Syllable Structure of Patani Malay Dialect: An Analysis Using Autosegmental Theory

Suraiya Chapakiya
Fatoni University Thailand
suraiyachapakiya@ftu.ac.th

Abstract. **This paper aims to identify the structure of Patani Malay Dialect or Dialek Melayu Patani (DMP). The data were obtained through interviews with 20 informants consisting of 10 informants from Nad Kubur Village, Khautoom District, Yarang Regency, Pattani Province, and 10 informants from Hua Saphan Sateng Village, Muang Regency, Yala Province. This analysis used the autosegmental theory based on the Clements' (1985) Syllables Representation and the Zaharani and Teoh Boon Seong's (2006) Syllable Structure. A qualitative approach was used in this study. The findings of the study indicate that many structures of the DMP syllables found in previous studies were incongruent. Most previous researchers have concluded that the DMP had several syllable structures that were not in line with each other. This paper shows that the structure of the DMP syllables belongs to type III, the KV (K) syllable pattern, the KV and KKV open syllables, and the KVK closed syllables consisting of KVK, KV.KVK and KVK.KV.**

Keywords: syllable, open, closed, dialect, Patani Malay

INTRODUCTION

This study examines the syllable structure of the Patani Malay dialect (DMP), the language used by Malay speakers of Patani in Southern Thailand. The majority of Thai people use Thai for daily communication. Thai is the official, national language, used for education, literary works, and lingua franca. However, most of the people living in the south of Thailand use Malay or Bahasa Melayu (BM). BM used by these people is divided into two dialects, namely DMP and Dialect Melayu Satun (DMS). Patani Malay dialect is used in the four southern provinces of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, and four areas of Songkhla province (Tiba, Sebayoi, Canak, and Nathawi). DMP spoken by people in southern Thailand is very similar to the Kelantan Malay dialect [1], [2].

Ruslan states that the DMP is used in daily communication as a language of communication between the individual and the community in the southern border region [3]. It also serves as the medium of instruction in private religious schools,
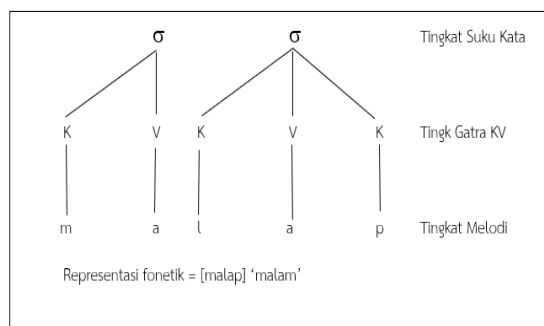
educational institutions, boarding schools, and pre-school besides the standard Malay language. In this study, the researcher discusses syllabus structure analysis in DMP, particularly in Nad Kubur (NK) of Pattani province and Hua Saphan (HS)Sateng, Muang district (city) of Yala province, Thailand. This is because the people of Nad Kubur and Hua Saphan Sateng are DMP native speakers who still maintain the original form of DMP. The researcher selected 20 informants consisting of five males and five females for both locations to obtain as much DMP data as possible related to syllable structure.

In a previous study, Ruslan [3] found that DMP is mostly comprised of a different number of syllables. Typically, the Malay language consists of two syllables or more. However, DMP mostly consists of one syllable. It is because DMP has lost the key features of the Malay language. Thus, a single syllable in DMP includes original single syllable, single syllable as a result of shortened words, and single syllable borrowed from other languages. He also mentioned that the DMP syllable structure comprises four types: KV, KVK, KKV, and KKVK. Based on a thorough description of the DMP syllable structure, he stated that there are three types of words in the DMP: single syllable, double syllable, and triple syllable. However, his description tends to be descriptive.

According to Paitoon (t.t), DMP consists of four different types of syllable:

i. Single syllable: KV, KVK_s, KVK_n, KVK_f, KVV, $KVVK_s$, $KVVK_n$, $KVVK_f$
ii. Double syllable:KVKV, $KVKVK_s$, $KVKVK_n$, $KVKVK_f$KVK$_s$KV, KVKsKVKs, KVKsKVKn, KVKsKVKf
iii. Triple syllable: KVKVKV(V), $KVKVKVK_s$, $KVKVKVK_n$, $KVKVKVK_f$.

DMP with multi syllables, such as [k□dudoʔk□], [p□rais□ni], [juniw□siti], [salak□la.˙], [ʔum□hs□pita], [kapatub□].To identify these interesting DMP syllables, a phonological analysis was conducted based on autosegmental theory in this current study. This study identified the structure of the DMP syllables using an autosegmental analysis of Clements's syllable representation and Zaharani Synt & Teoh Boon Seong's syllable structure [4], [5].

Representasi fonetik = [malap] 'malam'

Figure 1. Clements' (1985) Syllable Representation
Source: Adapted from Clements (1985)

Figure 1 shows elements in the KV tier that distinguish syllable peak and non-peak. Segments dominated by V indicate syllable peak, and segments dominated by K indicate non-peak [4].

Syllable Structure

This study explains that the structure of the syllable and its formation in non-linear analysis plays an essential role in the phonological process. According to Zaharani & Teoh Boon Seong, the basic form of the BM syllable is KV (K), which belongs to type III [5]. It means that the BM basic syllable pattern should contain the onset and the nucleus, while the coda is optional in that it can be included or not depending on the root words in a particular language.

The BM syllable presented by previous researchers was not appropriate [8]. The basic syllables of BM are KV and KVK, which belong to type IV rather than * V and * VK. This is because there are words like #apa#, which isoptionally pronounced as [□ap□] and #itek# as [□ite□] or [ite□].

The syllable patterns of a language are as follow:
TypeI: KV
Type II: KV, V
Type III: KV, KVK
Type IV: KV, V, KVK, VK

Thus, this current study uses autosegmental theory to discuss the DMP syllable structure.

DMP Syllable Structure

DMP syllable structure is divided into two categories: KV open syllables and KVK closed syllables.

Open Syllables

The open syllable in DMP is KV. Based on Zaharani and Teoh Boon Seong syllable structure, examples of theKV and KKV open syllableare as follow [5]:

Examples of the KV and KKV open syllables

SD	NK	HP	Meaning
/tu/	[tu]	[tu]	itu
/□isi/	[□isi]	[□isi]	isi
/b□laka/	[blak□]	[blak□]	belaka
/t□li.·ˈa/	[tli.·ˈ□˞]	[tli.·ˈ□˞]	telinga

Based on Zaharani and Teoh Boon Seong, the formula of KV open syllable structurefor /Ku/ [ku] 'aku' is [5]:

METHOD

This study used a qualitative method consisting of field and library research. The field research is based on three methods of data collection: observation, interview, and recording. 20 informants aged fifty years and above were involved. 10 informants came from Kampung Nad Kubur, Mukau Khautoom, A, Yarang, Pattani province. 10 other informants were from Hua Saphan Sateng Village, Muang Regency, Yala Province. Field research is an essential way to help researchers explore and gain in-depth information. This method, especially interview, is crucial to confirm the observed data [6], [7]. Library research refers to primary sources, such as previous studies related to DMP. Data collected through field and library research were transcribed. It aimed to identify the DMP tribal structure. The data collected through field and library research were analyzed using autosegmental theory based on Clements' syllable representation and Zaharani & Teoh Boon Seong's syllable structure [4], [5].

RESULT & DISCUSSION

Clements' Syllable Representation

According to Clements syllable consists of three-tier representation. Each tier is represented by a specific segment that can explain the phonological processes, such as the diffusion process, the process of change, and other processes involving vowel and consonant phonemes [4].

Clements adds that one tier in the KV syllable describes the syllable function. Each syllable consists of a set of phonemes representing the syllables of a language [4]. This group of phonemes is based on the One First Principle, that is, the first syllable of the syllable plus the number of consonants at a level consistent with the state of the syllable structure. Also, the vowel level is connected to the syllable level, while consonants are written from right to left are connected one by one as long as the configuration for each diffusion meets the syllable structure requirements. The same thing happens when the consonant is written from left to right. Clements' syllable representation can be described in the Urak Lawoi Malay dialect as in [malap] 'malam' [4].
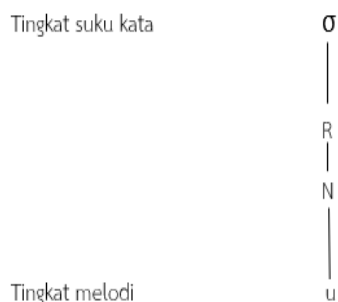
RP 1

Figure 2. Nucleus structure of the KV open syllable for /ku/ [ku] 'aku'

Figure 2 shows that RP1 is the nucleus structure of the KV open syllable, which is /u/ vowel associated with the five syllables producing the KV /ku/ [ku] 'aku.'
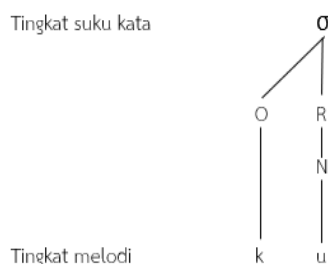
RP 2

Figure 3. On set structure of the KV open syllable for /ku/ [ku] 'aku'

Figure 3 shows that RP2 is onset structure of the KV open syllable for [ku], which is /u/ vowelassociated with /k/consonant producing KV open syllable /ku/ [ku] 'aku'.

Based on the abovefigure,RP1 shows the nucleus structure of the KV open syllable containing the vowel /u/ in the open syllable [ku]. RP2 shows the onset structure of the KV open syllable containing the [k] consonant in [ku]open syllable. RP1 and RP2 revealthe structure of KV /ku/ [ku] 'aku.'

Closed Syllables

The DMP closed syllable is KVK. Based on Zaharani and Teoh Boon Seong, the structure of KVK closed syllables are KVK, KV.KVK, KVK.KV [5].

Examples of closed syllable KVK, KV.KVK, KVK.KV:

SD	NK	HP	Meaning
/mas/	[ma‑h]	[ma‑h]	emas
/hajun/	[hajo.·ˈ]	[hajo.·ˈ]	ayun
/hidup/	[hido▯]	[hido▯]	hidup
/laksa/	[la▯s▯]	[la▯s▯]	laksa

Based on Zaharani and Teoh Boon Seong's syllable structure, the KVK closed syllable structure for the word/mas / [ma▯h] 'emas' is as follow [5]:
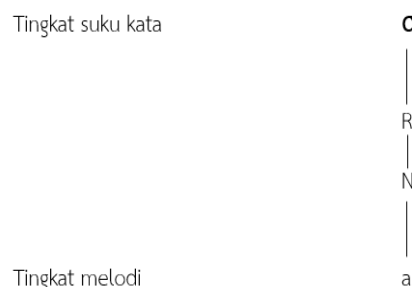
RP 1

Figure 4. Nucleus structure of the KVK closed syllable for /mas/ [ma‑h] 'emas'

Figure 4 shows that RP1 is the nucleus structure of the KVK closed syllable, which is vowel /a/ associated with the five closed syllables of KVK to produce the word /mas/ [ma‑h] 'emas.'
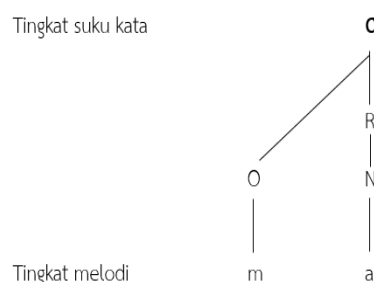
RP 2

Figure 5. On set structure of the KVK closed syllable for /mas/ [ma‑h] 'emas'

Figure 5 shows that RP2 is the onset structure for KVK closed syllables, which is consonant /m/ linked to five KVK closed syllables to produce the word /mas/ [ma‑h] 'emas'
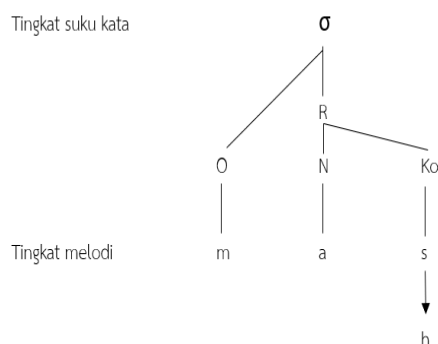
RP 3

Figure 6. Coda structure of the KVK closed syllable for /mas/ [ma‿h] 'emas'

Figure 6 shows that RP3 is coda structure of the KVK closed syllable, in which the consonant /s/ is changed into [h] at the coda position producing the word /mas/ [ma‿h] 'emas.'

Based on the figure above, RP1 shows the nucleus structure of the KVK closed syllable for the word/mas/ [ma‿h] 'emas.' Meanwhile, RP2 shows the onset structure of the KVK closed syllables, and RP3 shows the coda structure of the KVK closed syllable for the word /mas/ [ma‿h] 'emas.' There is a change of consonant /s/ to [h] on the coda when it comes at the end of the word. It can be seen that RP1, RP2, and RP3 reveals the KVK closed syllable's structure for the word /mas/ [ma‿h] 'emas.'

CONCLUSION

To conclude, based on Clements' syllable representation and Zaharani and Teoh Boon Seong's syllable structure [4], [5], the DMP syllable structure falls into type III. It means that the DMP syllable pattern is KV (K), that is, KV and KKV open syllables and KVK closed syllables (consisting of KVK, KV.KVK, and KVK.KV).

REFERENCES

[1] B. Worawit, *Pengaruh bahasa Thai ke atas dialek Melayu Patani: Kajian kes sosiolinguistik di wilayah Pattan*i, Thesis, Jabatan Pengajian Melayu: Universiti Malaya, 1990.

[2] C. Suraiya, "Memartabatkan bahasa Melayu di selatan Thailand," *Dewan Bahasa*, pp. 45-47, 2013.

[3] U. Ruslan, *Ciri-ciri istimewa dialek Melayu Patani: Satu tinjauan*, Thesis, Department of Eastern Language: Prince of Songkhla University, 2005.

[4] G.N. Clements, "The geometry of phonological feature," *Phonology Yearbook,* vol. 2*,* pp. 225-252, 1985.

[5] A. Zaharani & T.B. Seong. *Fonologi autosegmental penerapannya pada bahasa Melayu,* Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, 2006.

[6] L. Othman, *Penyelidikan kualitatif pengenalan kepada teori dan metod,* Tanjong Malim: Penerbit Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, 2012.

[7] M.S.H. Hussin, *Penguasaan bahasa Melayu di kalangan pelajar sekolah rendah tahun satu,* Kuala Lumpur: Gateway Publishing House, 2010.

[8] Y. Maris, *The Malay sound system,* Kuala Lumpur: Fajar Bakti Sdn. Bhd, 1980.