

Traces of Proto-Austronesian Language in Old Javanese Based on The Mṛwak Inscription (1108 Śaka/1186 AD)

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of writing this article is to find out traces of the Proto Austronesian language in Old Javanese based on the Mṛwak Inscription. The method used is a qualitative method with a comparative historical linguistic study. The research to be conducted is also descriptive. This is because the results will be in the form of pictures based on the existing facts, which try to explain problem-solving about the data and then draw conclusions in the form of an overview of the research objectives. Data collection was obtained through field research in the form of written sources. The written source is in the form of the Mṛwak Inscription which has been transcribed and translated. After all the data is collected and then analyzed to solve the research problem. The steps of data analysis in this study were to compare some words in the ancient Javanese language contained in the Mṛwak Inscription with the Proto-Austronesian dictionary regarding sound changes. From the results of the analysis, it was found that several basic words in the Mṛwak Inscription did not experience a change in sound (linear) or which underwent a change (innovation).

Keywords: *Inscription, Proto Austronesian Language, Old Javanese, comparative historical linguistics*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Proto-Austronesian language is an old language that derives some cognate languages that have the largest number of speakers in the world, ranging from the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, even from the coast of Africa, Vietnam, Taiwan, Hawaii, Esther Island, to New Zealand [1]. The Proto-Austronesian language is a language family originating from mainland Asia. Archaeological evidence shows that the first Proto-Austronesian-speaking communities lived about 8,000 years ago on the coast of China (Taiwan) and then branched out into various types of languages about 6,000 years ago [2].

The distribution of the Proto-Austronesian languages in the archipelago is divided into two, namely the West Austronesian and East Austronesian sub-groups [3]. The Javanese language belongs to the West Austronesian sub-family. Based on the written evidence found, there are three kinds of Javanese language based on its era, namely Old Javanese, Middle Javanese, and New Javanese. Old Javanese

language is used to describe the language that is known from texts in various forms and contents originating from different periods. The texts were written during the Hindu-Buddhist period which covered the area of Central Java and East Java in the 7-15 century AD [4].

One evidence of the use of the Old Javanese language can be found in the Mṛwak Inscription. That inscription dates to 1108 aka (1186 AD) and is located in a public cemetery in Mruwak Village, Dagangan District, Madiun Regency, East Java. Related to tracing the traces of the Proto-Austronesian language in Old Javanese based on the Mṛwak Inscription, several words can be analyzed using a comparative historical linguistic study.

Based on these assumptions, the problem of this research is how are the traces of the Proto-Austronesian language in the Old Javanese language based on the Mṛwak Inscription? The purpose of this study is to reveal traces of the Proto-Austronesian language in Old Javanese based on the Mṛwak Inscription.

The history of language research is research conducted by looking for kinship relationships between languages and repeating old languages that have inherited the existing languages to date. Comparative historical linguistics is a language study that questions language over a certain period and examines what changes have occurred [3]. The study of comparative historical linguistics at the phonological level is most often used as the basis for determining comparisons. This is because in the reconstruction the 'word' is the key in conducting the analysis and it is through the original 'word' that the phoneme and its changes are found. Only in word structure, changes in each phoneme with its variants occur [5]. There are several forms of sound change from proton language. The sound changes include linear change, innovation change [3], assimilation, and dissimilation [6]. Based on the place, there are several types of sound changes [6], including Apheresis, Syncope, Apocope, Prothesis, Paragog, and Metathesis [3].

Research related to traces of the Proto Austronesian language on some ancient Javanese inscriptions can be said to be new research in the field of Archeology (Epigraphy). Combining the inscription data sources with the study of comparative historical linguistics is a way of analysis in examining the inscription data sources, especially in terms of language to find the proton language.

2. METHODS

This research method is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive research is carried out so that the results can be in the form of a narrative based on the facts. This research method is described in several stages, including data collected, then analyzed, and finally, the results of the analysis are presented in the form of conclusions.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Mŗwak inscription is one of the inscriptions that are still in situ and is sacred by the local population. The inscription is located in the middle of a public grave, precisely in the northernmost part (back). The inscription is bordered by a perimeter fence that separates it from other tombs. The Mŗwak inscription is carved on andesite stone in the shape of a rectangle (block) with a pointed peak. This block-shaped inscription developed around the 9th to 16th centuries AD and its distribution only developed in Java, especially in East Java [7].



Figure 1. Mŗwak Inscription
(Source: Personal, 2007)

The transcriptions of the Mŗwak inscription is as follows:

The Front

1.
2. (śri)
3. _ (sa) ḥajña haji raja pŗasasti ma
4. taṅḍa rakryan ikhañ asīma rama
5. mŗwak swasti śaka warṣaṭīta ri śaka
6. 1108 phālguna dasa klapakṣa mawulu ma sa wa
7. tu(?) nairita sidhi śiṅha _ _ sasi _ uma rika di
8. waśa rasa yajya śrī jaya prabhu dhwaja thunda
9. _ _
10. puśaka rakai rama kadi rakryan dmuṅ
11. śri paja hajjaśya raka wamaśudra prabhu ha _
12. rakryan juru jaraḥ śri _ śapata _ ka _ _
13. wuśanya śasaña _ ---saruran saka dhū
14. ma ḥkā(na) ----- śa -----

Back

1. ka juru pañalas (?) ṅa
2. _ ṅra ma na
3. bahta rakṣa naruḥu sa _ (b) damapaṅ.....
4. _ _ _ bāyabya mañaran matta hayu mata _ _ _
5. _ kasēḥ śira bathara śri jaya mantra saka pama
6. saḥ ḥwara nusa śarwweṅayāpala mŗwañ śamara sa
7. makana mañan śri kanuruḥ ḥasa rakṣa tanda duka ni
8. ra śwamartya mayākarma ranabhūmi juru talaṅ

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 9. <i>madhawa kraḥ matta thūnah ruru dṣa __ haḍa rat</i> | 1. <i>taparasi</i> |
| 10. <i>lumaliḥ muṅgah ḥara maḥ khadahāka tyāṣawikra</i> | 2. <i>ma(?)nalas wama</i> |
| 11. <i>ma juru manutan samanta sakara kaḥa sīma mṛ</i> | 3. <i>na sāḥāmi ha</i> |
| 12. <i>wak hanananugrahan śrī maharajasa dṛ</i> | 4. <i>ji wipra ṇata</i> |
| 13. <i>wya yajñā sīma ma ṣāruḥaṅ kati śarabha</i> | 5. <i>ra ki ra(?) sira</i> |
| 14. <i>kakatan kaka ruṣa wanara paya bhuwa nala ra</i> | 6. <i>mata nyapan</i> |
| 15. <i>tā kamala.....wakā</i> | 7. <i>ṇikaḥ</i> |
| 16. <i>ṣadī māṣa °ka ---- raja _ _ _</i> | 8. <i>sīma kaḥ</i> |
| | 9. <i>karusak</i> |
| | 10. <i>ḥajar haji</i> |
| | 11. <i>praśasti</i> |
| | 12. <i>sira mawas</i> |
| | 13. <i>.....kama</i> |
| | 14. <i>saprahara</i> |
| | 15. <i>śrī jaya pra</i> |
| | 16. <i>bhu -----ka</i> |

Left Side

1. *ṇṣa*
2. *bhutāla*
3. *kadapa nusa*
4. *kaḥ miṣdani(?)*
5. *_ _ rasa saṣa*
6. *sīta dhamū*
7. *manawa ka*
8. *wya kapu*
9. *nyayan kala*
10. *wa tā la(ra)*
11. *haḥa _*
12. *masalas*
13. *ta.....*

Right Side

Regarding the traces of the Proto-Austronesian language in Old Javanese based on the Mrwak Inscription, some Old Javanese words were found which will be analyzed by comparing them with some words in the Proto-Austronesian dictionary [8]. This study, it will only focus on basic words, not including derivative words. In addition, only words that are derived from the Proto-Austronesian language will be analyzed, not including borrowed/borrowed words. The words are as follows:

Table 1. Sound Change Forms From Proto-Austronesian Languages

No.	Proto-Austronesian	Old Javanese (Based on the Mrwak Inscription)	Sound Change
1.	* <i>ta(n)ḍa</i> (sign)	<i>taṅḍa</i> (sign)	linear
2.	* <i>ijan</i> (that)	<i>ikhaḥ</i> (that)	innovation (*j → kh)
3.	* <i>di</i> (in)	<i>ri</i> (in)	innovation (*d → r)
4.	* <i>ka</i> (from)	<i>saka</i> (from)	prothesis (*ø → sa)
5.	* <i>(ḥ)ke</i> (so that)	<i>ḥkā</i> (so that)	innovation (*e → ā)
6.	* <i>roṅo</i> (listen)	<i>ruṅu</i> (listen)	innovation (*o → u)
7.	* <i>(ḥ)aran</i> (name)	<i>ḥaran</i> (name)	linear
8.	* <i>kasi</i> (give)	<i>kasēḥ</i> (give)	innovation (*i → ē)
9.	* <i>siḍa</i> (they)	<i>śira</i> (he/she)	innovation (*d → r)
10.	* <i>kaRaC</i> (bite)	<i>kraḥ</i> (bite)	syncope (*a → ø)
11.	* <i>ruru</i> (fall)	<i>ruru</i> (fall)	linear
12.	* <i>alih</i> (move)	<i>alih</i> (move)	linear
13.	* <i>saruN</i> (wrapping)	<i>ṣaruṅ</i> (sarung cloth)	innovation (*a → ā), (*N → ṅ)
14.	* <i>ka(a)kaa</i> (parrots)	<i>kaka</i> (parrots)	linear
15.	* <i>Rusa</i> (deer)	<i>ruṣa</i> (deer)	linear
16.	* <i>nusa</i> (island)	<i>nusa</i> (island)	linear
17.	* <i>rasa</i> (feel)	<i>rasa</i> (feel)	linear
18.	* <i>hanaa</i> (there is)	<i>hana</i> (is that)	linear
19.	* <i>mata</i> (eye)	<i>mata</i> (eye)	linear
20.	* <i>tapa</i> (call)	<i>sapa</i> (call)	innovation (*t → s)
21.	* <i>rusak</i> (damaged)	<i>rusak</i> (damaged/destroyed)	linear
22.	* <i>azar</i> (teach)	<i>ajar</i> (teach)	innovation (*z → j)

4. CONCLUSION

From the results of the analysis, it is known that there are several basic words in the Old Javanese language found in the M̄rwak Inscription. When compared with the form of the Proto-Austronesian language, some words do not experience a sound change (linearly) such as the word *tañḍa* (sign), *ḡaran* (name), *ruru* (fall), *aliḡ* (move), *kaka* (parrots), *ruṣa* (deer), *rasa* (feel), *hana* (is that), *mata* (eye), and *rusak* (damaged/destroyed). In addition, several words have undergone changes (innovations) from the proton language, including the word *ikhañ* (that), *ri* (in), *saka* (from), *ḡkā* (so that), *ruṅu* (listen), *kaṣḡḡ* (give), *ṣira* (he/she), *kraḡ* (bite), *ṣāruṅ* (sarung cloth), *sapa* (call), and *ajar* (teach).

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