants with consonants

a) f → w

(43) affirmations → awirat 'weight'

(44) funu → wunu 'kill'

(45) dufo → complicated 'two'

(46) afala → awala 'red'

(47) affinity → awiti 'short'

(48) fayu → awayu 'wake up'

b) l → r

(49) maŋilil → miŋilir 'flows'

c) b → w

(50) buŋo → wu'a 'interest/flower'

(51) abu → awu 'dust'

(52) baba → waba 'mouth'

(53) wala 'sand'

d) ny → ŋ

(54) muŋaŋ → muŋaŋ 'parents of grandparents'

e) n → m

(55) hit → hamtam 'hit'

f) y → t

(56) nay → nat 'fish'

g) h → c

(57) ahi → aci 'younger sister/brother'

C. Partial Lexical Changes with the Replacement of Lexicon

1) Replacement of vowels

a) a → i

(27) affection → prefix 'wet'

(28) malatuy → milituy 'erupted'

b) i → e

(29) afali → awale 'swollen'

c) i → a

(30) mintay → mantayi 'defecate'

d) e → i

(31) tibel → tibil 'smoke'

f) u → o

(32) mapuret → maporit 'thick'

(33) descend → 'ask/order'

g) u → i

(34) affirmations → awirat 'weight'

i) u → o

(35) bintun → binton 'star'

j) u → a

(36) tumudo → tamudo 'wife / husband from brother / sister'

l) o → a

(37) buŋo → wuŋa 'flower'

n) o → u

(38) kumudoŋ → xumudoŋ 'run'

o) o → i

IV. CONCLUSION

After comparing and analysing two dialects in Devayan language, it can be concluded that partial lexical innovations in the language include innovations with omissions, additions and replacements.

The innovation trend is the elimination of lexicons that the Devayan language dialect Singkil Pulo tends to do the removal of the lexicon at the end of the word. The form of embodiment of disappearance at the end of the word with the highest frequency of occurrence is in the phoneme y → Ø and n → Ø.

There is a tendency in the lexicon addition of the Devayan dialect Singkil Pulo tending to add the end of the word. The phoneme form used in adding the word is Ø → u and Ø → o.

Judging from the tendency of partial lexical changes with the replacement of the lexicon, it can be concluded that there is

a tendency that the Devayan language dialect Singkil Pulo tends to replace the lexicon between vowels to vowels and consonants to consonants. The frequency of the appearance of vowel changes to the most vowels is for example in phonemes a, i, u → o, and i → e, while the form of consonants changing includes: f → w, l → r, b → w, and d → r.

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