

The Trace of Minangkabau-Wise in Malaysian Language

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Abstract

Malaysia is one of the seacoast regions of Minangkabau people. The overseas has started since 15th century. They are scattered in almost all regions of Malaysia. Gombak Selangor Darul Ehsan is one of the locations where they lived. This paper attempts to trace the Minangkabau-wise from a unit of language side, namely phonemes. The tracking is done by comparing the phonemes of Minangkabau language which is used in Bonjol under Pasaman Regency with Minangkabau Language which is used by Minang people especially from Bonjol who were migrated to Gombak, Malaysia. The comparison will obtained the tendency of phoneme behaviour among both of Minangkabau Language used by both community groups. The distinction suggests there has been a change in language. In addition, this paper also describes the factors that cause the changes.

Keywords: *history, migration, language, Minangkabau, Melayu*
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1. Introduction

Minangkabau people are known for its tendency to move (wander). First, they wander to the nearest area of their hometown, in Minang language it called *darek*. The desire to bring the crops and knowing other areas encourage them to migrate further to the downstream. They explore, across the *Bukit Barisan* and go toward great rivers: Kampar, Siak, Indragiri and Batang Hari. During the trip, some of them there are settled in the area near the river and some other continuing their commercial trip farther to the east, to the Malay Peninsula Land. The triumph of Melaka's kingdom in the 15th century encourages them to migrate there.

The arrival of Minangkabau people is well received by local communities. Linkage to the origin of Minangkabau was very strong at that time. It can be proved by the request to send the King to Negeri Sembilan. Pagaruyung Kingdom delivers Raja Mahmud which was crowned as a king in 1773 with the title The King of Malewar. Next two kings also come from Minangkabau (Abdul Samad Idris, 1990).

Migration flows more crowded during the Dutch colonial period, it is also motivated by discriminative treatment or repression practiced by the Dutch (Gusti

Asnan, 2007). Hectic overseas to Penang island is related to the success of British in controlling the trade lanes in Melaka Straits in 1786 (Amir Sjarifoedin Tj, A., 2011: 307; Kato, 2005: 97). The overseas to Rao (Kuala Lumpur) in relation to the defeat of Padri by Netherlands in the mid of 19th century (Amir Sjarifoedin Tj, A., 2011: 461; Gusti Asnan, 2007). This migration continues to Gombak (now included in Selangor Dahrul Ihsan).

Experts in the field of history and socio-cultural community have been reviewing the relationship of native Minangkabau with the shoreline areas mentioned above. Linguistics can do the same thing in seeking the answers whether there is any trace of Minangkabau-wise in Malaysia shoreline areas from aspects of language. Based on Kluckhohn's opinion (in Koentjaraningrat, 1996: 80) who says that language is a cultural element, a tool for cultural activities, and means of supporting culture, so that, the language reflected the socio-cultural community. From this assumption developed the hypothesis that the language in the seacoast region has much in common with the language in the area which is historically connected. The problem can be formulated based on the hypothesis, namely that the language used by the community in

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Malaysian shoreline are related and shows the similarities with the Minangkabau language used in West Sumatra. Considering the large of research location area, this research is limited to the comparison of Minangkabau language used around Bonjol West Sumatra with Minangkabau language used by nomads in Gombak, Selangor Darul Ehsan originating from the same area that is around Bonjol. The discussion in analysis will identify the similarities and differences in phonological aspects.

2. Theory and Research Methodology

Dialectology is the study about variations of language used by a small group of speakers (Francis (1983: 1). The Atlas committee of European languages (in Ayatrohaedi, 1985:1) formulate the definition of dialectology as a system of language used by a community to distinguishes it from other communities who use different systems even though they are closely related. Of the two formulations, dialectology can study a dialect of a language and also study the dialects that exist in one language (Nadra and Reniwati, 2009: 1). From the formulas above it is clear that the scope of the study of dialectology is a variation of a language.

Language has their own the region. This area can be narrowed and expanded. Diffuse and widespread of language use area depends on the dynamics of their speakers. It will extend when the speakers expanded the area of their habitation. Asmah Haji Omar (1985: 4) called the spread of language grow together with the deployment of its native speakers which is called spread by migration.

The diversity of languages according to Guiraud (in Ayatrohaedi, 1985: 34) can also be caused by the existence of a relationship or the superiority of carried languages when doing the migration. Units of language brought by these migrants could change and result a lot of differences with the native Minangkabau language. In this case, the isolects of nearest area take a role in the occurrence of a dialect. It is known that the area of the research study is surrounded by areas that might also have their own peculiarities and potentially contributed to create the peculiarity of isolect in research areas.

Variations of units can be in form of sounds (phonology), morpheme (morphology, sentences (syntax), meaning (semantic), and the lexicon (lexicology). However, the discussion in this paper is limited only in phonology. Theoretically, the differences between one dialects and another are visible in the field of phonology and lexicon (Nothofer, 1996). From the comparison of the phonological aspects mentioned above will be identified the units that shows the similarities and differences.

Each language must have a sound since the definition of language cannot be separated from sound. Sound, becomes the basis of the formation of a larger unit, that is the word. Based on this reason, the comparison between two isolects can be done. Sounds to be compared are vowels, consonants and diphthongs, but not for all of them. The sounds being compared are just the sounds that show the differences between two isolects.

Before coming to the discussion, it is better to know the definition of each sound. This definition is quoted from Harimurti Kridalaksana's book (2008) .Vocal is a

phonological unit which manifested in pronunciation without shifting. Consonant is speech sound produced by blocking the flow of the air in one place in the vocal tract above the glottis. Meanwhile, diphthong is the sound of language which is marked by the changes in tamber for one time when it is pronounced and functioned as the core of the word.

The method used in providing the data is observational method and interview (Sudaryanto, 1994). Each of these methods are realized with basic techniques and advanced techniques. The basic technique for observation method is tapping technique, meanwhile the advance technique are participant observational technique, non-participant observational technique, note taking technique, and recording technique. For interview method, the basic technique is interview techniques, while the advanced technique is face to face interview. In this technique the researchers directly dealing with the informant and conduct an interviews. Making a note and recording are done while interviewing.

Identity method is applied in analyzing data (ibid), that is translational identity method and articulatory identity method. Translational identity method is applied because the object of this research is the isolect from particular area, so that it is needed another langue as the equivalent. Articulatory identity is applied because this research related to phonological aspect which is directly linked to speech organ or articulation area. The basic technique applied is segmenting key factor with mental segmenting in factor. The advance technique are differentiating technique and equalizing technique. This technique is in accordance with the scope of this study, which dialectology which is shown the differences or similarities of isolects being compared.

3. Result and Discussion

The comparison begins with a vowel and continues to consonants and diphthongs. In the discussion the abbreviation of BMU is used for General Minangkabau language and BMB for Bonjol Minangkabau language. Glos is a word being compared. Glos is Malay language (hereinafter called BM). For the language used in Gombak Selangor Dahrul Ehsan used an acronym BMG (Bahasa Minangkabau Gombak) or Minang Language of Gombak. Based on the hypothesis, the language used in the region is a variation of the Minangkabau language.

3.1 Comparison of Vocal

Based on data analysis obtained the following results:

Glos	Data (1)		
	BMU	BMB	BMG
rambut	rambuik	abuak	obuak
napas	aŋok	aŋok	oŋok
kaki	kaki	kaki	koki
kamis	kamih	kamih	omih

In datum 1, the vowel / a / (low and central vocal), located at the beginning of the open syllable word in a BMB corresponds with the vowel / o / (middle and back vocal) on BMG. In the closed syllables there are also correspondences such as data (2) below.

Data (2)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
tikus	tikuih	mancik	moncik
babi	kandiak	kandiak	kondiak

Vowel / o / BMG also appear in the sound corresponding to / ə / (middle and central vocal) BM both in open syllable or in closed syllable as the data below.

Data (3)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
lənjan	lanjan	lanjan	lonjan
tanjga	janjan	janjan	jonjan

On the other data, data (4), the sound / ə / BM does not appear as / o / as the previous data. The sound that emerges is / a /.

Data (4)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
dahi	kanianj	kanianj	kanianj
bəras	bareh	bareh	bareh

The correspondence above is also contained in the data (5) below. On this data, both vocal dialects are same, namely / a /.

Data (5)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
anjij	anjianj	anjianj	anjianj
apam	apam	apam	apam

Two sets of correspondences above the data found in datum (6) below. Vowel / ə / BM or / a / BMU and BMB corresponding to / a / and / o / in BMG.

Data (6)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
səbelas	sabaleh	sabaleh	saboleh
səjəŋkal	sajangka	sajangka	sajongka
sədəpa	sadapo	sadapo	sadopo

If we observe the results of analysis in datum (7) below, vowel / ə / in the first syllable is open or closed BM corresponds with some vocals that have not appeared in previous discussions, the vowel / e / (middle and front vocal) and / u / (high and back vocal) in BMB and / i / (high and front vocal) in BMG.

Data (7)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
pərtama	partamu	pertamo	partamo
səcupak	sacupak	secupak	sacupak
Senin	sinayan	senayan	sinoyan
sendok	sendok	sendok	sondok
kətiak	katiak	kutiak	katiak

At other positions the end of the word and syllable is open, the sound / a / BM corresponding to the sound / o /

BMU and BMB. Vowel / o / is also present in BMG. The following data shows the equivalence.

Data (8)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
dua	duo	duo	duo
tiga	tigo	tigo	tigo

Data (9) below shows the different equivalence of correspondence tendency above. Vowel / e / in BM and BMU and / i / in BMB both in the first open syllable or closed corresponding to the vowel / e /, / a /, / u / in BMG. Vowel / i / on the second syllable in the BM, BMU, and BMB corresponds to the vowel / e / in BMG. So, the vowel / a / in close syllable appears as vowel / o / in BMG. in this data, some parts of data in BM shows similarities with other dialects. Meanwhile others show the difference with all the dialects.

Data (9)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
beŋkok	beŋkok	biŋkuak	bengkuk
tiŋgi	tiŋgi	tiŋgi	teŋgi
galah	galah	piŋgalan	paŋgolan
səndawa	sindawo	sindaho	sundao
tahi	cirik	ciRik	cirek
binatanj	binatanj	binatanj	binatoŋ

3.2 Comparison of Consonant

Based on comparative analysis of consonant in BMB with BMG obtained the results as seen in the following data map.

Data (10)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
tadi pagi	tadi pagi	tadin pagi	tadi pagi
bətis	batih	batih	boti
darah	darah	darah	dara
itik	itiak	itiak	itia
uang	pitih	pitih	piti
ijuk	ijuak	ijuak	ijua
ləsung pipi	lasuanj pipik	lasuanj pipik	lasuanj pipi

On the data (10) shows that the second syllable of BM, BMU, and BMB which is ended by consonant phonemes / h / (fricative and glottal consonant) and / k / (plosive, voiced, and dorso velar consonant) is not found in the BMG. The data which shows the equivalence are *bətis*, *itik*, and *ijuk*.

On data (11) the correspondence and other sounds appear. Consonant / s / (fricative and alveolar consonant) in the end of a word ending with the sound / s / in BM and BMU. The sound is also found in BMG. While in BMB, this data ends with the sound / h / preceded by a diphthong.

Data (11)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
alis	alis mato	alih mato	alis mato
jas	jas	jaih	jas
usus	usus	usuiah	usus poruik

Other variations are found in comparison of consonant is a consonant / l / listed at the beginning of the first syllable in BMB corresponds with consonant / d / (plosive and dental consonant) in BMG. This data has different lexical with BM. Furthermore, consonant / k / listed at the beginning of the first syllable in BMB / kebaya / corresponds to the consonant / g / (plosive, voiceless, and dorso velar consonant) / gebaya / in BMG. Consonant / n / (nasal and dental consonant) in the second syllable / arun / BMB corresponds to a consonant / m / (nasal and bilabial consonant) / arum / in BMG. This can be observed in the data (12) below.

Data (12)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
kaluŋ	lukuah	lukuah	dukuah
kəbaya	kəbaya	kebaya	gebaya
harum	arum	arun	arum
kənduri	baralek	bagalek	barolek
balai adat	balai adat	balai adat	balai adaik
(mə-)apuŋ	maŋapuaŋ	maŋapuaŋ	marapuaŋ

3.3 Comparison of Diphthong

Only little bit comparison between BMB with BMG in terms of diphthongs that can be explained based on the results of the discussion.

On the data (13) below can be observed that the diphthong / ua / BMB corresponds with the vowel / u /, / a / and / o / in BMG. Diphthong appears as a single phoneme in BM and in some data on BMU. Thus it can be explained that the diphthong in BMB corresponds to vocal in BMG.

Data (13)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
beŋkok	beŋkok	biŋkuak	bengkuk
keronkoŋan	karonkoŋan	kaRaŋkuaŋan	karonkoŋan
ketombe	kalimumua	kalimumua	kumumu

But not all diphthongs / ua / corresponds to the vocals, as can be seen in the following data.

Data (14)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
paŋgul	piŋgua	paŋgua	piŋgua
tujuh	tujuah	tujuah	tujuah
təlur	talua	talua	talour
buruŋ	buruaŋ	buRuaŋ	buRuaŋ

BMG on the above data has a diphthong sound. This equivalence applies to the final sound / ul /, / uh /, / ur /, and / uŋ / BM. On the data təlur in BM, diphthongs / ua / in BMG adjusted in with the surrounding sound so slightly different from the diphthongs are contained in the other.

Diphthong / ui / BMU is contained in the final sound BM / us /, / up /, and / ut /. This diphthong is also found in BMB and BMG. Here is shown the data demonstrating equivalence.

Data (15)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
sə ratus	saratuih	saratuih	saratuih
lutuik	knee	lutuik	lutuik
hidup	iduih	iduih	iduih

Diphthongs / ai / contained on the last syllable of a word like Bankai and tupai BM also can be found in BMU, BMB, and BMG. The description of these two word are same.

Data (16) shows the variation of the other sounds. There is a dialect which do not contain diphthong, but the dialect is contained in other diphthong. Diphthong / au / in the second quarter opened corresponding with diphthongs / ou / and the vowel / u / in BMG. So even diphthong / ao / in BMB corresponds with diphthongs / ou /.

Another variation is the vowel / a / in the second quarter it is open in BMB correspond with diphthong / ew / in BMG. Furthermore diphthong / ia / in the second syllable in BMB correspond to diphthong / ie / in BMG. This sound arises because of adjustments to the sound environment around them. Some data are different lexically with BM. This can be observed in the data (16) below.

Data (16)			
BM	BMU	BMB	BMG
kedai	lapau	lapau	lopou
pagu	pagu	pagau	pagu
rabab	rabab	Rabaok	rabouk
kiri	kida	kida	kidew
bibir	bibia	bibia	bibie
jərnih	janiah	janiah	jonieh

4. Conclusion

After analyzing the data can be concluded that Minangkabau language that is used by the people in Gombak Selangor Darul Ehsan Malaysia show many differences with the dialects of Minangkabau language which is compared in this study included the BMB as their origin area. However, the equation is still prevalent. The discrepancies can be understood because of migration from Bonjol happened a long time ago (over a hundred years). Relationships with the people in the original area poorly maintained. They live in different countries today.

Besides, the language they use in shoreline has been in contact also with other languages, namely Malay and other foreign languages (especially English). In daily language, Malaysian use Malay language and English. It is natural that the language used in Gombak under the influence of these two languages. The presence of the phoneme / ə / corresponding to / a / BMU and BMB as well as a number of words originating from different English words that si different from BMB and BMU showed the influence.

Due to this effect gives the impression Minangkabau language in Gombak has mixture dialect namely Minangkabau, Malay and English. BMG no longer used as a language of communication with the youngest generation (grand-children and great-grandchildren). This dialect is spoken among older generations (grandmother, mother, and children who are in their forties). Considering situation it is feared that the Minangkabau-wise cannot be

traced anymore. In other words, one of the dialects or languages in Malaysia will be lost. Loss of a dialect or language will reduce the diversity of languages and dialects and the loss of both will also reduce the loss of cultural diversity.

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