

DIALECTAL VARIATION IN JAVANESE OF KENDAL, CENTRAL JAVA

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ABSTRACT

Kendal is a regency on the north coast of central Java between Batang and Semarang. Javanese is the language used throughout central Java with several dialects postulated. A number of these dialects of Javanese are spoken in areas neighboring Kendal: the Semarsuradupati dialect in the east, the Pekalongan dialect in the west, and the Wonosobo dialect in the south. Kendal is of interest from a linguistic perspective because it is obviously situated in the context of areas where geographical variation is known to exist, but we do not yet have any dialectology or other studies that give a clear picture of what the language situation in Kendal is like. This study attempts to provide just such a picture, based on field work for language mapping. The research uses established methods in dialectology to gather data on 236 words consisting of 200 Swadesh basic words, 11 prepositions, greetings and reference words, and 25 words from the semantic field of kinship. The results go to show whether there is any variation at the level of dialect of Javanese in the area and also identify a number of lexical items or phonemic features that are distinctive of the area. The analysis and discussion also draw on evidence from lexicography, natural environment features and cultural and historical factors.

Keywords: Dialectology, Central Java, language situation, and language variation

INTRODUCTION

According to the Central Java Language Center (2008) there are five dialects of Javanese, namely the Semarsuradupati dialect (ex-Karesidenan Semarang, the Surakarta Residency, the Kedu residency, and the ex-residency of Pati) Pekalongan (Pekalongan, Batang, and Pemasang), Wonosobo (Wonosobo), Banyumas (Banyumas, Cilacap and Kebumen), and Tegal (Tegal and Brebes). To its north, Kendal Regency is bordered by the Java sea. To the west, it is bordered by Batang Regency which uses the Javanese dialect of Pekalongan. In the east, it is bordered by Semarang regency using the Javanese dialect Semardupati while in the south, it borders the Temanggung Regency where the Javanese dialect of Temanggung is used.

The topography of Kendal Regency consists of three areas, the mountainous area located in the south with an altitude up to 2579 M above sea level and where temperatures are generally around 25° C. Next is the hilly area of the middle and then the lowlands and the beaches in the north with an altitude between 0 s / d 10 m dpl and temperatures around 27° C (Kendal in Figures, 2012).

Performing research to produce a language map of the area would be valuable because of the interplay of the geographical and linguistic aspects. No language map produced by dialectology exists at present of the Kendal area. A dialectology study could provide a useful picture of this and also provide data that can make it clear where the different dialects of Javanese are used there.

METHOD

Data for the study was obtained using a questionnaire which was administered to local informants in the field. The procedure involved asking the questions, listening to the responses, taking notes on the phonemic representation of responses, and recording other information given by the informants. Informants were chosen in a manner that supports the goals of the research. By working face to face with informants, it was possible to clarify responses and to probe for further details. The study can be seen as using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative aspects include the

dialectometry, while qualitative methods involve the interpretation of the data obtained. The main data comes from the questionnaire and interviews.

The research area selected is a district in Kendal with observation points unit distributed throughout the district. The criterion for choosing observation points was selected to obtain a comprehensive and representative picture of the language and dialects in Kendal Regency, so all the districts had observation points. These districts were: Boja, Brangsong, Cepiring, Gemuh, Kaliwungu, Kaliwungu South, Kangkung, Kendal, Limbangan, Ngampel, Pageruyung, Patean, Patebon, Pegandon, Plantungan, Ringinarum, Rowosari, Singorojo, Sukorejo, and Weleri.

The design of the questionnaire and choice and presentation of questions was based on Swadesh's basic vocabulary, vocabulary words, greetings, and references, and vocabulary in the semantic field of kinship. The selection of observation points, the locations where data was to be gathered, was done systematically to provide adequate data from all areas for the language maps. The researcher visited all the observation points. A single informant was found for each point. Only informants who met the necessary criteria were chosen. Informants were interviewed by asking all the questions in the questionnaire including a request to provide their views about the status of the language variety in their village. After the data was collected, the researcher entered it into a basic map of the Kendal Regency which showed administrative area boundaries and the location of observation points. Phonological data for each lexeme is entered by the relevant observation point in the form of a symbol. Once all the data from all observation points for all lexemes is entered into maps, these maps are used to complete the dialectometry table. The results of the calculation of the dialectometry table are used to make spider web maps. Spider web maps show the degree of difference between observation points in Kendal District.

ANALYSIS

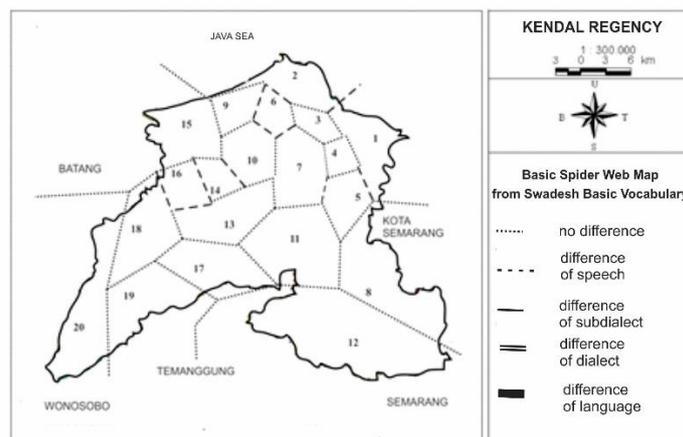
The Language Situation in Kendal

The 236 map symbols are grouped phonetically into several etima, one etima, two etima, three etima, four etima, five etima, six etima, seven etima, and nine etima. The group of one etima is the group with the largest number of variants numbering 103 which represent 44% of the total. This indicates a high level of mutual understanding of speakers of the Javanese language from one village to another all over the area, and thereby a similarity of varieties in Kendal society as a whole.

In the phonetic grouping found many variations of variants to reach 10 symbols. The number of variations of base words arises due to several factors. The most productive factor is the addition of the N-prefix. The addition of the N-prefix tends to be more dominant than the *di-* prefix. This proves that active sentences are used more often than passive sentences. Wedhawati (2006: 429) explains that affixes have two allomorphs *ie / di-* / and */ dipun-* / and allomorphs are only used at the *ngoko* or middle speech level. The emergence of the prefix *in-* suggests that the Kendal community uses the *ngoko* speech level or *madya* speech level in socializing and interacting. In the process of formation of words that exhibit variation, several processes are found, namely **apocope**, the loss of a sound or sounds at the end of a word; **syncope**, the omission of sounds or letters from within a word; **apheresis**, the loss of a sound or sounds at the beginning of a word; **ellipsis**, the omission from speech or writing of a word or words that are superfluous or able to be understood from contextual clues; and **metathesis**, the transposition of sounds or letters in a word. In addition, differences in sounds also participate and the influence of Indonesian language also affects the variants of basic words.

The result of dialectometry from the basic Swadesh vocabulary shows a percentage similarity of below 30%. This shows the difference only to the degree of a difference in speech. The largest percentage of the basic dialectometric table of the Swadesh vocabulary occurs at points 6 (Kecamatan Cepiring) and 9 (Kecamatan Kangkung) with a percentage of 27%. Based on the calculation of basic vocabulary dialectometry of the Swadesh basic words, there are 14 points that have difference in speech, TP 1 (Kaliwungu District), TP 2 (Patebon Subdistrict), TP 5 (District Kaliwungu Selatan), TP 6 (Cepiring Subdistrict), TP 8 (District of Boja), TP 9 (Kangkung Sub-district), TP 10 (Pegandon Sub-district), TP 13 (Gemuh Sub-district), TP 15 (Rowosari Sub-district), TP 17 (Patean Sub-district), TP 18 (Pageruyung District), TP 19 (Kecamatan Sukorejo), and TP 20 (Plantungan Subdistrict). Meanwhile, 6 other points have no difference.

Basic Spider Web Map from the Swadesh Basic Vocabulary



In daily life, the people in Kendal use the Ngoko register of Javanese to interact and socialize. This is seen in almost all points using Javanese Ngoko language. The location of Kendal is near in the district of Semarang which is classified as a dialect group of the central Javanese language which is often called the standard dialect according to the division of dialect of Javanese geography by Uhlenbeck (1964). In addition, travel between Kendal and Semarang is relatively easy because of a decent transport system. The travel to and from the two areas makes it likely that Kendal would be open to experiencing the influence of these standard dialects. However, the data from Kangkung Sub-district, Margo Trimulyo (61), reveals that the register of Javanese language used in Kendal is lower or coarser than that of the standard dialect of Javanese. One informant told us "Mung mriki rough radiation mboten sami kalih etanan" ‘It’s just here that coarser Javanese is used, not like in the east’.

Distinctive Kendal Vocabulary

The data indicate a distinctive local vocabulary in Kendal District. We checked words we found to see if they were in the dictionary Baoesastra Djawa by W.J.S. Poerwadarminta. This is the first dictionary containing lexemes from the Javanese language as entries and was published in 1939. The dictionary was produced in Yogyakarta and reflects the standard dialect so that checking the lexemes we found in Kendal against those in the dictionary allows us to determine whether they are distinctive to Kendal or not and thereby draw a conclusion about the degree of lexical distinctive in Kendal.

After checking, there are 15 items from the Kendal data which were not in the Baoesastra Djawa and which can therefore be classified as distinctive to Kendal. These words and the distribution of their use can be seen in table 1.

Table 1 Distinctive lexical items in Kendal

No	Map No.	Vocabulary	Unique Variants	Area of Use
1	102	KABUT	[ampaʔ-ampaʔ]	Kaliwungu
2	041	BURU (ME-)	[ajag]	Singorojo
3			[bedhaʔ]	Limbangan
4	045	CACING	[əlor]	Cepiring
5	067	DUDUK	[njəgoʔ]	Patean, Pageruyung
6	071	GALI	[nd ^h aguri]	Pegandon
7	085	HISAP	[nambor]	Ngampel
8	126	LEMPAR	[nambloʔ]	Pegandon

9	146	NAPAS	[ambaʔan]	Rowosari, Weleri
10	168	SEDIKIT	[saət ^h iʔ]	Rowosari
11			[saəpit]	Pageruyung
12	232	KAKEK	[nyai]	Kaliwungu
	235	NENEK		Kaliwungu
13	011	ASAP	[awut]	Patebon, Cepiring, Weleri
14	026	BENGKAK	[nrat ^h aʔ]	Kaliwungu
15			[mərtaʔ]	Pageruyung

The word [ampaʔ-ampaʔ] is distinctive word because it is used by people in Kaliwungu Sub-district to refer to the term 'mist'. Purwadarminta (1939: 9), gives the meaning of the lema as *ampaʔ-ampaʔ* sebagai *pedoet ing pagoenoengan* 'mountain mist'. Thus, the use of the word [ampaʔ-ampaʔ] for the term haze in the community is influenced by the natural setting with Kendal being a mountainous area. In addition, the word [ampaʔ-ampaʔ], Kaliwungu is also distinctive, in that [njai] is 'grandfather or grandmother' and [nrathaʔ] is 'swollen'.

The word *nyai* in Kaliwungu refers to one's grandparents. The definition in Poerwadarminta (1939: 352) gives the meaning of *nyai* as 1. *seseboetaning wong wadon bodjonning goeroe ngelmoe* 'a woman, the wife of a teacher' and 2. *Seboetan goendik Wlanda* 'a love affair with a Dutch person'. The word *nyai* as used in Kendal, especially in Kaliwungu, has a distinctive meaning. While *njai* in the Javanese Bausastra dictionary refers to women and was used productively during the Dutch period, while the word in Kendal can be used to refer to either male or female grandparents. This use of the word *njai* is only found in Kaliwungu and possibly is a relic from the Dutch period. This is plausible because Kaliwungu was the administrative center of Kendal Regency during the Dutch period.

The word *nrathaʔ* appears as a response for BENGKAK on map 26. In addition to the variant *nrathaʔ*, we also find variants [*aboh*] and [*mərtaʔ*]. Poerwadarminta (1939: 1) defines the word *aboh* as the adjective *swollen*, "*aboeh kn: moendak gede*". Meanwhile, the words *nrathak* and *merthak* are not in the dictionary. This shows that the variant is distinctive to Kendal District. Regarding the distribution of its use, the word *nrathak* was found in Kaliwungu Subdistrict, while the word *merthak* was found in Kecamatan Pageruyung.

In addition to the word *merthak*, Pageruyung District has another typical vocabulary, namely *njegok* and *saepit*. Variant [njegɔʔ] was found on map 067 for the verb 'sit'. This variant is not only used in District Pageruyung, but also in Patean. In addition to the word *njegɔʔ*, people in Kendal also use the words *njagɔŋ*, *lungoh*, *linggeh*, and *duduʔ* for the Indonesian verb DUDUK. The word *njagɔŋ* is a variant which has been influenced by the Banyumas dialect. This is evidenced by the existence of the word *njagɔŋ* in the online dictionary of the Banyumas dialect. Meanwhile, the standard dialect uses the three variants *lunggoh*, *linggih*, and *lenggah* for the Indonesian verb 'sit'.

“**Loenggoeh n. lenggah** : 1 engg. **Linggih**; 2 sawah (palemahan) sing piningake nggadoeh marang prijaji (abdi-dalem) pametoene minangka dadi bajare; 3 pepangkatan, pangkat; 4 kaanane (genahe) moenggoehing prakara; 5 mapan, wis betjik tmr pasang rakiting oekara lsp; ng~i 1 loenggoeh (linggih) ing: 2 netepi dawoeh; 3 nindakake apa-apa ngtrepi kaja pepanggiling pangkat; ktj. Linggih, pilioenggoeh,” (Poerwadarminta, 1939: 279).

The quotation shows that in the standard dialect the meaning of the word *lungguh* is not limited only to 'sit', but also to 'rank' and other verbs. In addition, the entry suggests the standard dialect does not include the word *njegɔʔ*. Thus, the word *njegɔʔ* can be regarded as a word distinctive to Kendal District.

Meanwhile, [*saəpit*] 'a little' is also found in Pageruyung District and is classified as a typical Kendal word. In addition to the variant [*saəpit*], people in Kendal use the variants [*sithiʔ*], [*sitheʔ*], dan [*saəthiʔ*] for 'a little'. The quotation of variant [*saəpit*] is suggested by the inclusion of the words *sithik*, *sithil*, and *sathithik* in Poerwadarminta (1939: 566), while *sithik*, *sithil*, dan *sathithik* is

not. Based on the phonemic variation in the three words *sithik*, *sithil*, and *sathithik*, the presence of variant *[saəpit]* comes from the influence of the standard dialect.

The variant *[bedhaʔ]* found in Limbangan can be seen as distinctive because of the cultural factors related to the word. In addition, the word *[bedhaʔ]* doesn't appear in the Javanese Bausastra dictionary. The existence of the word *[bedhaʔ]* is made possible by the practice of hunting civets for their excreted coffee beans (used to produce luwak coffee) which is also found in Limbangan. Statements from informants back up this theory.

[mərti ki istilahe ki ulaŋ tahun desa. Niku entən acara teŋ mriki acara *bedhaʔ*. *Bedhaʔ* iku nggih istilahe mburu, tapi yaŋ diburu cuma hewan tertentu, ne? mriki yaŋ diburu ketika *mərti desa* itu luwaʔ]

'Merti it's a village anniversary. There's an event here, called *bedhak*. *Bedhak* is a term connected with hunting, but the only certain animals are hunted, and here the ones hunted during *merti* are the civits (luwak).

The conversation above describes the culture of hunting luwak during the village anniversary celebration in Limbangan. Due to the sustainability of the *merti* village culture in Limbangan, the term *bedhak* is also still found in use. Regarding the culture of the village, Hidayah (1996) states that village *merti* is part of Javanese culture.

"A celebration (Jv. slametan) called *merti* village is held to ensure the safety of all the villagers. The expression *merti desa* has its origins in *mreti* or *preti* which refer to 'worship of ancestral spirits'. During *merti desa* the villagers serve food, drink, fruit, flowers and the like. The food preparations are offered to ancestral spirits who are thought to play the role of village guardians (*danyang*). The ceremony also is seen as an expression of gratitude that the villagers have been granted blessings in their life over the previous year (Hidayah, 1996: 331).

The distinctiveness of words found in the data is influenced by many factors. These factors are related to aspects of the natural environment, local culture, and the influence of other dialects of Javanese. The emergence of such distinctive vocabulary provide indications of these shaping factors.

Distinctive Phonemic Features of Kendal Regency

Of the 236 words in the questionnaire, six were found where the phoneme / e / has the allophone / i /. The words are found on map 32 BESAR 'big' with variants [gəd^he] and [gəd^hi]; map 45 CACING 'worm' with variants [caceŋ] and [cacin], map 87 HITUNG 'count' with variants [etoŋ] and [itōŋ]; map 113 KERING 'dry' with variants [gareŋ] and [gariŋ]; map 168 SEDIKIT 'a little' with variants [sitheʔ] and [sithiʔ]; and map 193 TIPIS 'thin' with variants [tipes] and [tipis]. In these variants, substitution between the two sounds does not change the meaning. Other distinctive features, ie, the position of sound [e] and [i] are always in the final syllable.

Wedhawati (2006: 14-15) states that the phoneme / i / which is in the final syllable is a distinctive feature of the Banyumas dialect, while the phoneme / e / in the closed final syllable (I) is indicative of the standard dialect. The data on these six maps indicate that Kendal has the characteristics of both the Banyumas dialect and the standard dialect. The area of use for these dialects can be seen from the following table.

Table 2 *Distinctive pronunciations in Kendal*

No.	Map No.	Gloss	Variant	Area of Use
1	031	BESAR	[gəd ^h e]	1,4,8,10, 11,12,14,15,17 – 20
			[gəd ^h i]	2,3,5,7,9,13,16
2	045	CACING	[caceŋ]	1—5,7,8,11—18
			[cacin]	9,10,19,20
3	087	HITUNG	[etoŋ]	13

			[iton]	2,3
4	113	KERING	[gareŋ]	1— 8,10,12,14— 16,18
			[gariŋ]	11,13,17,19,20
			[sit ^h eʔ]	4
5	168	SEDIKIT	[sit ^h iʔ]	1—3,5—14,16,17,20
			[tipes]	1—5,7,15,16
6	193	TIPIS	[tipis]	8—14,17— 20

Table 2 above shows that [e] occurs in more places than / i /. However, in map 168 SEDIKIT ‘a little’ / i / is more widespread than / e /. This is possible because [sit^heʔ] and [sit^hiʔ] in the first term use phonem / i / so the tendency of vowels in the second term become / i /. Thus, based on the variation of the sound / e / and / i /, affects the standard dialect compared to the Banyumas dialect.

CONCLUSIONS

The dialectometric table shows the largest difference between all sub-districts in Kendal District is only 27%, found in observation point (OP) 6 (Kecamatan Cepiring) and OP 9 (Kangkung Subdistrict). Based on the Guiter formula, the percentage indicates that throughout all of Kendal District a single dialect of Javanese is used with differences only at the level of speech. In fact, based on the percentage of the results of dialectometric calculations, there is no difference at all between most of the OPs. The districts that have different speeches are found between Kaliwungu District and Patebon Subdistrict, Patebon Subdistrict and Kendal District, Patebon Subdistrict and Cepiring Subdistrict, South Kaliwungu District and Boja Subdistrict, Cepiring Subdistrict and Kangkung Subdistrict, Cepiring Subdistrict and Pegandon Subdistrict, Pegandon Sub District and Rowosari sub-district, Gemuh sub-district with Patean sub-district, between Rowosari sub-district and Weleri sub-district between Weleri sub-district and Pageruyung sub-district, and between Sukorejo and Plantungan sub-districts. Meanwhile, among the other districts, there is no difference.

The people living in Kendal use the Ngoko register of Javanese to socialize and interact. Kendal’s proximity to Semarang where the standard dialect is used and ease of travel to and from Semarang has some impact on the language in Kendal seen in influences from the standard dialect. The influence is reflected in almost all the variants. Thus, compared to the various dialects neighbouring Kendal, the standard dialect used in Semarang Regency is the one that has the most influence on the linguistic situation in Kendal District.

In Kendal we also find a rather unique phenomenon where [e] and [i] are occasionally interchangeable. There are also 15 lexical items that are unique to Kendal and which are not found in the standard Javanese language dictionary Baoesastra Djawa. The 15 words are [ampaʔ-ampaʔ] ‘fog’, [ajag] and [bedhaʔ] ‘hunt’, [əlor] ‘worm’, [njegoʔ] ‘sit’, [ndhaguri] ‘dig’, [nambor] and [nambloʔ] ‘throw’, [ambaʔan] ‘breathe’, [saəthiʔ] and [saəpit] ‘a little’, [nyai] ‘grandfather or grandmother’, [awut] ‘smoke’, [nrathaʔ] and [mərtaʔ] ‘swell’. These lexical items are shaped by natural, cultural and historical factors.

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