

The Diverse Way of Naming the Entity Reference of Fauna Lexicons in *Using* Language

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Abstract

Indonesia is one of the countries which is rich with its culture including vernacular languages. One of those languages is *Using* language spoken by its speakers in Banyuwangi Regency, East Java, Indonesia. A lot of researches have done on this indigenous language, but it is still interesting to be conducted because of its declining use due to the domination of Bahasa Indonesia as a national language and lingua franca. This research aims to describe the diversity of the way of naming of entity references of fauna lexicons in *Using* language. The theory applied in this research is proposed by Evans (in Martinich, 1996: 247 and 271-283) in which he states that basically name is used for labelling human, place, things and so on which is definite because names given to entity references contain assumption of the person giving the name so the listeners can identify the references. To collect the data of the research, there are three methods used, namely documentation, observation, and interviews. The result of the study shows that there are 11 ways of naming on fauna. The naming of fauna are based on the characteristics of smell emitted, the method of locomotion, the method of self-protection, the method of moving, the physical similarities, the behaviour similarities, the characteristic of sound emitted, the habitat, the place of searching for food, the size, and the colour. It is expected that the results of the study can give contribution on how lexicons of *Using* language can be treated for its maintenance.

Keywords: indigenous language; *Using* language; ways of naming

1. Introduction

Language is essential in humans' lives, it takes to differentiate between humans and animals; it is what we use to understand ourselves. Among about six or seven languages in the world today but the hurting and terrible thing is at the end of the 21st century almost half of these languages would have died. The languages having been in endangered condition must be vernacular languages which belong to small languages (the number of speakers is less than one million)

Using language is one of vernacular languages existing in Indonesia, exactly a vernacular language spoken by a group of people living in some small pouch speakers in Banyuwangi regency. Geographically, Banyuwangi regency is a regency with fertile land consisting of hills and lowlands as a good place for various kinds of fauna to grow (Banyuwangi in Angka, 2010). Besides, because of its fertile land, this area is considered as a potential ecoregion for growing for many kinds of animals as the portray of a high biodiversity. Various existing species of animals in this region is a part of the diversity. All the animals living in the surrounding of the *Using* ethnic community (here after referred to UEC) give various unique ways of naming on them.

Evans (in Martinich, 1996: 247 and 271-283) put forward two theories about names: Name Denotation Theory and Causal Theory of Name. According to the Name Denotation Theory that a name is deemed to denote something only if it can generate a description of the entity it refers to when it is used, whereas the Causal Theory of Name suggests that a name is deemed to denote an entity only if there is a causal relationship that can be traced from the use of the name to the entity it names. Related to the meaning contained behind the names of fauna, Jacobs (in Laird & Gorrel, 1971: 92-93) cited the meaning behind the names of animals are named after the following, such as: (1) the origin of place of an entity associated with the origin of the entity, such as Pekingese, a dog from Peking (China), Scotty is from Scotland, and Spaniel is from Spain (Spanish); (2) the size, ie the naming of an entity that is associated with the size of the entity, such as horsefly (horse fly, its size is

very large) and bumblebee (large wasps), (3) the type of food (means of sustenance), namely the naming of an entity associated with the type of food eaten by the entity, such as linnet is a kind of flax seed bird (in Latin *linum*); (4) the type of sound emitted such as a cat animal in some areas called *meong*, puppies called dog *gukguk*, and cattle beast called *embek*; (5) the shape, such as the ringworm 'roundworms' is a kind of worm that looks like a bracelet; fiddler crab, a kind of large clamp crab and when its jaws lifted, it looks like a player holding a ball; (6) the method of locomotion, the naming of an entity associated with the way of moving, such as grasshopper that moves by jumping; dove is a bird moving like a diving person; (7) colour, the naming of an entity associated with its colour, such as redbreast is a type of bird whose breast is red, white star is one type of starlings that all are white, and so forth; (8) facial expression, the naming of an entity associated with its facial expressions, such as *dodo* (the dummy *doudo* 'ignorant') a bird that can not fly; (9) the mode of scratching, the naming of an entity associated with scratching when the entity feels itchy, such as raccoon (Algon, Arathcone 'scratching by hand', i.e. animals that resemble cats; (10) the mode of excretion, the naming of an entity associated with the way it disposes, such as a butterfly, a butterfly-shaped insect that is shaped like butter out of its packaged pack.

The data of this study are in the form of words about the names of animals living in the living quarters of the UEC. To collect the data of the research, there are two methods used, namely documentation and interviews. The documentation technique is applied by reading the dictionary of *Using* language in order to find the names of fauna written. All fauna names are then classified based on their class. Meanwhile, the interview technique is done by interviewing some resource persons to obtain information about the meaning of fauna's name in *Using* language

2. Discussion

As mentioned in the previous section, in Banyuwangi Recency, generally and in the neighbourhood where the UEC live, various kinds of fauna live. The diversity of fauna species is also accompanied by the diversity of lexicons that are referred to by the diversity of naming methods undertaken by the UEC. Based on data analysis and field observations it was found that there are eleven ways of naming of the fauna that live in this region. Here is the description of each way of naming of the fauna found in UEC surroundings.

1) Naming based on the odour issued

Because of the interaction with the biota that exist in their environment, then humans can know the presence or absence of certain animals around them because of the odour issued by the animal that serves to defend itself from its enemies, like the poison that is on the insects. Based on data analysis and field observations it was found the *tikuslangu* and *walangsangit* are mammals and insects named after the odour they release. *Tikuslangu* is a kind of mice whose urine smells lousy 'not tasty'. Meanwhile, *walangsangit* is a kind of grasshoppers whose urinate smells burnt. This type of grasshopper usually attacks the newly fruitful rice and if peeing grasshoppers about the grain of rice then it can cause the rice grains become *gabug* 'empty'. If the attacks of these locusts on a large area they cause losses to farmers.

2) Naming based on physical characteristics

Various names and lexicons arise because of the diversity of names based on physical characteristics. The physical characteristic referred to is a special feature found in fauna entities compared to something found in other objects or in the environment. Among the species of fauna are named based on their physical characteristics, namely *dudhukdom*, *kala supit*, *kulbuntet*, *samberilen*, *ulacinde*, and *wedhuskendit*. *Dudhukdomis* a type of skinny dragonfly, pointed tail like *dom* 'needle', dark purple and usually found around the river or ditch. *Kala supit* is a type of insect that resembles a larger scorpion-sized nipple and is found living in rice fields. *Kul buntet* is a small-sized snail type, blackish-green, and does not have a hole (*bunthet*). *Samberilenis* a small beetle-type insect with shiny wings and is often found around the house. *Ula cinde* is a kind of greyish green venomous snake that has a

yellow circle around its neck resembling a necklace (*cinde*). Meanwhile, *wedhus kendit* is a medium-bodied type and mostly white furry with a white circle at the waist-like belt.

3) Naming based on how to move

Different creatures have different ways of moving. For example, most bird species move by flying, such as eagles, sparrows, and so on. How animals living in UEC neighbourhoods moving has inspired them to name the animals based on their movements. The names of animals named after the movement are *wedhus gibas*, *ancel-ancelangin*, *dudhu kenthelong*, *semut angkrang*, and *ula kelasa*. *Dudhuk enthelong* is a type of yellowish dragonfly with the movement of *encelong-enchelong* 'creeping'. If the egg-laying season comes, this movement is usually done while throwing eggs. *Kala jengking* is a type of insect which is venomous with the motion nickname 'menungging'. *Semut angkrang* is a type of ant that moves by *ngangkrang* 'crawl'. Meanwhile, *Ula kelasa* is a type of snake that moves to fool the enemy by rolling the body like people rolling *kelasa* 'pandan mat'.

4) Naming based on self-defence

There are many ways how animals defend themselves or subdue their enemies. Elephants, for example, defend themselves through their physical strength and trunk, while the tiger defends itself through sharp teeth. Meanwhile, certain reptiles, such as snakes defend themselves with poisoned lethal twists, whereas fluctuating body colours is a self-sustaining way of chameleons. This phenomenon inspires the UEC to name certain insects and reptiles, such *uler geni*, *uler senggenit*, *semut geni*, *semut gatel*, *ula silara*, and *ula weling*. *Uler geni* and *semut geni* are the type of caterpillars and ants that each feathers and bites make people feel as hot as being hit by fire. Meanwhile, *uler senggenit* and *semut gatel* are also the type of caterpillars and ants that each feathers and bites can make people feel itchy. Of the group of reptiles, there are two types of snake which are named based on the effects they generate, namely *ulasilara* and *ula weling*. *Ula silara* is a type of snake that if it does not feel hurt (*lara*) when it is stepped on, it will not bite. Conversely, if hurt, such as stepped on, this snake will bite. This also happens to *ula weling*, which is a type of snake that can be twisted while biting to remind (*eling*) his enemy not to disturb it.

5) Naming based on similarity of physical form

There are some faunas of insect groups named after similarities of physical form with certain entities although there are not many, such as *ulairus*, *ulerjaraan*, and *tawonkeroso*. *Ula irus* 'serpent cobra' is a type of snake that in certain circumstances, the shape of his head resembles *irus* 'spoon made of coconut shell'. *Ulerjaraan* is a type of two-sided caterpillar (resembling a horse's ear), a black neck, flat backs like a saddle / horse saddle, and an adult caterpillar has a tail. *Tawon keroso* is a type of wasp that forms a nest like *keroso*, round container made of woven coconut leaves which was in ancient times used to put rice or vegetable pot in the kitchen. This wasp nest is usually found attached to the branches of big trees.

6) Naming based on equations of behaviour

Based on data analysis, there are two types of entities named by the nature/behaviour of the entity, namely *dudhuk maling* and *emprit kaji*. *Dudhuk maling* is a type of dragonfly that has the nature of a thief, which is out to find food on a dark day. *Emprit kaji* is one type of sparrow who feed on the trees in the form of ants or small worms. The name of the study is given because, according to the UEC the lower part of the bird's nest consists of layers that resemble the soft mattress of a *kaji*, one who holds a *haj*, who is rich and honourable and has a high social status.

7) Naming based on the sound issued

Almost the same as the way of naming based on where to find food, based on the analysis of data and observations in the field, the way of naming of an entity based on sound is also very few, such as *uler keket* and *walang keretek*. *Uler keket* is a type of caterpillar that usually lives in banana leaves and when disturbed, it will issue sound ket-ket-ket, while *walang keretek* is a type of locust that usually lives in trees in the forest with large body size and sound especially heard at night.

8) Naming by living place

Some animals or insects whose names are based on living places can only be found in certain environments. For example, grasshopper species are found in many types of grasses, insects of beetles are generally found in flowering plants, and so on. Associated with naming based on animal living places, UEC names several animals based on their place of life, such as *semutpudhak*, *tawonsruk*, *ulasawa*, *walanggodhong*, and, *walangpari*. *Semutpudhak* is a type of ant that found in *pandan* flowers, which smells fragrant and the water tastes sweet. *Tawonsruk* is a kind hornet with black wasp and yellow butt nesting in the cracked or deep soil (*jeru*). *Ula sawais* a type of snake found alive in rice field and eat rodents as stemborer and rice-eating pests, so this snake is considered farmers' friend because it helps farmers to eradicate rat pests. In the meantime, *walanggodhong* is kind of grasshopper found in leaves of wooden trees, and *walangpari* is a type of grasshopper, each found alive in leaves, stems, and rice leaves. This last type of locusts can cause losses to farmers because they eat the leaves of rice.

9) Naming based on where to eat

The number of entities named after this model is very few, *bangokebo*, *bangowedhus*, and *jalaksuren*. *Bangokebo* is one of the crane species that alight on the buffalo's back to look for fleas or other insects attached to the pet's body. Meanwhile, *bangowedhus* is a kind of flea-eating heron or other insects attached to goats, *whereasjalaksuren* is one of a few species of flea-eating starlings or other insects that live on a combed ponytail of horses.

10) Naming by size

The faunas found in living environments of UEC have varying sizes, from the largest, such as cow or buffalo to the smallest, as ant or mosquito. Based on this diversity of size, UEC names several faunas based on body size, such *asdudhuk kacangan*, *wedhus kacangan*, and *dudhuk menggala*, *wedhus menggala*, and *tawon menggala*. *Dudhuk kacangan* and *wedhus kacangan* are a type of dragonfly and goat whose bodies are smaller than the body size of dragonfly and goats in general. *Dudhuk menggala* and *wedhus menggala* are each type of dragonfly and goat which each has the largest body size. Meanwhile, *tawon menggala* is the largest type of wasps in terms of the nest. Sometimes UECs call this type of wasp with *tawon kirapa* means a wasp that never feels against the opponent because of the ferocity of the attack and the sting that can kill his opponents.

11) Naming by colour

There are quite a lot of fauna species are named based on the colour, they are *dudhuk kuning*, *dudhuk ruyung*, *kupu kuning*, *lalerijo*, *laler cemeng*, *ula gadhung*, and *ula luwuk*. *Kupu kuning* is a yellow dragonfly type and usually found living in paddy fields, especially at the age of one month old. *Dudhuk ruyungis* a kind of dark brown dragonfly resembling the colour of precarious' coconut tree used for wooden house. *Kupu kuning* is a type of small-sized butterfly with yellow colour, found in many areas of the garden. *Laler ijo* 'green fly' is a type of fly found alight on something that smells rotten. *Laler cemeng* 'black fly or house fly' is a type of fly found in neighbourhoods with the most populous population among all types of flies. *Ula gadhung* is a type of snake that is light green like *manga gadhung*, yellowish skin found life twisted in the branches of the tree. *Ula dhawuk* 'green snake' is a type of snake that is older, the poison is more dangerous and has larger body size than *ula gadhung*.

3. Conclusion

Seeing the classification of lexicons about ways of fauna naming by UEC, it seems that UEC gives name on fauna living in their ecoregion in detail. This phenomenon indicates that there must be the interaction between UEC and the ecoregion of fauna so Using Language posses unique lexicons, especially fauna lexicons, which makes its lexicons various compared with other indigenous languages. The result of the study shows that 11 on fauna. The method of locomotion, (3) the method of self-defence, (4) the method of moving, (5) the physical similarities, (6) the behaviour similarities,

(7) the characteristic of sound emitted, (8) the habitat, (9) the place of searching for food, (10) the size, and (11) the colour. The ways of naming in such away has made Using Language different from other vernacular languages in terms of fauna lexicons.

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