

The Use of Sociolect in the Nuwewang Village Community

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Abstract

Sociolect is a highly debated subject that necessitates much time for discussion. Sociolect refers to the linguistic variation employed by a specific social group. This research study is about the use of sociolects in the Nuwewang Village community, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency. The purpose of this study is to describe the use of sociolects in the Nuwewang Village community, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency. The data collection techniques used in this study are observation techniques, interviews, recordings and field notes. The data analysis techniques of this study are data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The results of this study indicate that there are four types of sociolects consisting of fifteen vulgar language data, five slang language data, twenty-five colloquial languages, and twelve jargon language data.

Keywords: *Nuwewang Village; Society; Sociolect*



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INTRODUCTION

Language consists of a series of sound symbols that possess meaning and are articulated both freely and conventionally, utilized by a group of individuals to express their thoughts and emotions. Linguists have produced numerous definitions contingent upon their area of emphasis. Language is a system of voluntary auditory symbols employed by society for communication (Wibowo, 2001).

Language is characterized as a message conveyed through expression in certain contexts and diverse activities. The expression comprises both segmental and suprasegmental components in both written and spoken modalities. Consequently, when a sentence is articulated differently, it might communicate diverse meanings. This linguistic proficiency is utilized through rhetorical skills in both written and spoken forms (Devitt & Hanley 2006).

Sociolect, as a variety of language, is shaped by social determinants like income, social standing, education, age, politics, ethnicity, origin, and other societal aspects. Sociolect originates from the phrase social dialect. A dialect that emerges within a communal group shaped by social circumstances and stratifications (Chaer & Agustina, 2014). Societies possessing distinct groupings have traits that warrant examination. This is undoubtedly affected by anthropological factors, including location of origin, educational attainment, age, and profession.

Sociolect refers to the linguistic variance among speakers that correlates with their social standing, group affiliation, and class distinctions. The connection between sociolect and communal life renders it the most debated subject, necessitating considerable time for thorough examination. Sociolinguistics is a subdiscipline of linguistics. Sociolinguistics inherently examines the social dimensions of language, focusing on linguistic differences and their correlation with social or societal factors. Sociolinguistics as the discipline that examines the interplay between language and society (Wijana, 2021). This indicates that sociolinguistics is a discipline that examines persons, their language usage, and the contexts and recipients of their communication.

Researchers are intrigued by this study due to their observations of the Nuwewang village community employing age-appropriate narratives and dialogues, the social groups within the community, and individuals possessing both educated and uneducated characteristics that may impact their narratives. The existence of sociolects within the Nuwewang village community is apparent in the distinct linguistic and speech patterns utilized by children and adolescents in contrast to adults. For instance, slang is utilized by children and adolescents, although adults are typically not observed employing it. Fishermen and farmers differ in their tales and terminology based on their respective social groups. The presence of linguistic variations and analogous speech utilized by all communities, rather than merely distinctions in dialect, is exemplified by colloquial sociolects accessible to children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.

Researchers used sociolects for their study due to the fact that a sociolect represents the linguistic variety employed by a specific social group. Sociolect is also associated with the speaker's personality characteristics, including occupation, age, and gender. The term sociolect is employed in the study of the Nuwewang Village community in Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency, as the researcher identified many social groups categorized by occupation within this community. The researcher observed age-based groups and the impact of both educated and illiterate individuals, which could influence speech, as demonstrated by the existence of sociolect in every spoken word and sentence.

The title of this study is "The Utilization of Sociolect in the Nuwewang Village Community, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency." The author concentrates on investigating the utilization of sociolect as articulated by the local community. The author intends to examine the Nuwewang village community's interactions, particularly their utilization of sociolects in vocabulary and sentence structure. This research necessitates theories pertinent to the subject under investigation. The ideas employed or acquired by the author will be those that have been validated for their precision; in other words, the veracity and data integrity of these theories may be substantiated. The author employs the following theories in this investigation.

This research necessitates theories pertinent to the subject under investigation. The theories employed or acquired by the author are those that have been validated or examined for their veracity; in other words, the reliability of the facts and the authenticity of these theories can be substantiated. The subsequent theories employed by the author in this investigation are as follows.

Sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary field that merges sociology and linguistics, examining the appropriate use of language by individuals in diverse contexts. Sociolinguistics is an academic discipline that integrates other fields and investigates the relationship between language and its societal impact (Chaer & Leonie, 2014). Halliday (in Sumarsono, 2014) defines sociolinguistics as the examination of institutional linguistics, focusing on the connection between language users and their interlocutors. Sociolinguistics is described as the examination of language and its users. Sociolinguistics is the examination of society and its language (Fauziah, et al., 2021). Chaer and Leonie (2014) assert that "sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary field of study that examines language in relation to its use within a society," illustrating the tight interconnection between sociology and linguistics.

Sociolinguistics is a discipline that examines language in relation to its societal context, particularly focusing on its users (Abdurrahman, 2008). Robita (2011) asserts that the speaker's perspective facilitates a sociolinguistic comprehension of language from several viewpoints. From the speaker's viewpoint, language operates on a personal and individual level, since speakers demonstrate constrained views regarding their utterances.

As stated in (Mac OS, 2017), sociolinguistics offers numerous advantages in everyday life, as language functions as a medium for human verbal interaction. This discipline investigates the societal utilization of language and the diverse linguistic variants throughout society. Sociolinguistics examines how individuals place themselves through language within a certain society and delineates language differences concerning its users and applications. Sociolinguistics examines the interconnections between linguistic phenomena and societal aspects.

The connection between sociolinguistics and language is evident and intimately linked. Sociolinguistics examines linguistic processes within society, whereas sociolects refer to the language varieties inside society that are subject to analysis. Holmes (1995) asserts that sociolinguistics is the discipline that investigates the relationship between language and the social aspects of society, along with factors that affect both. Sociolinguistics examines the social function of language and its role in conveying social meaning.

METHODS

This research is categorized as qualitative research. Qualitative research produces insights unattainable through statistical techniques or other quantification methods (Moleong, 2010). Qualitative research is commonly employed to examine subjects such as history, community dynamics, behavior, organizational operations, and social interactions. This research will examine the sociolect utilized by the inhabitants of Nuwewang village, Letti sub-district, Southwest Maluku Regency, employing a descriptive methodology. The research data include words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that encompass sociolects in the discourse of the inhabitants of Nuwewang Village, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency. The research data sources comprise the inhabitants of Nuwewang Village, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency, who are characterized by or possess sociolects.

The study was carried out at Nuwewang Village, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency. In qualitative research, data analysis occurs continuously throughout the research process, commencing at the study's inception. Data was subsequently collected and acquired for methodical processing. Commence with observation, interviewing, editing, classification, reduction, presentation of data, and deriving conclusions from the data. This study employed interactive analysis approaches to examine the data. Researchers performed direct observation in the field, utilizing auditory and visual senses, and subsequently captured the conversations of the residents of Nuwewang Village with a recording device. Field notes were utilized to document certain data that could not be captured to avoid tampering with the recording apparatus. Transcriptions of the speech were subsequently generated, encompassing various information requisite for the research, including speech featuring sociolects.

The obtained data from the Nuwewang Village community is thereafter subjected to a selection and refinement procedure, tailored to the researcher's requirements. The data is categorized according to abbreviations and acronyms, while data that fails to satisfy the researcher's requirements is excluded. Following a reduction process, data that accurately corresponds with the research focus will be acquired,

specifically "The Use of Sociolect in the Nuwewang Village Community, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency," which encompasses various forms and classifications, along with coding based on the data collection methodology employed in the field.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The investigation identified 15 instances of vulgar sociolectal language, specifically: *inauya*, *ahwona*, *smerl*p*, *m*i*, *nau-nau*, *butahurup*, *bampuk**, *nene moyang*, *setne*, *kl*t*, *asu*, *wikmermere*, *binatang*, *anjing*, *kaprona*, and *pep**. Furthermore, five data points of slang sociolectal language were identified: *caper*, *bataso*, *cogan*, *mulcans*, and *jelski*. Additionally, there were 25 data points of colloquial sociolectal language, including *ni*, *lai*, *sa*, *bet*, *su*, *os*, *brapa*, *ig*, *tu plima*, *kasbersih*, *la*, *kaslepas*, *angka*, *do*, *sap*, *masa*, *maksnya*, *pi*, *tong*, *lebai*, *kom*, *jang*, and *komen*. Ultimately, twelve data points of jargon sociolectal language were identified, comprising *bobo*, *mbla tutun wai*, *bawa bodi*, *tanase*, *buang jaring*, *pukul jaring*, *mutu*, *bawa linggis*, *cor ikan*, *PMH*, *tanam pindah*, and *bajak tanah*. The research indicates the existence of 57 varieties of sociolect, encompassing vulgar, slang, colloquial, and jargon forms.

- (1) Elna: *bilang bagini par beta, Andro ni mau mangaku dia pung kaka par seleb lai la inauya. Pengikut sa cuma lima ratus lebih sa, Bet sa su mau lebih dia.*

Elna: said to me, "Andro wants to acknowledge his sister as a celebrity too, but he only has about five hundred followers. I'm already about to have more than him."

Kevin: *Os pung brapa la? Seribu e?*

Kevin: What is your total amount? One thousand, correct?

Cika: *Seng beta pung seng sampe seribu, Bet sa baru bangun IG ini ne.*

Cika: No, I do not possess a thousand, and I have recently created an Instagram account as well.

- (2) Fallen: *Ahwona, os makang itu e, makang akang semua.*

Damn, you have to eat that and eat everything.

Morna: *Hai, sampe supaya katong masa itu tambah lai.*

Hey, stop so we can cook again.

Fallen: *Na ana paleng smerlap kawan e, os lia dia abis makan ayam langsung dia buang-buang akan di sana e, ma*se, bet paleng binci model begini me. Ne kom ambe barang kom pi buang akan di sana neh.*

This child is exceedingly impolite; after consuming the chicken, he carelessly discarded it. I have a strong aversion to such behavior.

- (3) Marinda: *Nau-nau, os angka itu do, aa itu cepat. Cepat sudah nau-nau e.*

Stupid, please get that first, it's quick. Hurry up, stupid.

Fallen: *Sapa?*

Who?

Karlos: *Oi...(Berteriak) Ogel satu orang timba par bet do*

Hey... (Shouting). Someone, please draw water for me first.

Marinda: *Hai Karlos, os to paleng butahurup.*

Hi Carlos, you really don't know your letters.

Karlos: *Bampuk* satu, os bilang sap butahurup?*

Bampuk* (female genitalia) one, you say who doesn't know the alphabet?

Vulgar language is language that is rude, impolite, and tends to be offensive or obscene. Many persons who use obscene words or sentences can be seen in their life background. It seems many people use vulgar words and sentences, which demonstrates a lack of education in their speech. Vulgar language is often employed in the speech and discussions of the people of Nuwewang Village, utilized directly or indirectly for swearing, even for calling and referring to others with dirty phrases. For example, *Inuya*.

Slang is informal language or non-standard language used by a specific social group. Slang is widely used in regular communication. Slang language in the Nuwewang village community is commonly used by children, teenagers, and even adults can utter words incorporating slang. For example: Caper. Jargon is a specialized language used in a specific subject, such as a career or social group. Some community groups in several fields in Nuwewang Village often utilize phrases related to their sphere of life, career, or discourse when interacting or speaking. In Nuwewang Village, it was detected among people who work as fishermen, farmers, and others. The use of this terminology is exemplified as follows: I don't want one and a half.

Based on research conducted on the population of Nuwewang Village, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency, the researcher observed four categories of sociolectal language variations: 1). Vulgar language, 2). Colloquial language, 3). Slang, and 4). Jargon. The people of Nuwewang Village employ common speech and discussions that reflect their social background. The residents of Nuwewang Village who have less education or did not receive good teaching in word and sentence usage are therefore accustomed to utilizing vulgar terms or language in their speech and conversations.

If a society's social background is based on age, for example, teenagers, children, and young people, then when they are together with a group of their peers, they are guarantyd to use slang in every word. Colloquial language can be used by anyone in the Nuwewang village community because many terms have become characteristic and are pronounced with shorter forms. People from various professions, in every tale and conversation inside a certain context, are bound to employ a range of phrases relating to their work, which are sometimes not understood by people outside of their profession or organizations. Therefore, this can be termed jargon. Based on the statement, those languages are utilized according to the scenario and conditions that exist at that moment.

There are eight colloquial languages identified, particularly the words *ni, lai, sa, bet, su, brapa, os*, and *ig*. The word "ini" (this) serves as a pronoun, but in the conversation data above, it defines what Cika means when she says her friend told her that her friend's brother is a celebrity. The word "lagi" (again) acts as an adverb and particle, but in the discussion above, it emphasizes what Cika means when she says her friend told her that her brother is a celebrity. Then, the term "saja" (only) acts to express or state "only" and "just," and it is employed by Cika up to four times. Cika wants to emphasize that her friend's brother only has a few Instagram followers, and Cika's Instagram followers are almost more than his. Then, Cika uses the word "saja" to emphasize that she has just created her Instagram account.

The term "bet" in the Ambon dialect means "I," and in Indonesian, it means "saya" (I). The word "bet" functions to indicate a person's self and their own characteristics. The phrase "bet" in the exchange above is used by speaker Cika to describe that her Instagram followers are almost more than her friend's brother's, and also to explain that speaker Cika has just opened an Instagram account.

The word "su" (already) serves the purpose of stating that an activity has already occurred. In the exchange above, the word "su" is used by speaker Cika to signify that her Instagram followers are soon to exceed those of her friend's older sister. The phrase "berapa" (how many) acts to query about quantity, units, amount, size, value, price, and time. In the discussion above, the speaker Kevin uses the phrase "berapa" to inquire the speaker Cika about the amount of her Instagram followers. The term "os" in the Ambon dialect means "you," and in Indonesian, it means "you." The word "os" works to ask the listener something or to tell the listener to do something. The term "os" in the discussion above is used by the speaker, Kewin, to ask the speaker, Cika, how many Instagram followers Cika has. The phrase "ig" is a colloquialism for the word "Instagram." This word suggests a social media application commonly utilized by people. It is abbreviated for the purpose that it is more casual to use. The word "ig" is used in the exchange above by speaker Cika to answer speaker Kevin's question regarding her having just made an Instagram account. The exchange above took place on January 25, 2025, on the edges of the public water tank in Nuwewa village.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research conducted on the community of Nuwewang Village, Letti District, Southwest Maluku Regency, the researcher detected four types of sociolects in the narratives and conversations spoken by the inhabitants of Nuwewang Village. The four types of sociolects detected were vulgar, slang, colloquial, and jargon, while the sorts of sociolects not found included *acrolect, basilect, argot*, and *ken*.

Based on the research findings, 15 data points of vulgar sociolect language were found, including *inauya*, *ahwona*, *smerlap*, *mai*, *nau-nau*, *butahurup*, *bampuki*, *nene moyang*, *setne*, *klot*, *asu*, *wikmermere*, *binatang*, *anjing*, *kaprona*, and *pepe*. Additionally, 5 data points of slang sociolect language were detected, including *caper*, *bataso*, *cogan*, *jelski*, and *mulcans*. Furthermore, 25 data points of colloquial sociolect language were detected, such as *ni*, *lai*, *sa*, *bet*, *su*, *os*, *brapa*, *ig*, *tu plima*, *kasbersih*, *la*, *kaslepas*, *angka*, *do*, *sap*, *masa*, *maksnya*, *pi*, *tong*, *lebai*, *kom*, *jang*, and *komen*. Finally, 12 data points of jargon sociolect language were detected, including *bobo*, *mbla tutun wai*, *bawa bodi*, *tanase*, *buang jaring*, *pukul jaring*, *mutu*, *bawa linggis*, *cor ikan*, *PMH*, *tanam pindah*, and *bajak tanah*. Based on the data gathered, there are 57 sorts of sociolect data, including vulgar, slang, colloquial, and jargon.

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