

## LANGUAGE VARIETIES IN THE SOUTHERN COAST OF EAST JAVA: DIALECTOLOGY RESEARCH

Dinda Fitria Sabila and Sri Munawarah  
Indonesian Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Indonesia  
dindafitriasabila@gmail.com; [sri.munawarah@ui.ac.id](mailto:sri.munawarah@ui.ac.id)

### ABSTRACT

*Peta Bahasa-bahasa di Indonesia* (1972) published by Lembaga Bahasa Nasional contain the spread of languages in the southern coast of East Java consisting of several dialects and even languages. This condition is interesting to trace because there is no recent and detailed research on language varieties and situation in this region. In addition, the language condition also supported with historical aspect, i.e. dominion history of Mataram Sultanate and Blambangan Kingdom which is possible strongly influence language varieties and situation that exist in the southern coast of East Java. Tjokrowinoto (1993: 4) states that the Javanese language is divided into three groups based on the glory time of the kingdoms in Java. One of them is the new Javanese language that developed since the XVII century during the second Mataram Sultanate. Therefore, an analysis of languages in the southern coast of East Java as a remnant of Mataram Sultanate and Blambangan Kingdom dominion territory required to be done. Based on these conditions, this study aims to describe and explain the language varieties and situation that exist in the southern coast of East Java with dialectology study. This research uses quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative methods are used to calculate dialectometry and qualitative methods for analyzing data based on language maps and the results of dialectometric calculations.

Keywords: Dialectology, language varieties, language situation, south coast, East Java

### INTRODUCTION

Javanese is the largest of the regional languages in Indonesia. According to Wedhawati, et al (2006: 1), speakers of Javanese as a first language can be found living in a number of places, namely: Central Java, the Special Region of Yogyakarta, East Java, Banten, Lampung, environs of Medan, transmigration areas in Indonesia, in particular Riau, Jambi, Central Kalimantan, and several places abroad, Suriname, the Netherlands, New Caledonia, and the West Coast of Johor, Malaysia. According to *Ethnologue* (2011), the number of Javanese speakers around the world is 84,368,500.

Javanese is also used along the south coast of East Java, among others in Pacitan, Trenggalek, Tulungagung, Blitar, Malang, Lumajang, Jember, and Banyuwangi. The whole area can be accessed from the rest of the province by Jalur Pantai Selatan which is currently under construction.



Figure 1 Boundary of Coastal Area of South East Java

This southern coastal region has a unique characteristic when compared with other areas in East Java, namely in terms of preservation of customs. The historical aspect may be a powerful factor that can form the background of language variations within a large area. The southern coast of East Java

was formerly inhabited by two large former kingdoms of its power still can be felt today, namely the Sultanate of Mataram and Blambangan Kingdom. Ringe and Eska (2012: 25) state that there is an argument when we look for evidence that two or more languages have historical similarities in some aspects, either through 'derivatives' from one previous language or through language contact. The history of each human or object entity involves a series of interdependent events between one and the other, which need not occur but in fact occur; therefore, to prove the similarity of the history of language, we must show that the language we are studying undergoes the same events (in the same order, if the relative chronology of the event can be reconstructed) over a certain period of its development (Ringe and Eska, 2012: 25).



Gambar 2 Peta Wilayah Kekuasaan Kesultanan Mataram Islam  
(sumber: Gunawan Kartapranata / CC BY-SA 3.0)

The map shows the extent of the Mataram Sultanate in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century along with neighbouring territories. The geographical location of the southern coastal area of east Java has played a part in the preservation of cultural, linguistic, and other features from earlier periods of history. One ritual that has survived to this day is the ceremony to honor the Queen of the Southern Sea (Ratu Kidul) along the coast of Banyuwangi regency which used to be the center of the Blambangan Kingdom. This ritual is called the Labuhan ceremony.

The Labuhan ceremony has been performed since the time of the Mataram Sultanate and is still conducted annually by communities along the southern coast from Pacitan regency to Banyuwangi. The name Labuhan comes from the word *labuh* (syn. *larung*), and means throw something into water, river or sea (Sumarsih, et al., 1989: 35). This ceremony is done by the palace and is intended to give offerings to the Ratu Kidul, who is believed to have been the ruler of the southern sea. Ratu Kidul apparently signed a cooperation treaty with Panembahan Senapati to reduce difficulties she had. Since Ratu Kidul is considered to live for all the time, the successors of Panembahan Senapati preserve the Labuhan tradition to honor the treaty (Sumarsih, et al., 1989: 43).

There is some agreement that the Javanese language is divided into three periods, namely, (1) Old Javanese, which since the century IX grew in Mataram I Central Java and whose development peaked in the XIV century in the kingdom of Kediri and Singasari in East Java; (2) Middle Javanese, which was used from the XIV century to the XVII century and developed during the Majapahit to the Sultanate of Demak and Pajang; (3) Modern Javanese, which came into use in the XVII century during the second Mataram Sultanate and culminated in the XVIII-XIX period of the Kingdom of Yogyakarta-Surakarta (Tjokrowinoto 1993: 4). The present study, which is designed to identify archaic lexical items which have been retained in modern Javanese is relevant to the field of language change and language histories that were found in these time periods and socio-political dynasties. The archaic lexical items in question is the Old Javanese that mentioned by Tjokrowinoto.

Seeing the division of Javanese language development process based on the glory of the kingdoms in Java, an analysis of the variations of language on the southern coast of East Java as a remnant of the territory of the Sultanate of Mataram and Blambangan Kingdom needs to be done. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to describe the linguistic situation existing on the southern coast of East Java based on Swadesh's basic vocabulary, pronouns vocabulary, greetings and references, vocabulary system vocabulary, and seasonal vocabulary, natural state, natural objects, and

directions . In addition, this study also aims to explain the variations of language on the southern coast of East Java.

## METHOD

The primary method used for this research is a field survey (Ayatrohaedi, 1983: 19). The field survey is a method of collecting data in which researchers visit the field and get information directly from informants (Lauder, 2008: 73). To conduct research in the field, important choices must be made about the number and location of data gathering points, the criteria used to select informants and the number required, and the design of the questionnaire which will be used to elicit information.

Observation points are locations where data will be collected. This study gathered information in eight points. These are Pacitan, Trenggalek, Tulungagung, Blitar, Malang, Lumajang, Jember, and Banyuwangi. These are all located along the southern coastal area, away from major towns and cities, and thus can be considered rural. They are also all no more than five kilometers from the coast locations where Labuhan ceremonies are held. These criteria are likely to result in the most relevant data to the aims of the research and can be seen as representative of the language used in the southern coastal area.

Eight informants were used in the research, one in each data collection point. The criteria for their selection was as follows:

- Age 40-60 years old
- Highest education level achieved: elementary, junior high, or high school.
- The informant is indigenous to the area, being born in and having lived there until now.
- Economic status: not well off.
- Language use: the local dialect is their first language.
- Social status: the informant is known and respected in the local community and understands the Labuhan ceremony well.

The research instrument needs to be designed carefully to ensure that it elicits clearly and unambiguously all the data needed to answer the question. A questionnaire was used to ensure reliability in direct questioning by the researcher with each informant. All informants are asked the same questions in the same way. The questionnaire was based on the basic word list by Swadesh (200 words), pronouns, greetings, references, and other vocabulary in a number of semantic fields including kinship terms, seasons, natural features and objects, and directions. The questionnaire is used to elicit responses, which are recorded digitally and also in writing using phonetic notation.

The design and content of the questionnaire is based on descriptions found in Lauder (2008: 73). After the interview, the data obtained are analyzed using well-established qualitative methods.

## ANALYSIS

The language used to communicate on the south coast of East Java is likely to come from the same language. This is evident from the discovery of the vocabulary of one etima as the largest number, ie 146 vocabularies of 301 vocabulary or 48.5% of the total vocabulary. One such language is the Java language. Here is a table of recapitulation of vocabulary as a result of this research.

*Table 1 Recapitulation of Etima Vocabulary Number*


| No. | Etima Words Type | Number of Symbol Variations (glos)   | Amount (glos) |
|-----|------------------|--|---------------|
| 1.  | Words 1 etima    | 1 symbol = 83<br>2 symbol = 46<br>3 symbol = 9<br>4 symbol = 4<br>5 symbol = 3<br>6 symbol = 1 | 146           |
| 2.  | Words 2 etima    | 2 symbol = 39<br>3 symbol = 12<br>4 symbol = 12<br>5 symbol = 3                                | 67            |

|        |               |  |     |
|--------|---------------|--|-----|
|        |               | 7 symbol = 1   |     |
| 3.     | Words 3 etima | 3 symbol = 15<br>4 symbol = 21<br>5 symbol = 5<br>6 symbol = 2<br>7 symbol = 1 | 44  |
| 4.     | Words 4 etima | 4 symbol = 9<br>5 symbol = 11<br>6 symbol = 4<br>7 symbol = 1                  | 25  |
| 5.     | Words 5 etima | 5 symbol = 3<br>6 symbol = 9<br>8 symbol = 2                                   | 14  |
| 6.     | Words 6 etima | 6 symbol = 2<br>7 symbol = 1   | 3   |
| 7.     | Words 7 etima | 7 symbol = 2   | 2   |
| Amount |               |  | 301 |

Language variations on the southern coast of East Java are found up to the vocabulary of seven etima. This proves that there is quite a lot of language variations on the southern coast of East Java. For example, there are Madurese and Balinese languages that are likely to affect language variants.

Based on the calculation of dialectometry, found the highest variation of language between Pacitan and Banyuwangi, and Blitar and Banyuwangi, which is 35.5%. This shows that the south coast of East Java is still in one language with the greatest difference in speech. However, each vocabulary group has its own language variations that allow for subdialect differences, dialects, and languages.

There is an invention of the archaic vocabulary that still exists on the southern coast of East Java. From the vocabulary of one etima, 89 vocabularies are found to be the vocabulary of the ancient Javanese or 60.95% of the vocabulary. From the search conducted it was found that the archaic vocabulary that still survives up to now consists of 28 vocabulary that survives in terms of form, 50 vocabularies that survive with various variations, and 11 vocabulary that is changing shape. Here is an example of an analysis of the archaic vocabulary found,

| Word Dictionary |   | Words Variation   | Origin of Word | Meaning                  | in |
|-----------------|---|---|----------------|--------------------------|----|
| WHERE           |  | [nɪŋ ndi]<br>[nɪŋ əndi]<br>[niŋ ndi]<br>[niŋ ndai]<br>[ɲandi]<br>[ndeʔ ndi] | əndi (-ndi)    | 'where?',<br>which one?' |    |

(Zoetmulder, 2006:251).

The spread of language variations on the southern coast of East Java can also be supported by the language wave theory proposed by Schmidt (Keraf 1984: 106). Schmidt explains that the language used in a chain in a region is influenced by changes in a particular place. The changes spread in all directions like a wave so that the spread of a language farther away. In this case, the spread of language is likely centered in Jogjakarta which apparently also became the center of the rapid development of Javanese culture (Badan Bahasa, 1984: 85).

Moreover, as explained earlier, Yogyakarta, which became the center of the Mataram Sultanate, is likely to become the center of the spread of language toward the east. In this case, the eastern direction in question starts from the east of Yogyakarta, namely Pacitan regency to Banyuwangi regency. Therefore, the language in the region that is in the nearest wave with the center of the discussion, is likely to be quite different from the region that is located on the far wave from the center of the language. In this case, the percentage of vocabulary distance that tends to be high

between Banyuwangi regency and other observation points can be due to Banyuwangi regency being on the far wave from the center of the language.

The above statement is supported by Pacitan Regency which has a characteristic in the language, that is the vocabulary used in Pacitan Regency there is a form of Javanese vocabulary krama. The use of Javanese krama is not dominantly used in other points of observation. This is probably due to the geographical area of Pacitan regency closer to the center of the Sultanate of Mataram compared to other regions. The Sultanate of Mataram developed the Javanese language by practicing basa ngoko-krama as an attempt to develop the culture of the palace (Dwiraharjo, 2001: 69). For example, the word [nɔpɔ] used in Kabupaten Pacitan, comes from the word *menapa*, which is the form of krama from what means 'ques- tion' (Harjayawiyana and Supriya, 2009: 37).

In addition, Banyuwangi Regency also has a distinctive feature in the language, namely the discovery of vocabulary that tends to be different from other areas. This is evidenced by the discovery of 21 vocabulary or 10.5% of Swadesh's basic vocabulary which differs from point 1 to 7 with observation point 8. This is supported by an analysis of archaic language proving that the word used in Banyuwangi District tend to change form from the basic archaic word. This is probably because the district is the center of the Blambangan Kingdom. Here is a typical form of vocabulary used in Banyuwangi District.

a. The use of affix /w/

The affix /w/ appears at the end of words effecting a change of sound. An example of this can be seen in the words 'TIDUR' 'sleep' and 'TIGA' 'three' which are described above.

b. The use of affix /y/

The affix /y/ appears in the middle of words. An example of this can be seen in the word 'BUNGA' 'flower' which was described above.

## CONCLUSION

The language used to communicate on the south coast of East Java is likely to come from the same language. This is evident from the discovery of the vocabulary of one etima as the largest number, ie 146 vocabularies of 301 vocabulary or 48.5% of the total vocabulary. One such language is the Java language.

Language variations on the southern coast of East Java are likely to be centered in Yogyakarta. This is supported by the wave language theory that is possible if the language spread from Yogyakarta to the east starting from Pacitan regency to Banyuwangi regency.

The discovery of the peculiarities in language, such as the dominance of the use of speech levels and the existence of the archaic vocabulary that existed on the southern coast of East Java, especially Pacitan and Banyuwangi districts is evidence that most likely the expansion of the power of the Mataram Sultanate and the existence of the Blambangan Kingdom became a powerful influence on language variations and situations language that is on the south coast of East Java.

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**Biodata:**

Dinda Fitria Sabila  
University of Indonesia  
dindafitriasabila@gmail.com  
Bachelor degree at Indonesian Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Indonesia (2017)  
Dialectology, sociolinguistics

Sri Munawarah  
University of Indonesia  
Bachelor degree at Indonesian Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Indonesia (1991), Master degree at the Linguistics Program, Faculty of Humanities, University of Indonesia (2007)  
Dialectology, sociolinguistics, toponyms, and language teaching.