

INNOVATION OF SUNDANESE LANGUAGE DIALECT IN BREBES REGENCY: PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS USING GENERATIVE PHONOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Every language naturally has the same possibility to make innovation. Pei (1966:26) stated that the scope of "Language Innovation" includes sound shift, morphology or meaning that comes as a result of geographical location and spreads to other territories. Indonesia with its wide region has very various communities. There are hundreds of ethnic groups and languages in 34 provinces throughout the country. This diverse society results in the innovation of language. Java and Sunda are known as two major local languages in Indonesia, the former has 84 million native speakers while the latter has 34 million speakers. Sundanese, in its development, spreads in West Java, Banten and some part of Central Java. The spread of Sundanese causes some dialects, one of the dialect is Sundanese in Brebes. Nothofer (1977:59) revealed that Sundanese has four dialects: (1) Banten, (2) Bogor, (3) Priangan and (4) Cirebon (includes western part of Brebes). There are two types of language innovation, which are *Internal Innovation* and *External Innovation*. This research aims to describe the innovation of Sundanese dialect in Brebes. The study focuses on phonetic and phonological aspect of language which is visualized through language's sound shift. The method being used in this article is recording technique, the pronunciation of the respondents speaking Javanese language (JL) and standard Sundanese language (SSL) are compared with Brebes sundanese language (BSL) pronunciation to find the differences. The data were analyzed using the theory of *Generative phonology*. The results come with changes of sound in BSS which shows the influence of Javanese and Sundanese language in Brebes Sundanese dialect.

Keywords: Dialect, Language Variation, Phonology, Sundanese, Javanese.

INTRODUCTION

Brebes located in the west end of central java near with west java, thus makes it as a place where Sundanese and Javanese language meet. Javanese, as the biggest local language in Indonesia, has 84 millions native speakers that spread from East Java to the western part of Central Java, whilst Sundanese as the second biggest local language in Indonesia has approximately 34 millions native speakers spreaded from Banten to Eastern part of West Java. Some part of Brebes has Javanese dialect speaker and the other part consist of Sundanese dialect speaker. Many studies had been conducted about Sundanese dialect, some of them discuss about phonetics, morphology, and lexical aspect. Darheni (2010) said that one of sundanese language that is worthy to examine is the sundanese that develops in borderland area (administrative boundaries between west java and central java), such as sundanese language in Cilacap, Cirebon and Brebes.

To identify the spread of a language we have to deal with language mapping because it is a very useful tool used by researchers to find accurate data. In Brebes regency we can found Sundanese language is used in west area bordering with west java. Based on (Sasangka: 1999) eight districts in Brebes have sundanese speakers, they are (1) Salem, (2) Bantarkawung, (3) Ketanggungan, (4) Banjarharjo, and few villages in (5) Losari districts (Randegan, Jatisawit, Karangsembung, Negla, Bojongsari, Karangjunti and Babakan), (6) Tanjung (Sarireja and Luwungbata village), (7) Larangan (Kamal, Wlahar, and Pamulian village), and (8) Kersana district (Kradenan and Sindang Jaya).

The objective of this study is to describe the sound shift of sundanese dialect in Brebes, the sound shift is the indication of language innovation in phonetic forms. In this article Brebes sundanese language (BSL) is compared with Standard sundanese language (SSL) as a benchmark of sundanese, and javanese language (JL) used along with sundanese in Brebes. The innovations or the alternations are analyzed using theory of generative phonology to find out the phonological processes behind them.

1.1 Language Variation

The term "language variation" in this article is used alongside "language innovation" for it is similar in some way. Language innovation is the study of feature that differs systematically when we compare different groups of the same people in different situation. Holmes (1992) explained two types of language variation: regional variation (regional dialect) and social variation (social dialect, standard and non-standard dialect). **Regional variation** is variation due to regional areas for example Javanese speaker in Tegal and Brebes may have different form of utterances with Javanese speaker in Semarang, this variation is a result from a number of political, geographical and cultural factors. **Social variation** is a variety of speech associated with a particular class or occupational group within society.

It is clearly understood that Sundanese is a language, it is considered as local language of Indonesia. As a language, sundanese has a number of dialects. A **dialect** is regarded as a geographical variety of a language, spoken in certain area, and different in some linguistic items from other geographical varieties of the same language. To identify variation in a language we could no compare two dialects easily, we should deals with dialect continuum. **Dialect continuum** is the chain of dialects, for example between dialect 1-5, speaker of dialect one may understand dialect 2 extremely well. Speaker of dialect 1 and 3 understand each other less well and speaker of dialect 1 and 4 understand less well again. And last speaker of dialect 1 may no longer intelligible to dialect 5 and vice versa (Downes: 1998).

1.2 Generative Phonology

Generative phonology is a subdiscipline within Generative Grammar, an approach to linguistic theory whose aim is to characterise the unconscious knowledge which constitutes our knowing a language. It is the goal of Generative Phonology to characterise the nature of phonological knowledge, and thus to state what it is that constitutes having a native accent (Carr: 1993) In the theory of generative phonology, distinctive features are used to distinguish a sound one another. There are three kind of features: major class feature, manner feature and place feature, these features are used to describe distinguish consonants. To discuss about distinctive feature shortly we must firstly acknowledge that features are specified by binary values, a positive value [+] denotes that the attribute is present, while negative value [-] denotes its absence.

The first is major class feature, it contains three features which are [syllabic], [consonantal], and [sonorant]. A [+syllabic] segments can be a syllabic nucleus of sound, otherwise [-syll] segments not. All vowels are [+syll] since it can function as syllabic nucleus while all consonants are [-syll]. Segments which have the feature of [+consonantal] are defined as having constriction in the oral cavity. The [+cons] segments are stops, fricatives, affricates, nasals, and liquids. On the other hand, vowels, semivowels, glides and approximants have [-cons] segments. We need to distinguish stops from fricatives. Stops and fricatives are the same in the feature of [consonantal] and [obstruent]. Fricative allows the airflow pass the oral cavity and do not completely close. The production of such sound are called [continuant] since the air flows with continues friction. From the above feature of obstruent, fricative is introduced as [+cont], while stops, nasals and affricates are [-cont] as it has complete closure in the oral cavity.

Let us differ two classes of segments in the feature of place of articulation. According to Chomsky and Halle (in Schane, 1973), there are four principal places for consonant articulation. Those are labial, dental, palate-alveolar, and velar based on whether the constriction is at the extreme forward region of the oral cavity which named [+anterior] or more retracted backward which named [-anterior]. Secondly, it based on whether the segment is articulated with blade of the tongue [+coronal] or without it [-coronal].

The previous feature deals with consonants, now we will discuss about the feature of vowels. Vowels have four addition features which are [high], [low], [back] and [round]. Segments [+high] are produced by raising the tongue above central tongue position. Segments [+back] are produced with tongue retracted from the central position. Segments [+low] is articulated with the body of the tongue lowered from central position. Finally to distinct round and unrounded vowels, segments [+round] represent sound with lip rounding.

METHOD

The method of this study is qualitative because it tries to describe and analyze the data that are obtained. This data collection is tightly related to observation, interview, and recording by using procedures and devices. The theoretical framework is used to bring the research into the fact in the field and gain a conclusion from the study.

To collect the data we used recording technique. We recorded 10 standard sundanese speakers, 10 Brebes sundanese speakers, and 10 Javanese speakers. Those speakers speak in different dialect, but there are some words that sound similarly, especially between Brebes sundanese speaker and Javanese speaker. After recorded, the data were processed into phonetic transcription using theory of Generative phonology. The phonetic transcriptions were analyzed using distinctive feature to find the differences between sounds. Therefore, we can prove that Sundanese Brebes dialect has some innovations compare to standard Sundanese Language.

ANALYSIS

3.1 Internal Innovation

Internal innovation in Brebes sundanese language (BSL) is standard sundanese language’s (SSL) vocabulary which is absorbed by BSL, this absorption process then encounter alternation of phonetic sounds inside BSL. Phonetic change is a change in the habits of performing sound-producing movements (Bloomfield: 1933). From the data that we collected, there are three kinds of innovation which are: 1) Weakening sound, 2) Strengthening sound, 3) Sound lost and 4) Sound addition. The alternation’s forms are as follow:

3.1.1 Weakening Sound (Lenition)

Lenition is a process where a strong sound weakens. Some sounds are considered stronger than the others. Voiced is stronger than voiceless sound, consonant is stronger than semi vowel, stops is stronger than continuant, front and back vowel are stronger than central vowel, oral is stronger than glottal. Sound loss (sincope) is also considered a weakened sound.

Words	SSL	BSL	Distinctive Feature			
Lemari	[kʌmʌrɪ]	[lʌmʌrɪ]	lateral [l] is weaker than stops [k]			
Serabi	[sɔrʌbɪ]	[sʌrʌbɪ]	Central vowel [ʌ] is weaker than back vowel [ɔ]			
Sedikit	[sʌkədɪk]	[sʌʔtɪk]	Glottal [ʔ] and voiceless [t] is weaker than stops [k] and voiced [d]			
Tiga belas	[tʃlʌwəlʌs]	[tʃlʌlʌs]	Sound [we] is lost			
[k]	[l]	[ʌ]	[ɔ]	[ʔ]	[t]	[d]
+cons	-cons	-high	-high	+cons	+cons	+cons
-cont	+ant	+back	+back	-cont	-cont	-cont
-ant	+cor	+low	+low	-ant	+ant	+ant
-cor	+voiced	-rounded	+rounded	-cor	+cor	+cor
-voiced					-voiced	+voiced

3.1.2 Strengthening Sound

In contrary, strengthening sound is when a weak sound strengthens. Just like the previous discussion, some sounds are considered weaker than the others, voiceless is weaker than voiced sound, semi vowel is weaker than consonant, continuant is weaker than stops, central vowel is weaker than front and back vowels.

Words	SSL	BSL	Distinctive Feature			
Pingsan	[səmlɔput]	[sɪmlɔput]	Front vowel [i] is stronger than central vowel [ə]			
Betis	[wətɪs]	[bɪtɪs]	Stops consonant [b] is stronger than semivowel [w] and front vowel [i] is stronger than central vowel [ə]			
Pegang	[cəkəl]	[cəgəl]	Voiced velar [g] is stronger than voiceless [k]			
	[ɪ]	[ə]	[b]	[w]	[k]	[g]
	+high -back -low -rounded	-high -back +low -rounded	+cons -cont +ant -cor +voiced	-cons +voiced	+cons -cont -ant -cor -voiced	+cons -cont +ant +cor +voiced

3.1.3 Sound Addition

There are two types of sound addition: Prothesis and Epenthesis. Prothesis is a consonant or vowel addition in the initial position of a word. Epenthesis is a sound insertion into a word, especially in borrowing words to adjust the phonological pattern.

Words	SSL	BSL	Distinctive Feature
Nanti	[ɲke]	[mɲke]	Nasal bilabial [m] in initial position (prothesis)
Lontong	[lɔntɔŋ]	[lɔlɔntɔŋ]	Addition of sound [lɔ] (prothesis)
Paman	[ɔmɔŋ]	[mɔmɔŋ]	Nasal bilabial [m] in initial position (prothesis)
Selimut	[sɔlɪmut]	[sɔlɪmbut]	Stops bilabial [b] in the mid position (epenthesis)
Mertua	[mɪtɔhɔ]	[mɪntɔhɔ]	Nasal alveolar [n] in the mid position (epenthesis)
Gosok	[gɔsɔk]	[gɔsrɔk]	Trill alveolar [r] in the middle position (epenthesis)

3.4 External Innovation

External innovation is Javanese language (JL) vocabularies which are absorbed in BSL, the alternation in this case is in the form of JL vocabularies that has taken innovation in absorption process. In the absorption process, BSL encounters innovation in the form of adjustment in of pronunciation.

3.2.1 Weakening Sound (Lenition)

Words	JL	BSL	Distinctive Feature
Laut	[səgɔɔ]	[sɔgɔɔ]	Central vowel [ɔ] is weaker than central mid [ə]
21	[sɔlɪkur]	[sɔlɪkur]	Central vowel [ɔ] is weaker than central mid [ə]
25	[sɔlɔwɛ]	[sɔlɔwɛ]	Central vowel [ɔ] is weaker than central mid [ə]
Lamban	[d ^h ɔlɔŋ]	[dɔlɔŋ]	Unaspirated [d] is weaker than Aspirated [d ^h]

[ɔ]	[ə]	[d ^h]	[d]
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-high +back +low -rounded	-high -back +low -rounded	+cons -cont +ant +cor +voiced +aspirated	+cons -cont +ant +cor +voiced -aspirated
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3.2.2 Strengthening Sound

Words	JL	BSL	Distinctive feature			
Parut	[pʌrut]	[pʌrud]	Voiced stops alveolar [d] is stronger than voiceless [t]			
Pohon Kapuk	[rʌndu]	[rʌŋdu]	Velar nasal [ŋ] is stronger than alveolar nasal [n]			
Genggam	[cəkəl]	[cəgəl]	Voiced stops velar [g] is stronger than voiceless [k]			
	[t]	[d]	[n]	[ŋ]	[k]	[g]
	+cons -cont +ant +cor -voiced	+cons -cont +ant +cor +voiced	+cons -cont +ant +cor	+cons -cont -ant -cor	+cons -cont -ant -cor -voiced	+cons -cont -ant -cor +voiced

3.2.3 Sound Addition

Words	JL	BSL	Distinctive feature
Hisap	[Isəp]	[hIsəp]	Fricative glottal [h] in the initial position
Gigi	[untu]	[huntu]	Fricative glottal [h] in the initial position
Selamat	[sʌmət]	[sʌʌmət]	Low central vowel [ʌ] in the middle position
Selendang	[slɛndʌŋ]	[sʌʌndʌŋ]	Low central vowel [ʌ] in the middle position
Lain	[sɛjɛ]	[sɛjɛn]	Alveolar nasal [n] in the final position

CONCLUSION

Internal Innovation is a renewal related to BSL speaker, while External Innovations is an adjustment of pronunciation from contact between Sundanese and Javanese is brebes. Types of internal innovation can be described as follow: (1) Weakening sound occurred in the lost of [we] in number, also some strong consonants and vowels become weaker; (2) Strengthening sound occurred in the change of central vowel into more front vowel, semivowel [w] become consonant [b], and voiceless [k] become voiced [g]; (3) The addition of sound is truly kind of innovation because it gives new sound which previously did not exist in the word.

Types of external innovation can be described as follow: (1) Weakening sound occurred in the change of central mid vowel [ə] becomes centro-back vowel [ʌ], and also the change of unaspirated [d] becomes aspirated [d^h]; (2) Strengthening sound occurred in the change of voiceless [t] and [k] become voiced [d] and [g], also alveolar nasal [n] becomes velar [ŋ]; (3) Prosthesis occurred in the addition of [h] in the initial position of BSL in the JL word started with vowel, [untu] becomes [huntu]; (4) Epenthesis occurred in the addition of vowel sound [ʌ] in the first syllabic in JL words.

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