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Dialect and Identity: A Case Study of Javanese Use in WhatsApp and Line

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Abstract: Dialect is an identity of a speaker of a given language because based on the dialect, one can know and recognize from which part of the world the speakers are from. A dialect could be regarded as an identity because it has its own characteristics. Not only found in speech and conversation, a dialect can also be found in Netspeak, a language of the Internet, especially in social media. This paper presents our research on the dialect of Javanese in social media. In written language, especially in language of the Internet, a dialect can be recognized from the characteristic of phonetic, morphology, and words. For example, taktuku and tekuku are used by Javanese speakers. Taktuku shows the dialect of East Java and the Solo dialect, while tekuku shows the Banyumas dialect. Both examples show different dialects of Javanese based on their grapheme transcription. This case will be discussed with data in the form of nine conversations of the Javanese group on instant messenger Line and WhatsApp.

Keywords: dialect, transcription, grapheme, instant messenger, conversation

1. Introduction

Javanese is a regional language that has the largest number of speakers in Indonesia. This language is used not only in Java Island, but also in other islands in Indonesia. Due to its vast distribution of usage, Javanese has many variations, both geographically and socially. Geographically, there are three great dialects of Javanese, namely Solo dialect (standard dialect), East-Java, and Banyumas. The Javanese dialect of Banyumas includes the Residency of Banyumas, the Residency of Pekalongan, and the western part of the Residency of Kedu. Javanese dialect of East-Java covers almost all areas of East Java, except Banyuwangi. The standard dialect of Javanese includes Jogja and Solo.

The three dialects of the Javanese have distinctive features that distinguish one dialect to another. One of the differences that characterize the divergence of dialects above is the phonetic variations [a] and [ɔ]. The Javanese dialect of Banyumas has an allophone [a] which located in the open ultima syllable. It does not apply in the Javanese dialect of East Java and Solo because in both dialects, the realization of phoneme /a/ in open ultima syllable is [ɔ].

In the past, the use of Javanese dialects, especially the non-standard ones, is generally unknown to other speakers because it is only spoken in their respective areas. The position and the existence of non-standard dialects were being marginalized. Research and documentation of language is more often done toward the Javanese dialect of Solo dialect which is the standard language.

However, as the changes of technology that produce a new medium of communication, i.e social media, the speakers of Javanese tend to use their respective dialects in conversations in social media. As is known, the language used as a means of communication on social media is not included in the spoken and written language, but the combination of both. It triggers the emergence of new developments in the use of Javanese that previously did not exist, such as the variations of spelling.
The difference comes from the phonetic differences that become the characteristic of certain dialects. The word *aja* 'do not' is written as *aja* by the speaker of Banyumas dialect because the pronunciation of the word in Banyumas dialect is *[aja]*. But, the word above is written *ojo* by other dialect speakers because the pronunciation is *[ja]*. The spelling variation arises because the language used in social media is the spoken language that written. Netizen tends to write down what they hear. In fact, the provision issued by the Language Center; the writing of *aja* is *aja*, not *ojo*. In addition, there is also a difference in the affix form that shown in the conversation data in social media. The word *ngerungokna* 'listening' shows the difference forms of affix which at the same time indicates the Banyumas dialect. The affixed-word comes from the word *rungu* ‘hear’ added by affix {*N*- + *-ake*} which in the standard Javanese is known as affix {*N*- + *-ake*}.

Based on that background, this research aims to show the variation of Javanese through the conversations in Javanese that take place in social media. This research has novelty in terms of research data source, which is social media. The previous research related to Javanese dialect has already been done. However, the data source of the research above is not social media, but some informants who are considered to be eligible, and generally are the older generation. The novelty of this research data source is also related to the data update. The speakers of Javanese who use social media are the new generation of gadget users. Guiraud in said that the dialect of language has several levels that are described by five differences, namely the differences of phonology, semantics, onomasiology, semasiology, and morphology. The data of instant conversation in social media shows that the intensity of phonological, morphological, and vocabulary differences between one dialect and another are quite high. Therefore, this research aims to show the differences in phonological, morphological, and vocabulary features of Banyumas dialect, East Java dialect, and Solo dialect through social media conversations. Since the conversations in social media are using written media as a means of communication, phonological differences are expressed through spelling differences. It is a new feature that distinguishes one dialect from another that has never been discussed before. The morphological differences are shown by the different form of one affix which has the same function. The difference of form is also appearing through spelling differences. Vocabulary differences are observed from word variations used by any dialect which is not used by other dialects. The social media that are chosen as the data sources are *Line* and *Whatsapp*. Both are the most popular social media today in Indonesia.

2. Methodology

This research examines the differences in phonology, morphology, and vocabulary shown in the data of conversation in social media. The sound system of Javanese dialect that is considered as standard language is described in as follows. The vowel of Javanese consists of five vowel phonemes that have two allophones and one *pêpêt* vowel phoneme which has only one allophone. In other words, Javanese has six vowels. The five vowels that have two allophones are divided into two variants, namely (i) a vowel with high sonority (series á) *[a, e, i, u, o]*; and (ii) vowels with low sonority (series à) *[æ, e, i, u, o]*. There are three factors that determine the presence of variant á and à, i.e the open or the close of syllables; the sound unit of language formed from syllables; and the position of syllables in sound units. Series á belongs to closed syllables; and Series à belongs to an open syllable. Besides using the vocal system of Javanese, this research also uses the consonant system of Javanese. There are twenty-one consonant phonemes of Javanese; they are */bl, /cl, /dl, /dh/, /fl/, /hl, /lj, /lk, /lq, /ll, /l/, /l/, /nl, /ny/, /ng/, /pl, /rl, /sl, /tl, /th/, /sw/, and /ly/*. The consonant is distinguished by their articulation, the place of articulation, positional relationships, and the movement of the vocal cords.

The phonological features of Javanese dialect of East Java according to are three, namely the presence of eight vowels phoneme, i.e */al, /ll, /ul, /ul, /sl, /sl, /sl, /sl* examples *[ambah]* 'width' and *[ambha]* 'explore'; the presence of sound correspondence [lh] with *[h]*, as the examples *[muloh]* and *[muluh]* and [uh] with *[Uh]*, as the example *abuh* becomes *[aboh]* and *[abUh]*; and the omission of phoneme */w*/ at the beginning of the word *wutuh* becomes *[utUh]*. The phonological features of
Javanese dialect of Banyumas are described as follows. The vowel /a/ on the closed ultima syllable is pronounced [i], as the example pitik [pitik], the vowel /a/ in the closed ultima syllable is pronounced [u], as the example abuh [abuh], and the vowel /a/ on the open ultima syllable is pronounced [a], as the example lara [lara]. The consonant of Banyumas dialect, which is found in the phoneme /b, d, g, k/ and /p, t, k, ?, o/, when being contrasted with the Solo dialect is pronounced [p], [t], [k], [?], and [o].

As already mentioned, the researches that discussed the dialects of Javanese have been widely practiced. The results of the research conducted by shows that the process of affixation contained in Javavenese dialect of Malang consists of prefixation, suffix, and confix. There are four prefixes found in the research, namely {N-}, {m-}, {di-}, and {ke-}. There are five suffixes found in the research, namely {-i}, {-na}, {-en}, {-an}, and {-e}. There are six confixes found in the research, namely {N-/i}, {dipeN-/i}, {peN-/an}, {ke-/an}, {-a-/an}, and {-el-/en}.

Meanwhile, the results of research conducted by show that the process of affixation consists of prefixation, suffix, infixation, and confixation. The prefixes found in the research are {ng-, m-, n-, ny-, nge-}, {di-ide-}, {tek-}, {ka-/ke-}, {sa-/se-}. The suffixes found in the research are {-i}, {-akel-aken}, {-nai-kna}, {-en}, {-e}, {-an}. The confixes found in the study are {ke-an}, {ke-en}, {pa-an}. The prefixes of the standard Javanese are

The prefixes of the standard Javanese are {N-}, {di-}, {tak-}, {kok-}, {ma-}, {mer-}, {ka-}, {ke-}, {a-}, {aN-}, {sa-}, {paN-}, {pa-}, {pi-}, {pra-}, {kuma-}, {kapi-}, meanwhile suffixes the standard Javanese are {-i}, {-ake}, {-a}, {-en}, {-na}, {-ana}, {-an}, and {-e}. The confixation of Javanese is a process of combining affixes in the form of prefixes and suffixes. The confixes of Javanese, such as {ka-an}, {-in-an}, {ke-an} {ke-en}, {paN-an}, {pa-an}, {pi-an}, {pra-an}, {tak-an}, {tak-ke}, {tak-e}, {kami-en}, and {sa-e}.

A vocabulary list or complete dictionary which contains the vocabulary of every dialect has never been made. By far, the dictionary is the dictionary that has the largest number of vocabularies among numbers of existing dictionaries. The dictionary is utilized to discuss the vocabulary used in each dialect.

3. Data Analysis and Discussion

The data sources of this research are nine conversation groups in Line and WhatsApp consisting of three groups of Javanese dialect of Banyumas (The Alumni of SMANA 1, CLUBBAN UI, and SBS Familia), three groups of Javanese dialects of East Java (Aremakara UI, Imaba Rantau, and Cemewew), and three groups of Javanese dialects of Solo (SETU PAHING, JAMDA Kontingen Solo, and Himadiksan). The data were taken from December 2016 to February 2017. The data were classified based on differences in phonetic features depicted by grapheme transcription and grammatical elemental differences. The determination of these differences. In addition, the data are classified by specific vocabulary that characterizes a particular dialect. The examined data show that the emergence of phonological features that distinguish Banyumas dialect from other dialects is quite high. These different phonological characteristics are observed from the differences in the grapheme transcription of phonemic allophonic of <a> in open ultima syllables. The phoneme /a/ has two allophones, namely [a] and [ɔ].

The grapheme convention which applicable to the vowel phoneme /a/ and its allophones based on the provisions issued by the Language Center is <a>. The grapheme convention applies to three Javanese dialects. Below is the example of official spelling that applies to all dialects for words bisa 'can' and nyata 'real'.
Table 1. The Official Spelling.

| Phonetic Transcription | Banyumas | Solo | East Java |
|-------------------------|----------|------|-----------|
| [bisa]                  | bisa     | [bisa] | [bisa]    |
| [nyata]                 | nyata    | [nyɔta]   | [nyɔta] |

As explained in the preceding chapters, the three dialects of Javanese have different phonetic features. Actually, these features are not shown by grapheme transcripts that officially established by Language Center as shown in table 1. However, the speakers of Javanese in social media have their own way of writing down the words they use according to the pronunciation they understand. Based on that case, it is observable the different way of writing (spelling) used by the speakers of Javanese according to its dialect.

Below is the example of Javanese dialect of Banyumas occured in instant messages group conversations Line and WhatsApp.

(1) **ana apa jane ngad?**
‘What’s the matter, Ngad?’

The pronunciations of the words *ana* and *apa* by the speakers of Banyumas dialect are *[ana]* and *[apa]*. Therefore, the grapheme transcription of phoneme <a> in those two words corresponds to the official spelling rule. However, this does not apply to the Javanese dialect of East Java as seen in the following example.

(2) **Aku tak melok sma 10 ae gaopo a?**
‘I’m going to high school 10, it is okay right?’

(3) **Wingi onok sosialisasi lek onok perubahan**
‘Yesterday there was socialization (that) there was a change’

As seen in the two examples above, the words *ana* and *apa* are written with *opo* and *onok*. The writing is in accordance with the Javanese dialect of East Java, i.e *[ɔpɔ]* and *[ɔnɔ]*?. The same condition is also expressed by the speakers of the Javanese dialect of Solo.

(4) **Opo to ndan, ngomong apo nggrendhem**
‘What on earth! (are you) talking or grumbling?’

(5) **Ra sah dolan adoh2 gus helemu ra ono kocone no**
‘Do not go too far (because) your helmet does not have the glass’

The writing of the words *apa* and *ana* done by the speakers of Solo dialect are *opo* and *ono*. The writing is in accordance with the pronunciation of the Javanese dialect of Solo, i.e *[ɔpɔ]* and *[ɔnɔ]*?. The difference of East Java dialect and Solo dialect lies in the writing of the word *ana*. The pronunciation of the two speakers of East Java dialect and Solo dialect for *ana* is different. It causes the writing of the word *ana* is also different. The differences in pronunciation and spelling of the three dialects are presented in Table 2 below.
The spelling differences of <a> and <o> occur in all words, the phoneme /a/ in the ultima syllable and the penultimate is open. Below are some examples from Banyumas dialect (6), East Java (7), and Solo (8).

(6) Koe tukune pira
   'How much do you buy?'

(7) Kok iso moro moro aku diomong nduve roso iku lo.
   'How can I, suddenly I was just said to have those feelings, you know?'

(8) entenana yujo pulpam disk.
   'Wait (me) please, do not go home first'

Based on the examples above, it is clear that the differences of phonetic features of Banyumas dialect and other dialects are also illustrated by the spelling used in social media. Thus, the use of the letters <a> or <o> in social media can be the indicator to find out the dialect of Javanese which is phonetically divided into two, namely dialect [a] and dialect [ɔ]. The Javanese dialect [a] is represented by the dialect of Banyumas, while the Javanese dialect [ɔ] is represented by other dialects.

The morphological features that distinguish the three dialects are primarily shown through the diverse use of {-ake} suffixes. The data of conversation on social media shows that the suffix {-ake} is only used by the speakers of Solo dialect which is the standard language. However, the frequency of occurrences of suffix {-ake} is very little. Below are the examples of Banyumas dialects (9), East Java (10), and Solo (11).

(9) Anjay, nembe wingi di gadekna ginjale
    'Waow, just yesterday, the kidney was mortgaged'

(10) Mek gak ngerti sg dikarepno dosen e
    'If you do not know what the lecturer wants'
     Iyo iki lek g di marekne wedi ganok waktu
     'Yes, this if it’s not completed, the fear that there will not be another time (anymore)'

(11) Wah ojo di bayangnee.
    'Wow! Do not imagine'
     Mayo preinan do ngopo neng omah mending ngringke awak neng pantai
     On the holiday, why stay at home, it is better to dry out the body at the beach'

From the examples above, it is known that the suffix {-ake} has different forms depending on its dialect. The speakers of Banyumas dialect use the suffix {-na} as the variant form of {-ake}
because the pronunciation of the word *digadekna* is *[digaḍekna]*. Meanwhile, the speakers of the East-Java dialect use the suffix {*-ne*} or {*-no*}. Further, the suffix {*-no*} is actually the same as {*-na*}, but is different in terms of pronunciation. The difference in pronunciation distinguishes the chosen orthography by the speakers of each dialect. The pronunciation of *dikarepno* is *[dikarəpnɔ]*. The speakers of East Java dialect also use the suffix {*-ne*} as the variant of {*-ake*}. The form is also used by speakers of Solo dialect. The suffix {*-ake*} that is registered as the standard form in book [7] is only used by the speakers of Solo dialect (example 11b), but the frequency of occurrence is very low. The forms variety of {*-ake*} is summarized in table 3 below.

### Tabel 3 The Comparison of Affix {*-ake*}.

|                | Phonetic Transcription | Social Media | Standard Grammar |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Banyumas       | *[digaḍekna]*          | {*-na/-kna*} |                 |
| East Java      | *[dikarəpnɔ]*          | {*-no/-kno*} | {*-akel/-kake*} |
|                | *[dimare?ne]*          | {*-ne/-kne*} |                 |
| Solo           | *[dibayaŋne]*          | {*-ne/-kne*} |                 |
|                | *[ŋriŋke]*             | {*-kel/-ake*} |                 |

The word variations used by the speakers of Javanese dialect also characterize a distinguishing distinction. The following examples show the usage of several words used only by the speakers Banyumas dialect.

12. *Bali maning keneh*
   ‘Return here again’

13. *Priwe er lancar?*
   ‘How, went well?’

14. *nyata apa ora kuwe?*
   ‘That is real or not?’

15. *Ngesuk paling erlan sungkem disit meng koe wo*
   ‘Tomorrow, Erlan will sungkem to you first, Wo’

16. *Zan, tuku bae hpku kie*
   ‘Zan, (you) just buy my cellphone’

The bold words above are examples of vocabulary that distinguish Banyumas dialect from other dialects. The words *maning, priwe, kuwe, disit, bae, kie* are the synonym of the word *maneh, piye, kuwi, dhisik, wae, and iki* that are recorded in the dictionary and are considered as the standard words.

Actually, the vocabularies above are already known as the characteristic of Banyumas dialect. The use of those words in social media does not show the difference with what is observed through spoken narrative. The change of communication media that presents social media as a new communication medium has enabled the speakers of Banyumas dialect to spread out their distinctive features. Social media also allows the speaker of other dialect to observe and recognize the use of Banyumas dialect through the vocabulary used. The dialect of East Java also has a different vocabulary from other dialects. Although some of the vocabularies used by speakers are the same as the vocabulary used by the speakers of Solo dialect, but the different pronunciation makes the spelling
used by the two dialects different. One of the most prominent features of East Java dialect is the addition of glottal sound [ʔ] to the words which the ultima syllable and the penultimate are open, e.g \( \text{ana} \) [aːnə], \( \text{aja} \) [aːjə] becomes [aːnəʔ] and [aːjəʔ]. The writing of the words in accordance to the dictionary can not show the difference that occurs in the dialect of East Java with the standard form. However, the spelling on social media shows the difference clearly. Below is an example of the use of words \( \text{aja} \) and \( \text{ana} \) in social media Line and Whatsapp which by the speakers of East Java dialect is being written by \( \text{onok} \) and \( \text{ojok} \).

\[ \text{sesok onok sosialisasi rek} \]

‘Tomorrow there is socialization, friends'

\[ \text{Ojok lali nggowo topi, upacara saiki} \]

‘Do not forget to bring a hat, now is the ceremony'  

The data also show that East Java dialect can be recognized through the use of particle \( a \) in the sentence. This particle is not found in other dialects. Example:

\[ \text{Wes turu kabeh a iki?} \]

‘Are you all sleeping?’

\[ \text{5ewu gaole a yo?} \]

‘5000 won’t work, right?’

From the examples above, it can be concluded that the identity of certain dialect speakers can be easily recognized through the vocabulary used in social media. The particular feature of dialect which was originally only recognizable through its oral narratives (pronunciation) is now easily recognizable through the spelling used in social media.

4. Conclusion

The results of the research of the Javanese dialect with the social media as the data sources show that social media as a new medium to communicate has provided new space for non-standard dialect language speakers who have been marginalized to have the same position with the dialect speakers of the standard one, i.e Solo dialect. The differences in phonetic features and vocabulary that have been characterized by the pronunciation of each dialect speakers are now also marked by the orthography required in communicating through social media. It is based on the character of language in social media which is a spoken-written language. The differences in morphological features which previously noted by previous researchers also appear in this research data. However, this research found a new form, the suffix \{-ne\} as the variant of \{-ake\} used by the speakers of East Java and Solo dialect that did not mentioned by previous research.

Finally, it can be conveyed that the netizen who is a new generation of Javanese speakers has created a new space for the use of Javanese dialect. They have moved the geographical area (as a dialect marker) into a new territory, namely social media, especially on instant messages Line and WhatsApp. The creation of the new territory is motivated by the role of the group conversation as a gathering place for Javanese speakers with the same dialect.

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