

## LANGUAGE VARIETY OF JAVANESE IN MENGARE ISLAND, EAST JAVA

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### ABSTRACT

Javanese is included in Malayo-Polynesian branch of Austronesian language family. It has some distinctive characteristics comparing to other languages used in Java island. When it is used in some particular areas, variations appear. One of the areas that the variations can be found easily is Mengare island. In Mengare island, some Javanese unique lexicons can be found. They are Javanese but some of their linguistic features are much influenced by Madurese. It is quite interesting to investigate since most of the people who inhabit the island are Javanese. Qualitative type of study was chosen as the type of this study. Observation and interview method were used to supply the data of this study. While for data analysis, the writers applied correlation method analysis. The data above show us that there are some lexicons of Mengare which contain variations. The variations are classified into nouns (15 data), verbs (17 data), adjectives (20 data), conjunction (1 datum) and adverbs (3 data). The data are very different from the lexicons used by common Eastern Javanese. Because of that, they are included as Javanese language variety. In general, the variations of language in Mengare Island, cover two things. The first is the variation in the form of lexicons (lexical difference) and the second is the variation of language in the form of morphological process (morphological difference).

**Keywords:** *Language variety, Javanese, Madurese, lexicons, Mengare island,*

### INTRODUCTION

Every language has variations, especially in the ways it is spoken. Variations also occur in Javanese language, a local language that is being discussed in this article. Hudson (1996) defined variety as a specific set of ‘linguistic items’ or ‘human speech patterns’ (presumably, sounds, words, grammatical features, etc.) which can uniquely be associated with some external factors (presumably a geographical area or a social group). The variety of language based on different geography is commonly called as regional dialect. Linguists devote a lot of research survey to the identification of consistent features of language found in one geographical area compared to another. The variety of language related to social group differentiations concerning on the features of language used by different social class in terms of education and economic status is called as social dialect.

This article focuses its discussions on the regional dialect aspects because regional variation as it is stated by Yule (2010) in the way a language is spoken is likely to provide one of the easiest ways of observing variety in a language. As a continuation of Yule’s statement, the term *dialect* is often used to describe various features of grammar and vocabulary. Wardhaugh (2006) stated that differences in vocabulary are often easily recognized in finding language variety rather than grammatical constructions because the grammar is less frequently documented.

According to Thompson (2016), Javanese language is a member of Malayo-Polynesian branch of Austronesian language family. Its closest relatives are Malay, Sunda, Madura and Bali. It is the second most spoken Austronesian language after Indonesian, and the fourteenth most widely spoken language in the world. In general, there are three main dialects of Javanese, these are: (1) Western Javanese which is spoken along the northern coast of West Java, (2) Central Javanese which is considered to be the prestige dialect and served as a basis for standard Javanese, and (3) Eastern

Javanese which is spoken across the majority of the East Java province. Language used in Mengare Island belongs to the third dialect of Javanese language.

Mengare becomes one of island in Bungah Subdistrict, Gresik Regency, locating near Java Island and Madura Strait. Because the island is near Madura Strait, most inhabitants work as sailors. This island is occupied by Javanese, consisting of three villages, that are; Watuagung having 3.000 inhabitants, Tajung Widoro having 4.991 inhabitants, and Kramat Village consisting of 2.951 inhabitants. In daily practices, the inhabitants use Eastern Javanese language. A special case occurs in Kramat Village. In this area, the people apply both Eastern Javanese and Madurese language.

A unique linguistic phenomenon can be found in Mengare, especially in Watuagung and Tajung widoro inhabitants. Though the inhabitants are Javanese, yet sometimes they do not use Eastern Javanese common lexicons. Some lexicons they use are quite similar to Madurese lexicons. This is a very interesting phenomenon to investigate. Therefore, this article is intended to reveal the variations in order to explore the richness of Javanese linguistic repertoire, particularly in Mengare Island.

## METHOD

Qualitative type of study was chosen as the type of this study. Ary, et al. (2010) defined qualitative study as study which focuses on the understanding of social phenomena which include human participants. Observation and interview method were used to supply the data. Some steps of data collection were performed, those were: 1) choosing the subjects: Tajung Widoro and Watuagung inhabitants, 2) observing and recording the utterances of subjects on several days, 3) interviewing some other Javanese people to compare the data. After obtaining the data, the data were analyzed by using correlation method. The results of the data analysis were presented by using informal method.

## ANALYSIS

After the process of collecting data finished, the writers found some unique lexicons used in Mengare. The lexicons are presented in the table below.

Table 1. Data findings

Classification (POS)	Mengare Javanese	Eastern Javanese	Meaning in English
Noun	<i>Amper</i>	<i>Latar</i>	yard
	<i>rek-arek</i>	<i>arek-arek</i>	children
	<i>tak-otak</i>	<i>otak-otak</i>	meal
	<i>te-ote</i>	<i>ote-ote</i>	meal
	<i>Pelapa</i>	<i>Bumbu</i>	season
	<i>Kampek</i>	<i>Tas</i>	goodie bag
	<i>Calon</i>	<i>gimbal jagung</i>	kind of meal produced from corn
	<i>Pangkeng</i>	<i>Kamar</i>	room
	<i>Mageli</i>	<i>lenthos</i>	meal
	<i>nggon-ganggon</i>	<i>camilan/jajan</i>	snack
	<i>Sluwar</i>	<i>celana</i>	Pant
	<i>Gerago</i>	<i>rebon</i>	Shrimb
	<i>Tasmak</i>	<i>kacamata</i>	Glasses
	<i>seto'</i>	<i>siji</i>	One
Verb	<i>Gendak</i>	<i>pacar</i>	Lover
	<i>Jandon</i>	<i>ngomong</i>	Talk
	<i>tor-montoran</i>	<i>montor-montoran</i>	playing a car
	<i>Laki</i>	<i>rabi/kawin</i>	Marry

	<i>Piyapi</i>	<i>pawatan</i>	Pretend
	<i>Cunguk</i>	<i>nyawang</i>	See
	<i>bong obong</i>	<i>obong-obong</i>	Burn
	<i>duk-nyaduk</i>	<i>nyaduk-nyaduk</i>	Kick
	<i>cal-uncalan</i>	<i>uncal-uncalan</i>	Throw
	<i>ngis-nangisan</i>	<i>nagis-nangisan</i>	pretend to cry
	<i>yu-melayu</i>	<i>melayu-melayu</i>	Run
	<i>ndang-nendang</i>	<i>nendang-nendang</i>	Kick
	<i>ngan-mangan</i>	<i>mangan-mangan</i>	Eat
	<i>dok-sodokan</i>	<i>dok-sodokan</i>	Push
	<i>ngguh-lungguh</i>	<i>lungguh-lungguh</i>	Sit
	<i>dus-adusan</i>	<i>adus-adusan</i>	pretend to take bath
	<i>cul-muncul</i>	<i>muncul-muncul</i>	Appear
	<i>Ngeranyam</i>	<i>Kakeyan omong</i>	talk too much
Adjective	<i>Ngeluli</i>	<i>Pikun</i>	senile
	<i>lon-alon</i>	<i>Alon</i>	careful
	<i>nas-panas</i>	<i>panas-panas</i>	hot/warm
	<i>lik-cilik</i>	<i>cilik-cilik</i>	small
	<i>de-gedhe</i>	<i>gedhe-gedhe</i>	big
	<i>tor-notor</i>	<i>notor-notor</i>	in hurry
	<i>nak-enak</i>	<i>enak-enak</i>	delicious
	<i>pang-gampang</i>	<i>gampang-gampang</i>	easy
	<i>les-males</i>	<i>males-males</i>	lazy
	<i>rat-mlarat</i>	<i>mlarat-mlarat</i>	sorrow
	<i>rat-karet</i>	<i>korat-karet</i>	disorganized
	<i>Ngeletes</i>	<i>Mules</i>	overactive
	<i>Letre</i>	<i>endel/kemenyek</i>	prudish
	<i>Tayo</i>	<i>Jago</i>	great
	<i>Kajhu</i>	<i>sok/sombong</i>	pretending
	<i>Terapas</i>	<i>Boros</i>	extravagant
	<i>Briyong</i>	<i>sumuk/gatal</i>	get heated
	<i>nyam nyam</i>	<i>hambar/tawar</i>	tasteless
	<i>Tumpes</i>	<i>Mati</i>	die
	<i>Bae</i>	<i>Wae</i>	only
Conjunction	<i>Moso</i>	<i>karo/ambek</i>	with/and
Adverb	<i>suk-isuk</i>	<i>isuk-isuk</i>	early morning
	<i>wan-awan</i>	<i>awan-awan</i>	daylight
	<i>ngi-bengi</i>	<i>bengi-bengi</i>	night

The data above show us that there are some lexicons of Mengare which contain variations. The variations are classified into nouns (15 data), verbs (17 data), adjectives (20 data), conjunction (1 datum) and adverbs (3 data). The data are very different from the lexicons used by common Eastern Javanese. Because of that, they are included as Javanese language variety.

In general, the variations of language in Mengare Island, cover two things. The first is the variation in the form of lexicons (lexical difference) and the second is the variation of language in the form of morphological process (morphological different).

The first kind of variation for particular can be distinguished again based on the linguistic features attached to the lexicons namely lexical difference. Somehow, the Javanese Mengare in terms of lexicon is quite similar to Madurese. See the following table below:

Table 2. Lexical differences that are closely related to Madurese

Classification	Mengare Javanese	Madurese	Meaning
Noun	<i>tasmak</i> [tas.maʔ]	<i>tasmak</i> [tas.mak]	glasses
	<i>ampér</i> [ampɛr]	<i>ampér</i> [ampɛr]	yard
	<i>callon</i> [cal.lɔn]	<i>callon</i> [cal.lɔn]	meal
	<i>pangkeng</i> [paŋ.kɛŋ]	<i>pangkéng</i> [paŋ.kɛŋ]	room
	<i>gendak</i> [gen.daʔ]	<i>gendak</i> [gen.daʔ]	lover
adjective	<i>calmot</i> [cal.mɔt]	<i>calmot</i> [cal.mɔt]	dirty
	<i>nyamnyam</i> [ɲam.ɲam]	<i>nyamnyam</i> [ɲam.ɲam]	tasteless
	<i>kajhu</i> [ka.j <sup>h</sup> u]	<i>kajhu</i> [ka.j <sup>h</sup> u]	pretending
	<i>briyang</i> [bri.yɔŋ]	<i>briyâng</i> [bri.yɔŋ]	get heated
	<i>tompes</i> [tɔm.pɛs]	<i>tompes</i> [tɔm.pɛs]	die
Verb	<i>jandon</i> [jan.dɔn]	<i>jandon</i> [jan.dɔn]	talk
	<i>congngo'</i> [cɔŋŋɔʔ]	<i>congngo'</i> [cɔŋŋɔʔ]	see
	<i>ngeranyam</i> [ŋɔ.ra.ɲam]	<i>ngeranyam</i> [ŋɔ.ra.ɲam]	talk too much
conjunction	<i>moso</i> [mɔ.sɔ]	<i>moso</i> [mɔ.sɔ]	and

The table 2 above shows that there are fourteen lexicons of Mengare Javanese which are quite similar to Madurese. The lexicons can be categorized into four parts of speech namely nouns (5 data), adjectives (5 data), verbs (3 data) and conjunction (1 datum).

From the table 2 above, it can be concluded that Mengare people, have a good relationship with Madura or even with Madurese language. Javanese language variations appearing identical to the Madurese language, indicate a possibility that the variation arises due to the influence of the process of borrowing vocabulary from Madurese language, when some groups of Mengare people who are Javanese descendants interact with some groups of Mengare people, who are Madurese descendants. After this borrowing-lending process, as the time goes by, the loan vocabularies are then fully characterize the language used by the people. They become the identity of Mengare people in common.

Some unique lexicons found in Mengare Island which resemble Madurese, rather than Eastern Javanese seem to agree with Thompson statement (2016) that mentions that Eastern Javanese is influenced much by Madurese. Thus, Javanese, used in Mengare Island, is categorized as Javanese subdialect which of course is different from other Javanese subdialects or even to the standard one. Zulaeha (2010) stated that when two different languages or dialects are in touch very close each other because of geographical situation, they cannot be averted from the process of lending and borrowing vocabularies, pronunciation, and also grammar (structure, syntax, morphology).

In addition to the existence of lexical differences, this study also found differences in morphological rules. Some words in Javanese Mengare, primarily some reduplicated words, have form that are quite unique because they do not comply with reduplication process in the Java language, yet more similar to the existing reduplication rules in Madurese language. The example of this variation can be seen in table 3 below.

Table 3. Morphological pattern differences that are closely related to Madurese

Classification	Mengare Javanese	Eastern Javanese	Madurese	Meaning in English
noun	<i>rek-arek</i>	<i>arek-arek</i>	<i>nak-kanak</i>	children
	<i>tak-otak</i>	<i>otak-otak</i>	<i>tak-otak</i>	meal
	<i>te-ote</i>	<i>ote-ote</i>	<i>te-ote</i>	meal
	<i>nggon-ganggon</i>	<i>camilan/jajan</i>	<i>ghu'-gângghu'</i>	snack
verb	<i>duk-nyaduk</i>	<i>nyaduk-nyaduk</i>	<i>dhu'-nandhu'</i>	kick
	<i>tor-montoran</i>	<i>montor-montoran</i>	<i>tor-montoran</i>	playing a car
	<i>cal-uncalan</i>	<i>uncal-uncalan</i>	<i>tal-ontalan</i>	throw
	<i>ngis-nangisan</i>	<i>nangis-nangisan</i>	<i>ngis-nangisân</i>	pretend to cry
	<i>yu-melayu</i>	<i>melayu-melayu</i>	<i>lân-jhâlânan</i>	run

	<i>ndang-nendang</i>	<i>nendang-nendang</i>	<i>jhâ-ngenjhâ</i>	kick
	<i>ngan-mangan</i>	<i>mangan-mangan</i>	<i>kan-ngakan</i>	eat
	<i>dok-sodokan</i>	<i>sodok-sodokan</i>	<i>tok-sotokan</i>	push
	<i>ngguh-lungguh</i>	<i>lungguh-lungguh</i>	<i>ju'-toju'</i>	sit
	<i>dus-adusan</i>	<i>adus-adusan</i>	<i>di-mandiyân</i>	pretend to take bath
	<i>cul-muncul</i>	<i>muncul-muncul</i>	<i>dhul-moddhul</i>	appear
adjective	<i>lon-alon</i>	<i>Alon</i>	<i>on-laon</i>	careful
	<i>nas-panas</i>	<i>panas-panas</i>	<i>nas-panas</i>	hot/warm
	<i>lik-cilik</i>	<i>cilik-cilik</i>	<i>nik-kenik</i>	small
	<i>de-gedhe</i>	<i>gedhe-gedhe</i>	<i>jâ-rajâh</i>	big
	<i>tor-notor</i>	<i>notor-notor</i>	<i>ru-kaburuh</i>	in hurry
	<i>nak-enak</i>	<i>enak-enak</i>	<i>man-nyaman</i>	delicious
	<i>pang-gampang</i>	<i>gampang-gampang</i>	<i>pang-ghâmpang</i>	easy
	<i>les-males</i>	<i>males-males</i>	<i>ka-sengka</i>	lazy
	<i>rat-mlarat</i>	<i>mlarat-mlarat</i>	<i>rat-mlarat</i>	sorrow
	<i>rat-karet</i>	<i>korat-karet</i>	<i>cér-klacér</i>	disorganized
adverb	<i>suk-isuk</i>	<i>isuk-isuk</i>	<i>ghu-laghuh</i>	early morning
	<i>wan-awan</i>	<i>awan-awan</i>	<i>bân-abân</i>	daylight
	<i>ngi-bengi</i>	<i>bengi-bengi</i>	<i>lem-malem</i>	night

Haspelmath (2002) stated that reduplication is a morphological process which repeats the morphological base entirely or only partially. Based on the data above, some Javanese reduplicated words, used in Mengare Island, seem do not follow the common Javanese reduplication rules. In addition, the words tend to use Madurese reduplication rules and the function also. It can be seen from some Mengare reduplicated words which prefer to have partial syllable reduplication (rules in Maderese) instead the full reduplication (rules in Javanese). See the following example of Mengare reduplication.

Arek (stem) → arek-arek (reduplication: full reduplication) → commonly used in Javanese.

Arek (stem) →rek-arek (reduplication: partial) → Mengare reduplication.

Kanak (stem) → nak-kanak (reduplication: partial) → commonly used in Madurese.

Moreover, some words in the table 3 also show that not only the words are reduplicated partially, but also the words are ended by suffix *-an* an the ultimate syllable of the words, for examples, *tor-montoran*, the stem is *montor* (a noun which means “car”), it becomes verb (playing a car). Suffix *-an* can change the noun into verb in the reduplication process. Another morphological function of the suffix *-an in reduplication*, is to indicate superlative. For instance, *pang-gampang* (easy), the word *gampang* (which means easy), when it is changed into *pang-ghâmpang-an*, has a meaning “the easiest.”

## CONCLUSION

The data of variations which occur in Javanese Mengare can be classified into nouns (15 data), verbs (17 data), adjectives (20 data), conjunction (1 datum) and adverbs (3 data). The data are very different from the lexicons used by common Eastern Javanese. Because of that, they are included as Javanese language variety. In general, the variations of language in Mengare Island, cover two things. The first is the variation in the form of lexicons (lexical difference) and the second is the variation of language in the form of morphological rules (morphological difference).

When two different languages come into contact, it is believed that one might influence the other, or the two, influence each other. In the case of Mengare language variety, it is believed that Madurese language influences the existing Javanese language used by the people in the island. This phenomenon is caused by geographical factor.

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