

## LEXICAL CHANGE CAUSES OF JAVANESE LANGUAGE IN DELI SERDANG REGENCY.

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### *Abstract*

*This qualitative research addresses the lexical change in Javanese language, which is aimed at explaining the lexical change reasons of Javanese language in Deli Serdang Regency. The transmigration process as the main aspects of creating Javanese language changes into variety accent and invite more action for the revitalization of language. The empirical materials were thoroughly and well-gathered from the document and interview. The highly critical and systematic analysis with 'Miles and Huberman Model' reveals that Javanese language in Deli Serdang Regency changes. This research has drawn the following reasons of lexical changes of Javanese language in Deli Serdang Regency were linguistic causes, historical, environmental causes and psychological causes. The internal reasons are homonym (words which have the same phonemic structure but different meanings), phonetic attrition (the variations of meanings due to the sound change), and shortening. On the other hand, external factors are historical or social. Nevertheless, the social factor of lexical change pointed out is about cultural factor due to the wide definition of social factor itself, which might be cultural, historical, economic, ect. In addition, the reasons of language changes for language split and language borrowing are recognizable on this phenomenon since the Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency has diversity in classifying of dialect.*

**Keywords:** *lexical change, javanese language, ngoko, linguistic causes, historical, environmental, psychological, deli serdang regency,*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The existence of language in human life has a very essential role. Language becomes the determinant in change process. Nevertheless, it is not really understood by the speaker that the civilization, including the language in it, has a change. In this context language speakers become the determining factor for the language in their lives. Such conditions can be found in almost every language, especially the local or traditional language. Javaese is one of the local language exists in North

sumatera. It also happens in the presence of the Javanese language in North Sumatra. Although Javanese is not a tribe in the tribal region of North Sumatra, but as the impact of transmigration conducted since the Dutch colonial period, Javanese ethnic has considerable numbers in North Sumatra. Language development relies on the factor of native speakers in everyday communication. In addition, the development of science, technology, and art bring the Javanese language speakers to interact with speakers of other languages, such as language of

Minangnese, Bataknese language, Malay language, including Indonesian speakers that coexist in the same area.

Language in the world tends to change which might be in the forms of lexical, morphological, syntactical, semantic and pragmatic changes. Specifically lexical change is manifested in every single of lexical classes of a language.

The study of lexicon is always interesting to be investigated because there are still many lexicons of language haven't been observed how actually they have change process, besides by studying lexicon we can understand as the stock of words in given a language.

Based on the data from the observation of javanese speaker in Deli Serdang Regency, we found the lexical change of javanese language particularly in the lexical of 'bicycle' whereas the javanese speaker in Deli Serdang called it into 'lereng' meanwhile for the native speakers of javanese who lived in Java Island, call it as 'pit'. This exemplification showed a clear condition of the phenomenon of Javanese lexical change from 'pit' change into 'lereng'.

we also found another case of lexical change in Dalu Sepuluh B, subdistrict Tanjung Morawa, Deli Serdang Regency, a case of lexical change in javanese language can be found for the lexical of 'klebus' and 'teles'. The writer got change of Javanese language into the content of words, such as: wet (basah) in Javanese language it suppose to be "teles". Some respondents answered it by writing 'klebus' where *klebus* refer to the adverb of 'teles' it has a meaning not for wet in every condition but it just showing a

meaning of wet after get a rain and the whole of the colthes that wearing is wet. Basically these two words has different meaning and function whereas "klebus" refer to adverb and the meaning is the condition of wet but it is only special for body that having wet of rain and no part of body remains dry, moreover the meaning of "teles" means "wet" but it still need more explanation about the condition of body, it can be only part of body that getting wet. And the word "teles" is categorized as adjective. So, in this empirical exemplification the word "teles" is categorized as adjective becomes "klebus" as an adverb. This phenomenon, which is caused by the metaphorical application, is called as semantic change due to its lexical class movement from adjective to adverb.

The change in vocabulary is just one aspect of language change, though it is the most noticable one. According to Ke, Geoong and Wang (2008: 937), language change can be viewed as a diffusion process of some new linguistic elements (linguistic innovations) in a language community. It indicates an important characteristic of language: language change with time. The existence and Language maintenance of Javanese language can occur in a variety of sectors, such as economic, social, cultural, educational, political, governance and so on. Deli Serdang district consist of several sub- district having ethnics variety such as Bataknese, Malaynese, Karonese and so on, so that this kind of condition gave effects to the javanese language change.

According to Croft (2000: 4): "language doesn't change; people change language through actions".

This phenomenon happens in migrant people in one place. When a person do migration to one place, there will be demand of social environment. This person should follow the current condition and situation that exist in that place include social and culture. Because of this demand, this migrant person do language change for community acceptance. It happened with javanese as migrant from java Island.

According to Varshney (1995:283), the lexical change can be in the forms of lexical loss (or a phenomenon in which a particular lexicon disappears), semantic change (or the shifting meaning in language), and creation of new lexical item (or the process of creating a new lexical item to name an object, concept and place through the internal and external borrowings of words).

Something that made the writer really worry for this that the lexical change brought a dangeour for the existancy of the javanese language itself in Deli Serdang District especially for the original meaning of javanese language. When this kind of change happened continuously so that the using of javanese language reduced from the speech level, meaning understanding. Furthermore the impact of javanese language change particularly in the lexical, brought the lose of this language especially for teenagers, after 10 years to go, they would not able to recognize the existancy of Javanese. They just knew the story from their parents. And after the native language of javanese lost, so finally the javanese language also lose from Deli Serdang District.

The subject matter of this study is focus on the question of: a)

What are the lexical changes of Javanese language in district Deli Serdang regency? b)How do the lexicons of Javanese language changes in district Deli Serdang regency? c.)Why do the lexicons of Javanese language in district Deli Serdang regency change the way they do?

This research is aimed to investigate the lexical changes, describe the patterns, and to explain the reasons of Javanese lexical change in Deli Serdang regency. The findings of this study are strongly expected to have the theoritically would be valuable contributions for other researchers who will conduct a research in the field of language change, particularly lexical change and the source of the methods of how language changes. Practically, on the other hand, the research findings would be beneficial as the evidence of Javanese language change which serves as a core embryo of consideration for language planning policy of the government of North Sumatera which is urgently useful for Javanese language maintenance in the future.

## 2. METHOD

This research is a qualitative research since the data were ordinarily expressed in qualitative terms. The writer chose a case study that is the preferred strategy when "how, why, and what" question are being asked, or when the researcher has little control over events, or when the focus is on contemporary phenomenon within a real life context. Simply a case study is a research that aims at analyzing a phenomenon in its real life context.

The subject of the study was subject's ability in Javanese language itself. Consequently, the subjects of this research were the migrant Javanese speakers 25 years old until 50 years old and the document written in Javanese language by using Swadesh words. There were places classification would be observed in this study based on the dominant Javanese population, namely: Lubuk Pakam Sub-district, Beringin Sub-district, Pantai Labu Sub-district, Batang Kuis Sub-district, Tanjung Morawa Sub-district, Biru – Biru Sub-district, Delitua Sub-district, Sinembah Tanjung Muda Hilir Sub-district, Sinembah Tanjung Muda Hulu Sub-district, Galang Sub-district, Percut Sei Tuan Sub-district, Patumbak Sub-district. This place classification was taken due to compile of maximal data and achieve the significant result of the Javanese lexical change.

Data were defined as the raw materials collected by researchers from the basis of analysis (Bogden and Biklen, 1992: 106). The data of this research encompassed two distinguished empirical materials:

- 1) Source of data used as reference in this study was a list of basic core vocabulary in Indonesian asked counterpart in the Javanese language. The Javanese speaker was asked to articulate the words.
- 2) The transcription of subject's taped in-depth interview. This was used as the source of reasons why Javanese language in Deli Serdang changes.

As for the key informant in the determination of the Javanese language were two native speakers who considered master Javanese language more than the community at large. The criteria for the

determination of key informants were as followed: The Javanese Lived in East Java. Age : up to 40 years old . Sources of data used in this study was the 400 words

Swadesh list as a basic vocabulary that would be asked of the respondents to determine the level of understanding of the words in the language Javanese. The data in this study includes two kinds of data, namely: (a) primary and (b) secondary data.

In qualitative research, the research acts as the key of instrument. However, there were two techniques employed to collect the data: Documentary technique, In-depth interview.

The chronological sequences of obtaining the data of this research were as followed:

- 1) Collecting the document of the words list of Javanese language and interviewing the respondents
- 2) Identifying the lexical changes of Javanese language in Deli Serdang .
- 3) Classifying the lexical changes of Javanese language in Deli Serdang based on its categories, namely noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, pronoun, conjunction and interjection.
- 4) Displaying the data.
- 5) Verifying and drawing the conclusion the data by selecting, summarizing, coding, and conceptualizing the data .

The Interactive Model Technique of Miles and Huberman (1994) was applied to analyze the data of this study. The analysis consisted of three concurrent flows of activities: data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing/verification

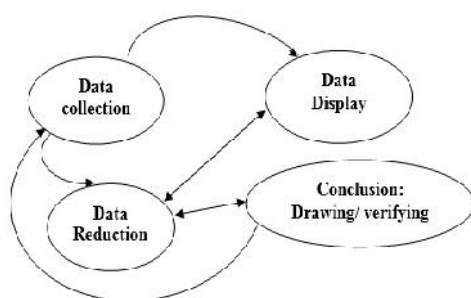


Figure. Miles and Huberman's Interactive Model (1994):

### 3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The semantic changes of Javanese language are strongly influenced from historical, environmental and psychological. where the previous researcher notices that the reasons of semantic change are linguistic, historical, environmental, psychological, foreign influences, and the need for a new name. This theory is not totally applicable in lexical change phenomenon of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency. Because The Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency has a unique historical reason that cause a variety finding in every single lexical change.

When we discussed about lexical change means that we also relate it to the language change as the umbrella of this part. As the data found in this research, language change occurred when the speaker was not able to use that vernacular, however time to time the speaker accepted the new words as a new language in daily communication. Then their vernacular language changed, either change from vocabulary, intonation, or language structure.

Since the type of lexical change varies, consequently their reasons are also distinctive. In an attempt to precisely explain the reasons of every sort lexical changes

above, the mutually interrelated accounts below are presented.

Informant I.

nak analisa sementara, kan ngene sakjane kan ***komunitas seng teko nang Sumatera adalah komunitas campur***. Biyene zaman colonial wong Jowo seko Jawa Tengah, Jawa Timur dikontrak kerjo nang kene. Nah ikulah asale bahasa Jowo nang kene. Tapi nak aku pernah survey nang Jawa Timur ***bahasane kita iku lebih cenderung ke Jawa Timur sepertinya ketok Jawa Timur karena kalo dibandingkan dengan bahasa Jawa Tengah kita memiliki jauh kemiripan*** sebagaimana kita ketahui yang memiliki beberapa jenis bahasa Jawa yang terdiri dari 4 jenis yaitu: Ngoko, madyo, kromo, kromo Inggil. Nah kromo inggil iku bahasa yang paleng halus yang hanya digunakan oleh kerajaan. Iku nak antara bawah dengan atas. Nak komunitas komo memang betul – betul halus contoh: kue –sampean – jenengan dan ada lagi tingkatan tutur untuk panggilan diatas jenengan. Tapi kalau madya itu antara 1 level kalau ngoko itu orang level atas ambek level bawah. Cuma rata- rata nak nang jowo penggunaan ngoko iku koyo sak level wae lah kebanyakan karena friendship (kawan). Koyo kita nak petuk an ambek konco kan ngomonge suka – suka nganggo ngoko de'ene.

Based on the transcript above about the reason of lexical change, the bold and italic clauses were classified into the basic reason of lexical change. When the informant said "*komunitas campur*" (mixture community), the researcher tried to clarify the reasons why Javanese community was called as it did, and he respond it by explaining the

historical reason of Javanese community was coming to Indonesia. And it showed that the Javanese language has several level of language use, besides it also has the variety of dialect that caused the diversity of data found in this research. If commonly, the previous researchers got significant change of the data in their research about lexical changed easily, just comparing the standard language into the current language use based on respondent answer. On the contrary it was not as easy as those phenomenon could be applied in this study, because the variety of the dialect was influenced each other.

Informant I

nek sak iki..., tapi nek pola biyen..., waktu masa – masa kontrak, ***komunitase memang wong jowo dewe, ngono...***, dan setiap mangkane seng jenenge pegawe kebon kui komunitas wong jowo kabeh. Nang gudang – gudang tembako biyen, komunitas wong jowo kabeh.

And an additional reason caused the lexical change based on the interview respond, the effect of interaction to another ethnic also strongly influenced the lexical change. Comparing to the condition of ‘Jakon’ or ‘Jawa Kontark’ (a community of Javanese community who contracted by the colonial company to work in Deli) in their beginning attendance in Sumatera, that tend to be one community or homogeny able to maintain the language originally, meanwhile based on the result of interview showed that the interaction to another ethnic affected this lexical change because the Javanese community already separated into several places in North Sumatera.

Meanwhile the data analysis of lexical change showed that the word *pit* means bicycle is one of potential loss lexicons of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency. This noun is categorized as potential loss lexicons of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency. This noun is categorized as potential loss since the culture of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency is not practiced anymore, even worse the Javanese speaker there never know about the word And this is in line with the word *kretek* that has been changed into *titi* nowadays. And it supported by the transcript from the result of respondent in interview phase as follow.

Informant II.

“gak koyo kita..., kita kan ngomonge jowo ngene..., kadang – kadang ***anak ku dijak ngomong jowo nyautine bahasa Indonesia...***, dadi.....”

Based on the bold and italic clause informed us that the preference of language caused this phenomenon happened in this community, meanwhile it supported by the young generation who loved to used Indonesian language than Javanese language.

The research analysis in the following prevalent facts and information concerning reasons of lexical changes of Javanese language in Deli Serdang Regency.

1. The factors of lexical changes of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency are as follows:
  - a. Lexical loss. The lexical loss caused by two causes comprised Internal Factors and External Factors. The phonetic attrition as the caused of lexical loss from Internal Factors, meanwhile

for the External Factors the lexical loss caused by historical and social condition of Javanese community in Deli Serdang Regency. Historical problem. The Javanese speaker was not coming from Sumatera so that the program of transmigration and contract of the worker distributed them into several places in Deli Serdang and it forced them to separated each other and made them having interaction with another ethnic as the result of social impact in Javanese lexical loss, and as the minority community the influences for the Javanese language maintenance were coming from another ethnic mostly or the lexical change into national language to help them adapted with the citizen in their place.

- b. Semantic change: The semantic changes of Javanese language are strongly caused by Linguistic causes, historical cause, environmental causes (social, cultural, geographical, physical and economic) and Psychological causes.
- c. The Creation of New Lexical Item. The Javanese lexical Creation in Deli Serdang Regency are caused by the variety of Javanese language influence the creation of Javanese new lexical, whereas the Javanese lexical changed each other based on the condition of diversity so that the Javanese native speaker changed their lexical either into another Javanese dialect pronunciation based or

produced a new Javanese lexical that called as Javanese lexical of Deli Serdang Regency currently.

2. For conducting the research of lexical changes of Javanese language in Deli Serdang Regency, it was found: *diachronic semantic change* in Deli Serdang Regency. Diachronic Semantic is the change meaning of certain lexical item as an influence of increasingly modern influence or innovation rather than the grammatical function and it was proven by interviewing with the Javanese people in Deli Serdang Regency. They stated that Javanese people came to Deli Serdang caused migration in around 1930. During the existence of Javanese people in Deli Serdang, they interacted with the different society such as, Bataknese, Malaynese, Karonese and so forth. It could be concluded that interaction among different society it influenced the process of diachronic semantic change occurred for 8,5 decades.

The reasons of lexical changes vary based on the type of lexical change. In relation to the finding previously, lexical loss caused by two causes comprised Internal Factors and External Factors. The phonetic attrition as the caused of lexical loss from Internal Factors, meanwhile for the External Factors the lexical loss caused by historical and social condition of Javanese community in Deli Serdang Regency. These findings are having some similarities from the theory of Varshney (1995: 283). In his book, it is stated that lexical loss is rooted

from internal and external factors. The internal reasons are homonym (words which have the same phonemic structure, but different meanings), phonetic attrition (the variation of meanings due to the sound change), and shortening. In fact, this research showed that homonym and shortening was not found in Javanese lexical change of Deli Serdang Regency. Meanwhile the similarities refer to the external factors of Javanese lexical loss but it was different from internal factors that phonetic attrition as the only one reason that caused lexical loss happened. The data analysis of lexical change showed that a phenomenon of the word “/pit/” means bicycle is one of sample cases of lexical loss of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency. This noun is categorized as potential loss lexicons of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency since the culture of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency is not practiced anymore, even worse the Javanese speaker there never know about the word, and this case is in line with the word “/kreték/” that has been changed into “/titi/” nowadays, whereas this exemplification got from the interview result even though the lexical loss mostly in this research belongs to the sound change as the outcome process of phonetic attrition.

The semantic changes of Javanese language are strongly caused by Linguistic causes, historical cause, environmental

causes (social, cultural, geographical, physical and economic) and Psychological causes. After having the general reasons of lexical change of Deli Serdang Regency, it's the appropriate part to specify the Reasons of Semantic Change of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency. To highlight the reasons of semantic change, the following obvious examples of semantic change lexicons are provided.

1. The word “/pundhak/” is a noun which means shoulder. The speaker himself doesn't know the differences between *pundhak* means shoulder and *geger* means back.
2. The characteristic of “/kreték/” ‘bridge’ is strong. Then, this concept is conceptually applied to “/bok/” and changes its original meaning as bridge into junction.
3. The word */mlumah/* literally means ‘lie down’, a verb. Nevertheless, in Javanese Deli, people's characteristics of life, this lexicon is customarily coded with metaphorical expression, that is, someone did for sleeping. Consequently, this sort of semantic change is regarded as the process of euphemism.

Related to the explanation above, therefore, the influential factors of semantic change are historical causes, environmental and psychological causes. The historical causes is primarily applied when the language users are using the language in different place where the language come from. The historical is concerned with the variety of Javanese language so that the spread of the language users that was coming from different kind and class of Javanese language made the language users interaction have



influenced each other. And this reasons brought the Javanese language in Deli Serdang Regency change lexically. Another conditions caused the Semantic change of this language is environmental causes as related to the previous causes that Javanese language is not coming from North Sumatera so that besides this language should interact with the different kind inter the Javanese language itself, moreover it should face the surrounding from another ethnic. And the exemplification can be shown on the lexical of “*kereta*” in Deli and in the source language place, it called as “*train*”. The last reason found on the lexical “*/kue/*” and “*/riko/*” psychologically. “*kue*” in the source language is having a positive impression and accepted as polite expression meanwhile in the thinking of JADEL (Javanese of Deli Serdang) it assumed as impolite expression and “*riko*” is a better one. Another evidences also found on the word “*kuplok*” having the meaning of particular hat for man, on the contrary in Deli Serdang Regency this lexical of Javanese language is used for woman.

The Creation of New Lexical Item, The Javanese lexical Creation in Deli Serdang Regency are caused by the variety of Javanese language influence the creation of Javanese new lexical, whereas the Javanese lexical changed each other based on the condition of diversity so that the Javanese native speaker changed their lexical either into another Javanese dialect pronunciation based or produced a new Javanese lexical that called as Javanese lexical of Deli Serdang Regency currently. The creation of New lexical Item consist of three division comprised Dialectal Borrowing, Archaism into

Indonesian, and Archaism into another ethnic. Based on the data found, dialectal borrowing happened into Indonesian language whereas the interaction among the community with another tribes and the function of National language as lingua franca in order to help the language users in making a good communication so that they mostly used Indonesian and this phenomenon immediately give strong influence in Javanese dialect in Deli Serdang Regency. In this case, even the Javanese language borrowed the Indonesian language to change their dialect, meanwhile the Javanese language itself still established, but the Javanese speaker in Deli Serdang Regency change the pronunciation tendency into Indonesian language, it was merely like as Phonetic Attrition process of change, meanwhile this kind of Dialect change have the same rules in their changes refer to Indonesian merely, vice versa the

Phonetic Attrition is having more variety in making the utterance of the lexical change. Beside this factor, another finding in Creating New Lexical Item was Archaism which is classified into Indonesian and Another Ethnic. Archaism is the borrowing from another languages, here the finding found the borrowing from Indonesian and another ethnic. Archaism into Indonesian got some phenomenons which is the lexical of Javanese language in Deli Serdang Regency change into Indonesian, so for those particular words list of this sub chapter change immediately into Indonesian language, and based on lexical class this Archaism into Indonesian consist of: Noun got 76 lexicon or thirty eight point nine seven percent, Verb got 62 lexicons or thirty one point seven nine

percent, Adjective got 48 lexicons or twenty four point six one, Pronoun got 4 lexicons or one point six seven percent, adverb got 3 lexicons or preposition got 2 lexicons or one point zero two. The data of Number lexicon based on the lexical class classification, the number of Noun got the dominant number of change which is having a significant finding compare to another classification of Javanese lexical change where as the highest number of lexical change based on lexical class was "Verb".

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the description, explanation and discussion about the reasons of Javanese language Change of Deli Serdang Regency in previous parts, conclusion is drawn as follows:

1. Javanese language of Deli Serdang regency is as one of most population ethnic in North Sumatera, the number of lexical changes relating to this condition is significantly impacted. Therefore, obviously historical problem is regarded as the influential factor of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency change.
2. The deviation of the number of every single sort of lexical changes is definitely implicated by the influence and status of Javanese people's characteristics of life, culture, and technological development.
3. In educational setting, the various changes of Southern dialect lexicon of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency implicitly implicate that language standardization, i.e. selection, elaboration and acceptance, is not totally

employed, consequently it bears an enormously complicated problem impeding the success of teaching and learning Javanese language to the next generation.

4. Unclear of standardization from Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency whether included single language as different language from Javanese language of Java Island, or it is as one of Javanese dialect that called as Dialect of Deli. And the mapping of Javanese classification based on it variety so that will produce a certain community in particular place such as Java from east or central Java.
5. It is strongly suggested to the local Government of Deli Serdang regency particularly and the Government of North Sumatera generally to take into account about the maintenance and standardization of Javanese language of Deli Serdang Regency through the establishment of standardized Javanese of Deli dictionary, formalized Javanese of Deli grammar, and specified spelling system. Through this recoded material, the existence of *JADEL* (Javanese of Deli) can be handled down to the next generation.

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