

Language Variation and Phoneme Distribution in Toba and Simalungun Languages

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ABSTRACT

Variations of language that exist in society are systematic but not random, as what can be seen from Toba and Simalungun languages (TSL). This research was qualitative since it only collected and described TSL's language variation and phoneme distribution. Data was taken from interview. The results show that vowel assimilation can be seen from TSL's words *horbo* vs *horbou*, *eme* vs *omei*, and *mate* vs *matei*. Consonant assimilation exists in TSL's combination, such as, *baba* vs *babah*, *tubu* vs *tubuh*, *mangolu* vs *manggolou*, *manjolom* vs *manggolom*, *biang* vs *baliang*, and *unang* vs *ulang* in which consonants /h/, /g/, /gg/, and /al/, and /l/ are found. Ellipsis appearing in /o/-/u/, /e/-/i/, /h/, /e/-/ui/, /b/-/l/ in Toba's words such as *horbo*, *eme*, *eta*, *marlange*, and *bagak* can be found in Simalungun's *horbou*, *omei*, *heta*, *marlangui*, and *lagak*. With reference to phoneme shift, several shifts in Toba's consonant, such as, /rs/, /j/, and /e/ in words, such as *marsuan*, *manjolom*, and *marlange* have become /n/, /gg/, and /ui/ in words for example *manuan*, *manggolom*, and *marlangui* in Simalungun.

Keywords: Language variation, assimilation, ellipsis, phoneme distribution, Toba and Simalungun languages

INTRODUCTION

Language can describe the culture of the people who use that language. Through language, culture of the language users can be understood, for example, their way of thinking. [1] Indonesian regional languages, for instance TSL, become assets that must

be preserved. The two languages have proved to enrich vocabularies in Bahasa Indonesian. As part of culture language is the most flexible and powerful intellectual tool developed by humans, and so do the TSL. These languages consist of variations occurring in terms of geographical aspects and close distances; the variations might refer to differences and similarities. Basically, most of the borrowing in a language are lexical. [2]

Three problems are raised in this research: 1) what lexical variations do the TSB languages have? 2) what phonetic differences do the TSL consist? and 3) what semantic differences do the TSL exist? Therefore, this research is aimed at describing the form of variations, and phonetic and semantic differences in the TSL.

LITERATURE REVIEW

I. What are language variations?

Bell (1995: 51) suggests that the variations of language that exist in society are systematic but not random, because language has two basic aspects, namely form and meaning. Aspects of form include sound, writing, and structure. Aspects of meaning include lexical, functional, and structural meaning. [3] He added that, if we look in more detail, we will see that language in its form and meaning shows both small and large differences between one expression and another. [3] He noted an

example that the difference in the pronunciation of /a/ spoken by one person from one time to another. Likewise, the pronunciation of the English word /white/ from one time to other experiment differences. Differences in language forms such as these and others can be called language variations. [3]

Language variations can be seen in the following classifications (from points A to G):[4],[5]

A. Language variations from the speaker's point of view

1) Idiolect

Idiolects are individual variations of language. According to the concept of idiolect, everyone has his/her own language variation or idiolect. This idiolect variation relates to the "color" of the sound, choice of words, language style, sentence structure, and so on. But the most dominant is the color of the voice, so that if we are familiar enough with someone, just by hearing his voice without seeing the person, we can recognize him.

2) Dialect

Dialect is a variety of language from a group of speakers who are relatively in number, who are in a certain place, region, or area. This dialect is based on the region or area where the speaker lives; this dialect is commonly called an area dialect, regional dialect or geographic dialect. The speakers in a dialect, even though they have their own idiolect, have the same characteristics that indicate that they are in one dialect, which is different from other groups of speakers, who are in their own dialect with other characteristics that mark their dialect as well.

3) Chronolect or temporal dialect

Chronolect or temporal dialect is a variety of language used by social groups at a certain time. For example, variations of Indonesian in the thirties, variations used in the fifties, and variations used today. The language variations in the three eras were

certainly different, both in terms of pronunciation, spelling, morphology, and syntax. The most visible are usually in terms of the lexicon, because this field is very easy to change due to changes in social culture, science, and technology. The words *ringgit*, *sen*, and *rupiah* (the name of the currency), for instance, are used at different times. Previously, the Indonesians had used the words *ringgit* and *sen*.

4) Sociolect or social dialect

Sociolect or social dialect is a variation of language with respect to the status, class, and social class of the speakers. In sociolinguistics, in general, this variation of language is the most talked about, because this variation involves all the personal problems of the speakers, such as age, education, sex, occupation, aristocratic level, and socioeconomic status. The differences in language variations are not related to the content of speech, but differences in morphology, syntax, and vocabulary.

B. Language variations by age

Variation of language used based on age level. For example, variations in children's language will be different from variations in the language of teenagers or adults. The word *maem* 'to eat' for example is used by children to express different eating activities with adults. The word *bobok* 'to sleep' is also a variation of children's language to express sleep activities.

C. Language variations by education

This language variation is a language variation related to the level of education of the language user. For example, people who only received elementary school education will have different language variations with people who have graduated from high school. The words specific, implementation, and proportional, for example, are used by people who have higher education. While people who only graduated from elementary school generally do not use these words, but they use "special" word to replace specific words.

D. Language variations based on sex

Language variations based on sex are language variations related to gender, in this case male and female. For example, the variation used by women will be different from the variety of language used by men. Women's language variations are generally softer than men's. Language variations based on gender can also be seen from the vocabulary produced. Vocabularies such as sarong, *udeng*, cap, *koteka* (Papuan word), mustache and others are related to men. Meanwhile, vocabularies such as menstruation, bun, lipstick, bra, pregnancy, veil, and others are related to women.

E. Language variations by occupation

This language variation is related to the type of profession, occupation and duties of the users of the language. For example, the variations used by workers, teachers and doctors certainly have different language variations. For example, teachers use students' words, curriculum, semester exams, report cards, and others, which are different from variations in the language of doctors who use injections, prescriptions, drugs and others.

F. Language variations based on nobility

Language variations based on the level of nobility are language variations related to the level and position of nobility or kings in society. For example, there are differences in the language variations used by raja (descendants of the king) with ordinary people in the field of vocabularies, such as the Indonesian word *mati* 'dead' for ordinary people, while the kings use the word *mangkat* 'passed away'.

G. Language variations based on socioeconomic conditions

Language variations based on the economic level of the speakers are language variations that have similarities with language variations based on nobility level, only the economic level is not absolute as inheritance as is the case with nobility level. For example, someone who has a high economic level will have a different variety of

language with people who have a weak economic level. The poor, for example, use the words *jinggo* rice and yellow rice, while the rich use the words pizza, burger, spaghetti and others to refer to the type of food.

II. What is semantic defined?

Semantics is the study of meaning and examines symbols or signs that express meaning, the relationship of meaning to one another, and its influence on humans and society. Therefore, semantics includes the meanings of words, their development and changes. The object of semantic study is the meaning of language or more precisely, the meaning of language units such as words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and discourses. Language has levels of analysis, namely phonology, morphology and syntax. The parts that contain semantic problems are lexicon and morphology.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Research object and locations

The object of this research is the Toba and Simalungun Batak languages. The research was carried out in Hasulungan village, Raya Kahean district, Simalungun regency and Medan Labuhan district, Medan. Both locations were located in North Sumatera Province, Indonesia. The research informants were Opung Sinaga/br. Saragih for Simalungun language and Opung Sianturi/br. Siregar for Toba language.

Toba community is mostly found in North Tapanuli regency having a temperature of around 17-29°C and with an average humidity of around 85.04%. this regency covers an area of about 1,060,530 Ha including the waters of Lake Toba which is predicted to have an area of 110,260 Ha. The Toba population is estimated at around four million people. North Tapanuli is geographically located in the middle of the North Sumatra province, namely in the Bukit Barisan mountains which is located at 10 20 -20 40 North Latitude and 98010-90035 East Longitude. Geographically, North Tapanuli regency is located at 10 20

"-20 41" North Latitude and 900 05" - 990 16" East Longitude, and is directly adjacent to five regencies, namely in the north it borders with Toba Samosir regency, in the east with Labuhan Batu regency, in the south with South Tapanuli regency, and in the west with Humbang Hasundutan regency and Central Tapanuli regency. North Tapanuli regency has 15 districts, and one of which is Sipahutar having 23 villages and mostly inhabited by the Toba people, partly inhabited by the Minang and the Javanese immigrants.

Simalungun regency is located on the line 20 53" 20" – 30 01" 00" North Latitude and 990 1"00" - 990 6" 35" East Longitude. This district has 31 districts with an area of 438,660 hectares or 6.12% of the total area of North Sumatra province. The regency consists of 345 villages and 22 districts. This regency is dominated by the Simalungun and immigrants such as the Javanese and the Malays. Raya district is divided into 17 villages and the districts are, for the most part, inhabited by the Toba and Simalungun people.

B. Research methods

This study is qualitative, aimed at gaining understanding and describing complex realities. Qualitative research produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words based on the people or behavior observed. [6] The approach is directed at the background and the individual as a whole. [7]

C. Data collection techniques

In order it is valid, the research is not only based on knowledge possessed, but also information in the form of relevant data and is used as research materials for analysis. The data collection techniques carried out are as follows:

1. Library studies

Understanding what is being researched, then the effort to make the research good. It is necessary to have materials obtained from other libraries. According to Supranto, library studies are "Data collection

techniques are carried out with data or information material through scientific journals, reference books and publication materials available in the library". [8] With this, the research is not only based on the researcher's own thoughts but also on other opinions.

2. Interview

Research requires relevant data to support in ongoing research, and one of which is through interviews. An interview is a form of communication between two people, involving someone who wants to get information from another person by asking questions, based on a specific purpose. In general, interviews consist of two parts, namely structured and unstructured interviews. Unstructured interviews are also called in-depth interviews, intensive interviews, qualitative interviews, open-ended interviews (open-ended interviews), and ethnographic interviews. Meanwhile, a structured interview is a standardized interview in which the structure of the questions has been predetermined (usually in writing) with the answer choices provided. [9] An interview is a conversation with a specific purpose and such conversation is carried out by two parties, namely the interviewer who asked the question and the interviewee who gave the answer to the question.[10]

So, in this case the researcher also collects data through interviews to get really relevant information from relevant sources, thereby knowing the truth and making beliefs for researchers.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Language variation

1. Assimilation

Assimilation is the change of sound from two dissimilar sounds into the same or almost the same sound. This happens because the sounds of the language are spoken sequentially so that they have the potential to influence each other or be influenced. Assimilation is divided into two,

namely, vowels and consonants assimilation.[11], [12]

a) Vowel assimilation

Vowel assimilation is a change in vowel sound with the addition or removal of vowels but still has the same meaning. Table 1 shows that the vowel consonant /sa/ in Toba's *saotik* is released in the Simalungun's into *otik*. Toba's *horbo* gets phoneme addition of /u/ to become Simalungun's *horbou*. The word *harotas* in Toba becomes *hortas* in Simalungun. Toba words *eme* and *mate* changes to *omei* and *matei*; addition of the phoneme /i/ happens here. Consider Table 1 below.

Table 1. Vowel assimilation in TSL

No.	Toba	Simalungun	Meaning	Shift
	<i>saotik</i>	<i>otik</i>	a little	sa-
	<i>horbo</i>	<i>horbou</i>	cow	u
	<i>harotas</i>	<i>hortas</i>	a sheet of paper	ar-or
	<i>eme</i>	<i>omei</i>	rice	e-o-i
	<i>mate</i>	<i>matei</i>	dead	i

b) Consonant assimilation

Consonant assimilation is a change in vowel sounds with the addition or removal of consonants but still have the same meaning. Learn Table 2 in the following.

Table 2. Consonant assimilation in TSL

No.	Batak Toba	Simalungun	Meaning	Shift
	<i>andingan</i>	<i>attigan</i>	when	nd-tt
	<i>sompit</i>	<i>soppit</i>	narrow	m-p
	<i>manangko</i>	<i>manakko</i>	to steal	ng-k
	<i>marsuan</i>	<i>manuan</i>	to plant	rs-n
	<i>baba</i>	<i>babah</i>	mouth	h
	<i>tubu</i>	<i>tubuh</i>	birth delivery	h
	<i>mangolu</i>	<i>manggoluh</i>	alive	g-h
	<i>manjolom</i>	<i>manggolam</i>	to hold	j-gg
	<i>biang</i>	<i>baliang</i>	dog	l
	<i>unang</i>	<i>ulang</i>	never	n-l

Consonants /nd/ and /m/ in Toba's *andianan* and *sompit* are assimilated to consonants /tt/ and /p/ in Simalungun's *attigan* and *soppit*. Consonants /ng/ and /rs/ in Toba's *manangko* and *marsuan* undergo assimilation into /k/ and /n/ in Simalungun's *manakko* and *manuan*. Consonant assimilation can be found for Toba's *baba*, *tubu*, *mangolu*, *manjolom*, *biang*, and *unang* into Simalungun's *babah*, *tubuh*, *manggoluh*, *manggolam*, *baliang*, and *ulang* in which consonants /h/, /g/, /gg/, and /al/, and /l/ in Simalungun.

2. Ellipsis

Ellipses or ellipsis is the removal of words or a number of language words from a sentence with the aim of making it shorter and better structured. The ellipsis are found in /o/-/u/, /e/-/i/, /h/, /e/-/ui/, /b/-/l/ in Toba words such as *horbo*, *eme*, *eta*, *marlange*, and *bagak* to become Simalungun's *horbou*, *emei*, *heta*, *marlangui*, and *lagak*.

Table 3. Ellipsis in TSL

No.	Batak Toba	Simalungun	Meaning
	<i>harbo</i>	<i>horbou</i>	cow
	<i>eme</i>	<i>omei</i>	rice
	<i>marlange</i>	<i>marlangui</i>	to swim
	<i>bagak</i>	<i>lagak</i>	beautiful
	<i>eta</i>	<i>heta</i>	come on

B. Distribution of phoneme

i) Phonemes with null shift

Phonemes with null shift have the same phoneme and meaning. The distribution of phonemes in TSL are generally the same; changes are not found for some certain words (see Table 4).

Table 4. Phoneme distribution in TSL

No.	Toba's phoneme distribution	Simalungun's phoneme distribution	Meaning
	<i>au</i>	<i>au</i>	I
	<i>on</i>	<i>on</i>	this
	<i>ise</i>	<i>ise</i>	who
	<i>dalan</i>	<i>dalan</i>	road
	<i>padan</i>	<i>padan</i>	promise
	<i>rap</i>	<i>rap</i>	Same
	<i>mangan</i>	<i>mangan</i>	to eat
	<i>boan</i>	<i>boan</i>	to bring
	<i>indahan</i>	<i>indahan</i>	rice
	<i>barita</i>	<i>barita</i>	news

ii) Phoneme shift

Shift is available for some certain words in Batak and Simalungun languages, for instance, Toba's consonant /rs/, /j/, and /e/ in words, such as *marsuan*, *manjolam*, and *marlange* to become /n/, /gg/, and /ui/ in words for example *manuan*, *manggolam*, and *marlangui* in Simalungun.

Table 5. Phoneme shift in TSL

No.	Toba's phonemes /rs/, /j/, /e/	Simalungun's phonemes /n/, /gg/, /ui/	Meaning
	<i>marsuan</i>	<i>manuan</i>	to plant
	<i>manjolam</i>	<i>manggolam</i>	to hold
	<i>marlange</i>	<i>marlangui</i>	to swim

CONCLUSION

From the research results and discussion, it is concluded that language variation, such as assimilation (including vowel and consonant assimilation), and ellipsis and distribution of phonemes (like null shift of phonemes and phoneme shift) are available in TSL. Vowel assimilation can be seen, for example, in Toba's *horbo* gets phoneme addition of /u/ to become Simalungun's *horbou*. Toba words *eme* and *mate* changes to *omei* and *matei*; addition of the phoneme /i/ happens here. Consonant assimilation exists in Toba's *baba*, *tubu*, *mangolu*, *manjolom*, *biang*, and *unang* into Simalungun's words, for instance, *babah*, *tubuh*, *manggolu*, *manggolam*, *baliang*, and *ulang* in which consonants /h/, /g/, /gg/, and /al/, and /l/. Ellipsis appearing in /o/-/u/, /e/-/i/, /h/, /e/-/ui/, /b/-/l/ in Toba's words such as *horbo*, *eme*, *eta*, *marlange*, and *bagak* can be found in Simalungun's *horbou*, *emei*, *heta*, *marlangui*, and *lagak*. With reference to phoneme shift, several shifts in Toba's consonant, such as, /rs/, /j/, and /e/ in words, such as *marsuan*, *manjolam*, and *marlange* have become /n/, /gg/, and /ui/ in words for example *manuan*, *manggolam*, and *marlangui* in Simalungun.

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