

SUNDANESE ISOGLOSSES OF LEXICAL VARIATION IN KUNINGAN

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Abstract: This article discussed the distribution of lexical variation in 32 districts of Kuningan. The study was conducted to uncover dialect maps in Kuningan, their isogloss lines, and also major lexical variations. The study employed descriptive design. The data were collected from 32 respondents by using two methods, questionnaire and interview. Each respondent represents one district of Kuningan. By using judgment sampling technique, the respondents were chosen. The data were analyzed in three ways: populating the data, mapping the data and describing the map. As the result, the study revealed 30 dialect maps in Kuningan. The maps described the distributions of 135 lexical variations and the isogloss lines. Based on the maps; it was also found that the isogloss lines were mostly overlapping. It means that, most of Kuningan people tend to use different lexical variations compared to their surrounding districts. Besides, it was also found that there were five major lexical variations used by the Kuningans.

Keywords: *dialect, lexical variation, isogloss.*

INTRODUCTION

In Sundanese language, there are so many word variations in describing something. The variations may appear differently at every place in Sunda (West Java & Banten Provinces). The word "loba" which means many, is called "jenuk" in *Kabupaten Kuningan* and "red" in some places around Bandung. The word "mandi" or bathe in Sundanese has a different variation in *Kabupaten Majalengka*, it is called "papung". Occasionally, it is confusing when meeting other people from the other regions in Sunda and talk to them.

The phenomenon of word or lexical variation is not only coming into view in the level of province but also in the level of regency. *Kabupaten Kuningan*, regency in the east side of West Java has so many variations. This regency consists of 32 districts with 980.605 populations

in the year 2002 (retrieved from <http://www.kuningan.go.id>).

The phenomenon of lexical variation is a part of dialectology. Dialectology is one of the most interesting researches in linguistics domain. Wakelin (1972) as cited by Milroy (1987) investigates isoglosses in England. He illustrates the boundary between The Northern and North-midland dialect by showing eight isoglosses. Other researchers are Labov, Ash and Boberg (1997). Their study of American English Dialect shows three major Regional dialects in USA (The North, South and West). Besides, there is Teeuw (1951) as cited from Ayatrohaedi (2002:17) who investigates dialect in Lombok. He is the pioneer of regional dialect researcher in Indonesia.

Regional dialect of every place in one language may appear differently. It

is caused by geographical condition of the places. When geographical features imply to the dialect it is called regional dialect. As explained by Wardhaugh (1992, p. 42) "various language implications such as pronunciation, word choices, syntax and form of word can be very useful in describing variation or dialect. Because of that, it can serve as the map of dialect distribution to show their geographical provenance and called dialect geography".

Later, the lexical variation will be analyzed and bounded by the line. The boundaries or lines between different places that have same features (pronunciation or word choice) can be called as isoglosses. Wardhaugh (1992: 43) states that sometimes the maps of dialect geography are made to show the boundaries between the various language features, that boundaries called isoglosses.

This study was focused on dialect geography. The study analyzed the Sundanese lexical variations in Kuningan, and served in a form of maps. The maps consisted of the lexical variations distribution and isoglosses as the boundary. This study is hoped to add deep understanding about dialect, especially in Sundanese dialect and its lexical variation.

As we know, Indonesia is a big country with heterogenic society and culture. Every ethnic group in Indonesia has their own languages. Bataknese, Sundanese, Balinese are some examples of the ethnic languages. Therefore, they need to be revealed and studied. Ahmad (1999) in Ayatrohaedi (2002) states that there are 700 languages and dialects in Indonesia. He states mostly Indonesian linguists are interested in language structure; about 90%. The rest of that; 10% should divided to sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, dialectology,

language education, psycholinguistics, etc.

METHOD

The research problem is formulated in the following research questions: How are the distribution maps of lexical variation in *Kabupaten Kuningan*? Were the isoglosses taking place in the map? What words are mostly used by the Kuningans as their dialect?

This study engaged a qualitative approach. This method was applied to reveal the phenomena of the Sundanese dialect geography or dialect boundary in Kuningan. Strauss and Corbin (1990, p. 5) stated that "a qualitative method can be used to uncover and understand what lies behind phenomena about which little is yet known". It is the quality in describing and analyzing the data not the quantity or how many data that we get. Furthermore, Arikunto, (2005 in Hatta 2007, p. 5) states that in presenting the data, "descriptive analysis method is not generally directed toward hypothesis testing, but only to describe the existing phenomena and current condition without being influenced by the investigator".

Gumperz as cited in Milroy (1987, p. 3) stated that the subject of the linguistic investigation is language or part of language. Since the research is conducted in *Kabupaten Kuningan*, the subject dealt with the dialects (as a part of language) in Kuningan. Focus of the research is on the isogloss of lexical variation, so the dialect will be focused on the word or lexical variation in 32 districts of Kuningan.

Kabupaten Kuningan is the regency with 980.605 populations and 32 districts. To uncover the isogloss of Kuningan dialect, the study needed various dialects from those 32 districts to examine. These are the districts name: Kuningan,

Kramatmulya, Ciniru, Hantara, Cigugur, Luragung, Cimahi, Cibingbin, Cibeureum, Ciwaru, Karangkencana, Garawangi, Sindangagung, Cidahu, Kalimanggis, Ciawigebang, Cipicung, Lebakwangi, Maleber, Cilimus, Cigandamekar, Jalaksana, Japara, Mandirancan, Pancalang, Pasawahan, Kadugede, Nusaherang, Darma, Selajambe, Subang, and Cilebak.

By using judgment sampling, 32 persons were chosen as the respondents. This type of sampling was used by Macaulay to uncover the Glasgow speech in 1977. He employed 54 respondents of 17 schools in Glasgow by using judgment sampling (Macaulay 1977 in Milroy 1987, p. 26). Besides, Boberg (2005) engaged 54 students of McGill University in his research. Milroy (1987, p. 26) stated that "the principle of judgment sampling is how the researcher identifies the types of respondent to be studied and then seek out quota of the respondents who fit the categories".

In this research, the judgment was based on three categories such as: livelihood, language use and birth place. Those categories represent 32 districts of Kuningan. Based on the category, SMA 2 Kuningan is the appropriate place to choose. 20 students were picked as the respondents. They were asked to fill up the questionnaire based on 30 questions of Kuningans lexical variations.

However, to fulfill 32 districts of Kuningan, the study needs other respondents beside the students. Because of that, 12 people were selected to cover up the study. They were the civil servant worked in *Puskesmas* (Public Health Center) Lamepayung, they are coming from 12 different districts in Kuningan.

This research used several techniques in collecting the data. The techniques that used are interview and questionnaire. Besides, pilot study was

conducted in order to get preliminary data of lexical variation in Kuningan. These are the steps of data collection. Pilot study is the way to find out preliminary data. Preliminary data is more like a key to open the gate of research. In this research, pilot study was conducted in March 2008, by using two instruments, questionnaire and interview.

The questionnaires were given to the 32 people from different places all over Kuningan. They were asked to write down some dialects that used by the people in their places. However, there were only 27 person who returning the questionnaire with the answer on it.

To cover up the deficit, interview was conducted to some peoples that attend to know the dialect in Kuningan. The interviewees are the persons who have high mobility in Kuningan and knowing most of dialect of it. Based on the criteria, two interviewees were chosen. The first is Drs. H Uhadi. He is the branch chief of *PaguyubanPasundan* in Kuningan and formerly he was the headmaster of many high schools in Kuningan. The second is Mr Ihak Sunardi S.Pd. He is the teacher of Sundanese in SMPN Lebakwangi Kuningan.

By conducting the study, more than 50 dialects with 150 lexical variations of Kuningan was discovered. However, there are only 30 dialects formulated in the questionnaire, because of the shortages. Most of 20 reductions have the same meaning with other or even not including in Kuningan's regional dialect, so that there were only 30 dialects in the questionnaire.

After the preliminary data of Kuningan's lexical variation populated, questionnaire was made to get the geographical dialect of Kuningan. Geographical dialect was the main instrument in analyzing isogloss. The

questionnaires were given to the respondents in form of two pages with two sections of questions. This type of questionnaire adopted from Boberg (2005, p. 64) in his research of North American Vocabulary Survey at McGill University. The questionnaires were begun with standard questions of demographic information of the respondent such as: name, birth place, live, and language use. Then the main questions of 30 lexical variables.

In order to make the respondents easier in filling the questionnaire, each question was provided in a brief definition of the variable, followed by a list of the most common variants of the variable known to the respondents. The respondents were asked to circle the variant they would most often use in everyday speech or to write in the word they would use if it did not appear among those listed. They were instructed to circle more than one word only if necessary, and if the answer not listed, they can write down on the paper.

After the data were collected, next step of the study was analyzing the data. This process took at least three steps of analyzing. First step was populating, mapping the dialect geography and then drew the isogloss lines. Populating was the first step in this research analysis. Firstly, data from the questionnaires were categorized based on the lexicon and the place it used. The data were served in the form of table. However, the data from the questionnaire shows that the dialect and variations were mostly in the level *Basaloma/ Basakasar* in Sundanese speech level. Therefore, the data were presented only in one level of speech; Sundanese *Basaloma*.

According to Ayatrohaedi (2002, p. 46), basically, "there are three steps in making the map of dialect geography: a) drawing the map and filling the

variations on the map, b) showing the map, and c) discussing the map".

In this research, the map was the construction of the *Kabupaten Kuningan* basic map. By using the Adobe Photoshop 6.0 software, the map was rebuilt to get 30 new maps with the symbols of lexical variations. The reconstruction process needed at least three steps. Firstly, the basic map was rebuilt into a bald map. The bald map can be used as a master map, to make the process of filling the data easier. Secondly, fill the map with the lexical variations. The last thing is drawing the isogloss in the map.

The new maps show the spreads of 30 lexical variations in Kuningan. It was served in 30 maps. Each map illustrated the distribution of lexical variations in Kuningan. Technically, each lexical variation was represented by one symbol. For example in lexical variation map of wedding tent, the symbols like: ✕ = represents the *tatarub* variation, ◆ = represents *paratag*, ● = represents *balandongan*, and ■ = represents *papayon*. Those symbols were drawn in the map based on the places appearances. This kind of technique was similar with Teeuw (1948 in Ayatrohaedi 2002: 17) in his Lomboknese map.

Last step of the analysis was drawing the line of Isoglosses on the map. The line was drawn based on the same variations. However, in the real situation the isoglosses intersect with another line. To handle this problem, the intersection line was drawn on the maps.

Technically, the isoglosses in the map was in the form (.....) lines and the intersection in () lines. Those lines were the representation of the

boundaries between each lexical variation in the same meaning.

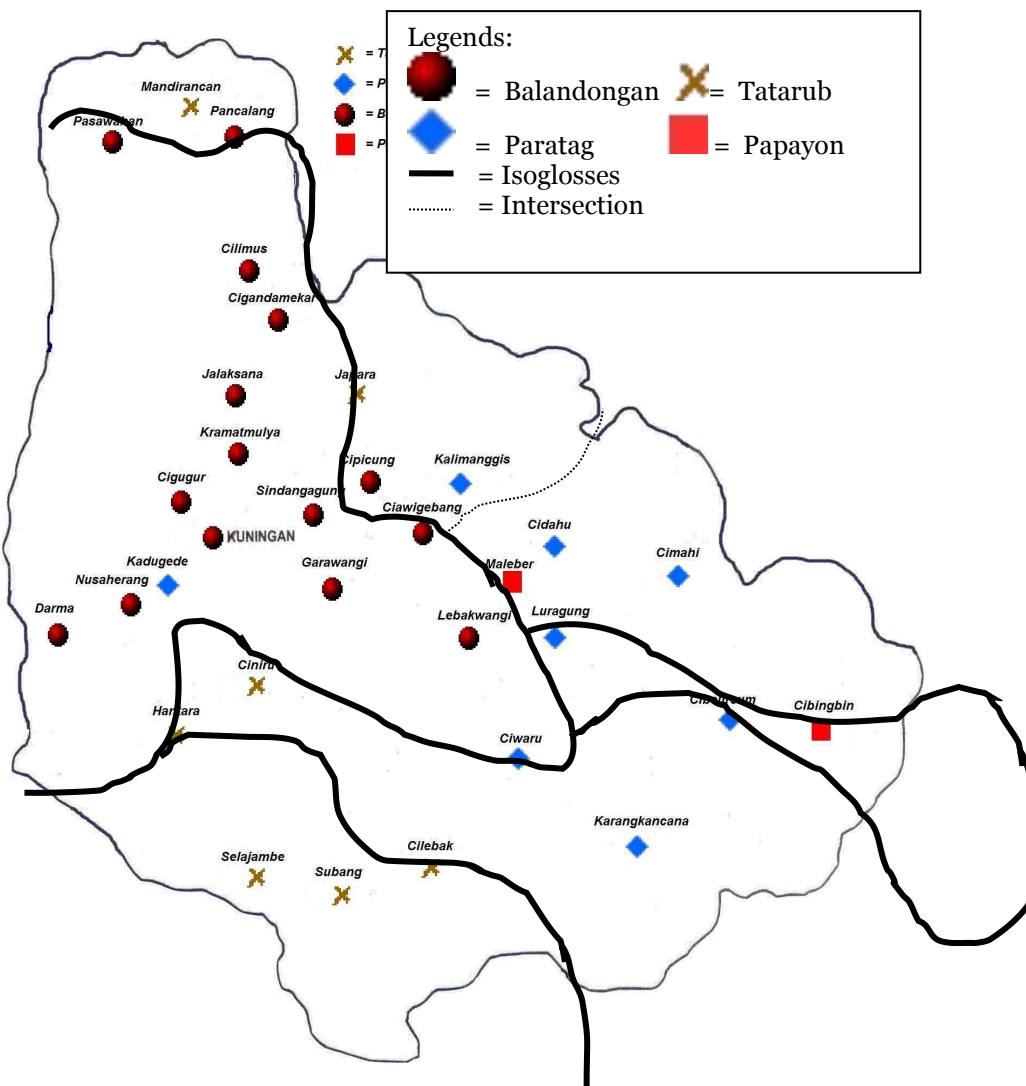
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the data collected, it is found that there are 30 signifieds with 135 lexical variations in Sundanese *Basaloma* distribute in *Kabupaten Kuningan*. It is because of the respondent, the respondents are mostly students. They usually use *Basaloma* in their daily

speech. As the result the data tabulation was only tabulated by the variations of *basaloma/basakasar*. The data were analyzed in terms of signified, lexical variation and district. Regarding the first and the second research questions the maps were made. The maps were made, based on the data tabulation. The maps show the distribution of lexical variations and their isoglosses.

Example of Dialect Map:

MAP NO	Distribution of Wedding Tent
4.1	Scale 1: 500000



Based on the data collected, there are 135 lexical variations of 30 meaning or signified found in Kuningan. From the 135 variations, there are 5 major lexical variations in *Kabupaten Kuningan*:

/nyiru/, /senteng/, /batu/, /gandéng/ and /ngawada/. From 30 districts, the variation of /nyiru/ leads with 90%. It is used in all districts of Kuningan, except in Pancalangi. It is summarized in table 1.

Table 1. Major lexical variations in Kuningan

No	Dialect		Appearance in 32 District	Percentage	Σ %
	Meaning	Lexical Variation			
1	Bamboo Basket	Nyiru	31	96,60	100 %
		Cécémpéh	1	03,40	
2	Compartment upon window or door	Senteng	28	87,50	100 %
		Loster	4	12,50	
3	Stone	Batu	27	84,40	100 %
		Mungkal	5	25,60	
		Seah	2	06,25	
4	Noisy	Sangar	2	06,25	100 %
		Gandéng	27	84,40	
		Kawus	1	03,40	
5	Blaming	Ngawada	27	84,40	100 %
		Nyalahkeun	3	12,20	
		Tudah-tuduh	1	03,40	

There are some patterns found in drawing isogloss lines on the map. Ayatrohaedi (2002: 71) states that every map has its own interpretation. The isogloss line is the imagery line that can help in determining the interpretation. The line will show the pattern, whether it is grouping, overlapping or unpattern line.

Based on the maps it is found that there are 126 isogloss lines. The lines on the maps are mostly overlapping. It is about 70% of isoglosses. This situation is signed by the intersection between one isogloss to another. The overlapping isoglosses indicate that most of Kuningan people tend to use different lexical variations compared to their surrounding districts. The examples are shown in Map 4.3. There is an intersection between /hawangan/ (in Cilebak, Karangkencana, and Luragung) and /lebak/ (in Ciniru, Hantara, Cimahi,

Cibingbin, Cibeureum, Ciwaru, Cidahu, Cipicung, Lebakwangi, Maleber, Kadugede, Selajambe and Subang).

Twenty percent of the isogloss lines are grouping. This condition indicates "clean isoglosses" which means that the people in Kuningan know the variation outside their districts, but they use their own variation. The example is shown in map 4.2. There is no intersection among the isogloss line. It clearly separates the variations /nyiru/ and /cécémpéh/.

10% of the isogloss lines are random distribution. In this particular situation, it is difficult to draw the isogloss lines. The example is illustrated in Map 4.25. There is no boundary between /améh/ in Kramatmulya, Ciniru, Hantara, Cimahi, Cibeureum, Garawangi, Cidahu, Kalimanggis, Cipicung, Cigandamekar, Jalaksana, Kadugede, Nusaherang, Selajambe, Subang, and Cilebak; and /mis/ Sindangagung, Ciawigebang, and

Cilimus; and /ambéh/ in Kuningan, Cigugur, Ciwaru, Karangkencana, Maleber, Japara, and Mandirancan, because those variations spread unpatternly.

CONCLUSIONS

The present study is aimed to uncover the distribution of lexical variations, the isogloss lines and the major variations in *Kabupaten* Kuningan. Based on the lexical distribution data, the map is drawn. The study describes 30 dialect maps in *Kabupaten* Kuningan.

Regarding the second research problem, it is found that there are 126 isogloss lines in 30 dialect maps in *Kabupaten* Kuningan. The isoglosses lines are mostly overlapped with the others. 70% of the maps indicate that there are "overlapping isoglosses". This indicates that every district in Kuningan has more than one lexical variation in describing one signified. In other words, most of Kuningan people tend to use different lexical variations compared to their surrounding districts.

Concerning the third research problem, which concerns the major variations used by the Kuningans, the study finds that there are five variations mostly used by more than 20 districts in Kuningan. The variations are /nyiru/, /senteng/, /batu/, /gandéng/, and /ngawada.

Based on the result of the study, there are number of issues, which could profitably be explored in future research. The present study focuses only on the lexical variations. Further study is suggested to investigate not only on lexical variation, but also phonological, syntactical, or even on semantic differences in dialectology. Besides, the study did not investigate the factor influence the distribution, further study is suggested to investigate dialectology

in diachronic way in order to uncover the correlation between the factor and the distribution.

One of the most obvious weaknesses of this study concerns is the method of the data collection. This study uses pilot study in order to get preliminary data. However, the study employs only questionnaires and interview to some people. It is suggested for the further study to do straight observation and interview to the respondent, so that rich data will be collected. However the methods have disadvantages such as time and cost, those method need more time and money.

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