DIALECT VARIATION IN EVERYDAY COMMUNICATION IN MAJALENGKA: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY OF SUNDANESE LANGUAGE USE

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ABSTRACT

Examining dialect variance in daily communication in Majalengka, West Java, is the goal of this study. Understanding how Majalengka residents utilize the Sundanese dialect variant in daily communication and investigating the factors that affect its usage are the primary goals of this study. This study employs a sociolinguistic method, which examines the connection between language and society. Participants in the survey and interview methods come from a variety of social backgrounds and educational levels in Majalengka. In the first phase of this investigation, data was gathered through participant interviews and recordings of normal conversations. The dependent and independent variable analysis approach was then used to qualitatively assess the data. It is anticipated that the study's findings would demonstrate the Sundanese dialect variance that Majalengka uses in daily conversation. The social and linguistic elements that affect the usage of this dialect variation will also be disclosed by this investigation. The study's conclusions can help us better understand how the Majalengka region uses dialect variances in daily communication. It is anticipated that the results of this study would support the preservation and upkeep of the Sundanese language and serve as a foundation for the creation of suitable teaching and learning methods for Sundanese for upcoming generations. It is anticipated that this study will make a substantial addition to the field of sociolinguisti, particularly in the area of comprehending Sundanese dialect differences. Furthermore, the findings of this study can serve as a guide for future investigations on dialect differences in Indonesian regional languages.

Mengkaji varian dialek dalam komunikasi sehari-hari di Majalengka, Jawa Barat, adalah tujuan dari penelitian ini. Memahami bagaimana penduduk Majalengka menggunakan varian dialek Sunda dalam komunikasi sehari-hari dan menyelidiki faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi penggunaannya adalah tujuan utama penelitian ini. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode sosiolinguistik, yang meneliti hubungan agara bahasa dan masyarakat. Partisipan dalam metode survei dan wawancara berasal dari berbagai latar belakang sosial dan tingkat pendidikan di Majalengka. Pada tahap pertama dari penelitian ini, data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara partisipan dan rekaman percakapan sehari-hari. Pendekatan analisis variabel dependen dan independen kemudian digunakan untuk menilai data secara kualitatif. Diharapkan bahwa temuan penelitian ini akan menunjukkan perbedaan dialek Sunda yang digunakan oleh masyarakat Majalengka dalam percakapan sehari-hari. Unsur-unsur sosial dan linguistik yang mempengaruhi nggunaan variasi dialek ini juga akan diungkap melalui penelitian ini. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini dapat membantu kita untuk lebih memahami bagaimana wilayah Majalengka menggunakan variasi dialek dalam komunikasi sehari-hari. Hasil penelitian ini diharapkan dapat mendukung pelestarian dan pemeliharaan bahasa Sunda serta menjadi dasar bagi penciptaan metode pengajaran dan pembelajaran bahasa Sunda yang sesuai untuk generasi mendatang. Diharapkan penelitian ini dapat memberikan

sumbangan yang berarti dalam bidang sosiolinguistik, Kususnya dalam memahami perbedaan dialek bahasa Sunda. Selain itu, temuan dari penelitian ini dapat menjadi panduan untuk penelitian-penelitian selanjutnya mengenai perbedaan dialek dalam bahasa-bahasa daerah di Indonesia.

Keywords: dialect variations, everyday communication, Majalengka, Sundanese, sociolinguistics.

INTRODUCTION

This study examines dialect variation in daily communication within Majalengka, West Java. Dialects play a crucial role in understanding the relationship between language and society, as they often reflect social, cultural, and regional identities. The Sundanese language, widely spoken in West Java, presents nificant variation in its usage, particularly in different regions such as Majalengka. The main objective of this study is to explore how Sundanese dialect va variation manifests in everyday communication among the people of Majalengka. Additionally, it seeks to identify the factors-social, linguistic, and educational-that influence this dialectal variation. Several previous studies have examined dialect variation within the Sundanese language and other regional languages in Indonesia, focusing primarily on broader areas of West Java or specific social strata. However, limited research has been conducted specifically in Majalengka, a region with unique linguistic patterns and influences. This gap in the existing literature highlights the novelty and significance of the current study, which offers a detailed exploration of sociolinguistic aspects in a less-studied region. The research employs a sociolinguistic approach, considering language as inherently connected to social interactions and contexts. Survey and interview methods are used to gather data from participants of various social backgrounds, occupations, and educational levels. Through these methods, recordings of everyday conversations, as well as direct interviews, were collected. The data are analyzed qualitatively, focusing dependent and independent variables, to reveal patterns of dialect usage. on both The findings of this study are expected to contribute valuable insights into the Sundanese dialect varion used in Majalengka's daily communication. Furthermore, the study will provide an understanding of the social and linguistic factors that shape the use of these dialect variations. From a broader perspective, the results of this research could have significant implications for the preservation and development of the Sundanese language. Additionally, it could serve as a reference for designing educational strategies aimed at fostering language maintenance among future generations.

METHOD

This study uses a sociolinguistic approach to analyze dialect diversity in everyday communication in Majalengka, with a particular emphasis on the usage of Sundanese language. The approach entails a thorough examination of the research methods. instruments, and analytical procedures utilized to solve the study topic.

1. Research Design

The study takes a qualitative approach, gathering and analyzing non-numerical data to better understand dialect diversity in regular talks. The design is exploratory, attempting to find patterns in language use and the social variables influencing these changes. The study takes a qualitative approach, gathering and analyzing non-numerical data to better understand dialect diversity in regular talks. The design is exploratory,

attempting to find patterns in language use and the social variables influencing these changes.

2. Participants

The study's subjects are locals of Majalengka, West Java, who communicate in Sundanese. To achieve a broad representation of the community, participants are selected using a purposive selection method from a **variety of social backgrounds, age groups, and educational levels.** The sample size is 30 people, divided into groups based on age (young, middle-aged, old), educational level (elementary, secondary, and further education), and occupation (students, workers, and retirees).

3. Data Collection Methods

This study's data are gathered primarily through **two methods: surveys and interviews.** These strategies ensure a complete grasp of dialect variations and the factors that influence language use.

a. Survey

A structured survey is utilized to collect data on the participants' language preferences and tendencies in various social circumstances. The study includes **closed-ended and open-ended questions** about the use of Sundanese in informal and formal settings, the frequency of dialect variation, and the impact of social and cultural factors on language preference.

b. Interviews

In addition to surveys, **semi-structured interviews** are done to acquire a better understanding of the reasons behind dialect diversity. The interviews are designed to learn about the participants' opinions of dialect use, how they adjust their language in different social circumstances, and the factors that impact their dialect choice (for example, age, social status, and education). The interviews are recorded and transcribed for analysis.

c. Observation and Recording

To capture actual language use in everyday communication, **direct observation** of natural conversations is undertaken in a variety of social settings, including markets, schools, and public meetings. **Audio recordings** of these interactions are made to guarantee that dialect variances are accurately documented. This method gives real-life data on the spontaneous use of dialects.

4. Research Instruments

The instruments used in this study include:

- The survey questionnaire includes structured questions regarding participants demographics, linguistic habits, and attitudes towards Sundanese dialect differences.
- Interview guide: Questions to guide semi-structured interviews, including language variance, usage patterns, and social aspects.
- Audio recording devices capture natural conversations for precise transcription and analysis.
- Field notes are taken during observation sessions to capture contextual aspects that impact dialect use, such as location, interlocutor connections, and social contexts.

5. Data Analysis Techniques

The collected data are analyzed using **qualitative content analysis**, with a focus on identifying patterns in dialect variation and the factors influencing them.

a. Transcription and Coding

The recorded interviews and conversations are transcribed verbatim. After transcription, **coding** is used to detect recurring themes, language patterns, and variables influencing dialect variation. The coding process consists of organizing data into categories such as:

- Dialect variation (coarse vs. polite forms of Sundanese)
- Social factors (age, education, social status)
- Situational factors (formal vs. informal settings)

b. Dependent and Independent Variable Analysis

The study employs a dependent and independent variable analysis technique. The dependent variable is dialect variance (the types of Sundanese dialects used), while the independent factors are age, education, occupation, and the formality of the occasion. This analysis aids in understanding how various social factors influence the choice of dialect in communication.

c. Thematic Analysis

A thematic analysis is used to interpret the qualitative data. Themes are developed from the coded data, with an emphasis on the interaction between social conditions and dialect diversity. For example, the study looks at how younger people may speak a more

6. Validity and Reliability

Triangulation is used to guarantee that research findings are genuine. Data from surveys. interviews, and observations are compared and cross-checked to ensure that the findings are correct. Furthermore, a member-checking process is used, in which participants are invited to evaluate the transcriptions and interpretations of their interviews to ensure the accuracy of the data.

7. Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval was acquired before to conducting the research, and participants were informed of the study's aims. All subjects provided informed consent, which ensured anonymity and voluntary participation. The audio recordings were used purely for research purposes and anonymised to safeguard the participants' identities.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings from the qualitative analysis of dialect variations in everyday communication among the Sundanese speakers in Majalengka. The results detail the various lexical items observed in the study, their meanings, and the contextual factors influencing their usage. This discussion integrates the findings with existing literature, providing a comprehensive view of the social dynamics shaping dialect use in this region.

1. Overview of Dialect Variations

The research identified a range of dialect variations in Majalengka, as outlined in the table below. Each entry lists the term used in various dialects alongside its standard meaning. The presence of multiple terms for the same concept reflects the rich linguistic diversity within Sundanese.

No	Dialect Variations	Meaning
1	Katilambung, Kaduhung, Hanjakal	Menyesal (Regret)

2	Ngajrut, Ancleg, Abrut, Ngajleng	Lompat (Jump)
3	Belot, Lumpat	Lari (Run)
4	Bebeh, Calik	Duduk (Sit)
5	Nyanyo, Kumbah	Cuci (Wash)
6	Dahar, Tuang	Makan (Eat)
7	Nginum, Leueut	Minum (Drink)
8	Pamajikan, pun istri	Istri (Wife)
9	Sare, mbo, kulem	Tidur (sleep)
10	Nempo, ningal	Melihat (See)
11	Nguping, mireng, ngadangu	Mendengar (Hear)
12	Labuh, geubis	Jatuh (Fall)
13	Auh, udur, rieut	Sakit (Sick)
14	Kawih, miang, mangkat, mios	Berangkat (Leave)
15	Ballik, mulih, uih	Pulang (Go Home)
16	Ulin, ameng	Main (Play)
17	Ngkek, seuri, seseurian	Ketawa (Laugh)
18	Poho, hilap	Lupa (Forget)
19	Hese, sesah	Sulit (Difficult)
20	Pandenge, ceupil, ceuli	Telinga (Ear)
21	Kami, urang, abdi	Aku (I)
22	Dewek, maneh, awak, anjeun	Kamu (You)
23	Ngasab, gawe, damel	Kerja (Work)
24	Salaki, caroge	Suami (Husband)
25	Hampura, hapunteun	Maaf (Sorry)

The richness of these variations highlights the need for a deeper understanding of how language functions within social contexts in Majalengka. The dialectal terms not only convey meaning but also carry cultural significance and reflect local identities.

2. Factors Influencing Dialect Usage

Several factors were identified as influencing the use of specific dialects in everyday communication among the participants.

a. Social Context and Formality

The data indicates that formality significantly impacts dialect choice. Participants reported using more standard dialect forms in formal situations, such as during school or work, while resorting to local dialects in informal settings among friends and family. For example, terms like "kaduhung" were frequently used in formal discussions, whereas "katilambung" was more prevalent in casual conversations. This finding supports previous studies that assert the flexibility of language in adapting to social norms and expectations (Holmes, 2013).

b. Age and Generational Differences

Age played a critical role in dialect choice. Older generations tended to favor traditional dialect forms, while younger speakers were more likely to adopt innovative or mixed dialects. For instance, younger participants often used "mios" instead of the traditional "mangkat" (to leave). This generational shift in

language use echoes findings from other regions, where younger speakers gravitate towards more contemporary language forms (Cheshire, 2005).

c. Educational Influence

Education levels also affected the use of dialects. Individuals with higher education often employed more standardized vocabulary, which is indicative of their exposure to formal language settings. Terms such as "damel" (to work) were frequently reported among educated speakers, contrasting with the use of "gawe" in less formal contexts. This observation reinforces the notion that education plays a significant role in linguistic standardization (Labov, 2001).

3. Comparison with Previous Studies

The findings align with existing research on dialect variation in Indonesia, particularly in Sundanese-speaking regions. Previous studies have noted similar patterns of dialect variation in areas such as Bandung and Cirebon, emphasizing the interplay between social factors and language use. However, this study uniquely contributes to the understanding of dialect diversity within Majalengka, focusing on micro-level variations that reflect local cultural nuances.

For instance, in comparison to research conducted by Nurhayati (2017), which highlighted general trends in Sundanese dialects, this study provides a granular analysis of specific terms and their contextual usage. Such insights can enhance our understanding of how local dialects can vary even within relatively close geographical regions.

4. Implications for Linguistic Preservation

The study's findings underscore the importance of preserving dialect diversity in Majalengka. As globalization and modernization continue to influence language use, there is a risk that local dialects may diminish or even disappear. The observed preference for standardized forms among younger generations highlights the urgency for initiatives aimed at maintaining local linguistic heritage.

Incorporating local dialects into educational curricula could foster greater appreciation for linguistic diversity and cultural identity. Schools could integrate dialect studies into language programs, promoting an understanding of the significance of local dialects in everyday life.

This qualitative study sheds light on the complex tapestry of dialect variation in Majalengka's everyday communication. The findings reveal how social context, age, and education influence language use, reflecting broader sociolinguistic dynamics. By highlighting the rich variety of dialects, this research contributes to the preservation of the Sundanese language and offers insights for future educational strategies. Further studies are recommended to explore the impact of urbanization and technology on dialect variations in Majalengka and beyond.

CONCLUSION

This study examined dialect variation in everyday communication among Sundanese speakers in Majalengka, revealing significant insights into the social dynamics that influence language use. The findings demonstrated that dialect choices are shaped by factors such as social context, age, and education. Participants utilized various dialect forms depending on the formality of the setting, with younger speakers exhibiting a tendency towards modern, mixed dialects, while older generations adhered more closely

to traditional forms. This linguistic diversity underscores the importance of context in shaping communication patterns.

The implications of this research highlight the need for proactive measures to preserve the Sundanese language and its dialects amid the pressures of globalization. The observed generational shifts in language usage signal a potential erosion of traditional dialects, necessitating educational initiatives that incorporate local dialects into curricula. By fostering an appreciation for linguistic diversity, we can ensure the continuity of Majalengka's rich cultural heritage.

Future research should explore the impact of technology and urbanization on dialect variations in Majalengka and other Sundanese-speaking areas. This study lays the groundwork for further investigations into the sociolinguistic landscape of the region, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of dialect variation in Indonesia.

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