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RESEARCH ARTICLE

LANGUAGE MAP IN THE BORDERING REGION OF TWO MALAY-POLYNESIAN LANGUAGES.

Ana Purwitasari.

Universitas Gadjah Mada – Indonesia, University of Freiburg – Germany.

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Abstract

This investigation was focused on Austronesian languages, e.g. Sundanese and Javanese. As its aim was to determine language border in Majalengka, the scope was into lexical comparison of Standard Sundanese and Standard Javanese in order to map it out into a language map. The result of this analysis was presented as a language map which explained clearly that there were two urban villages, where people tended to use both Sundanese and Javanese although they lived geographically in a Sundanese-speaking region. Moreover, there was a rural village that was apparently an enclave of Javanese surrounded by villages as home of Sundanese native speakers.

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Introduction:-

The field of reference of this study is Malay-Polynesian languages that belong to Austronesian languages. As one of Austronesian languages subgroup, Sundanese along with Javanese is respectively spoken in Java island (Blust, 2009). Although these two languages are categorized as the same subgroup which is spoken in Indonesia, their native speakers declared that there are differences between Sundanese and Javanese. It can certainly seen on lexical term based on politeness level and prefix to form active verb (A. Purwitasari, Seoul National University, South Korea, unpublished proceeding of an international conference). This speech level differs Sundanese and Javanese from other local languages in Indonesia. For instance, the word *dahar* 'to eat' in Sundanese is used to close friends or relatives of similar age, by adults to children, or among colleagues in informal situations, while in Javanese *dhahar* 'to eat' this word is only spoken to show respect towards a speaker's audience, between colleagues in formal settings, children to adults, or between strangers at the start of a conversation (Poedjosoedarmo, 1968). Despite those differences, Sundanese and Javanese shared 42,5 percent of their core vocabularies based on lexicostatistics (A. Purwitasari, University of Hamburg, Germany, research paper poster presentation).

In addition, Majalengka was selected as the research object since this regency separates two language areas, e.g. Sundanese and Javanese, despite the fact that people of this region speak Sundanese with some dialect variations. The areas in West Java on the western and southern of Majalengka are mostly Sundanese-speaking regions, whereas those on the northern and eastern of Majalengka are home for Javanese-speaking people who came to West Java from other Javanese-speaking areas in the island of Java.

Majalengka consists of twenty-six districts that were subdivided into 13 urban villages and 383 rural villages (Statistics Indonesia Jakarta, Indonesia, personal communications). It shares geographical borders with Sumedang regency in the West, Indramayu regency in the North, Kuningan and Cirebon regencies in the East, and Ciamis regency in the South. Besides, it shares Mount Cereme with Kuningan and Cirebon regencies.

Method:-

In order to reach aim of this research paper, several words both in Sundanese and Javanese were definitely collected through the interview process (Chambers and Trudgill, 2004; Crowley and Bown, 2010; Niebaum and Macha, 2006; Purwitasari, 2016) (A. Purwitasari, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, unpublished MA Thesis) since the research is to determine language border which is based on lexical comparison. Those words referred to Swadesh Vocabulary List as basic vocabularies and some words that are closely related to people in Indonesia (Nadra and Reniwati, 2009).

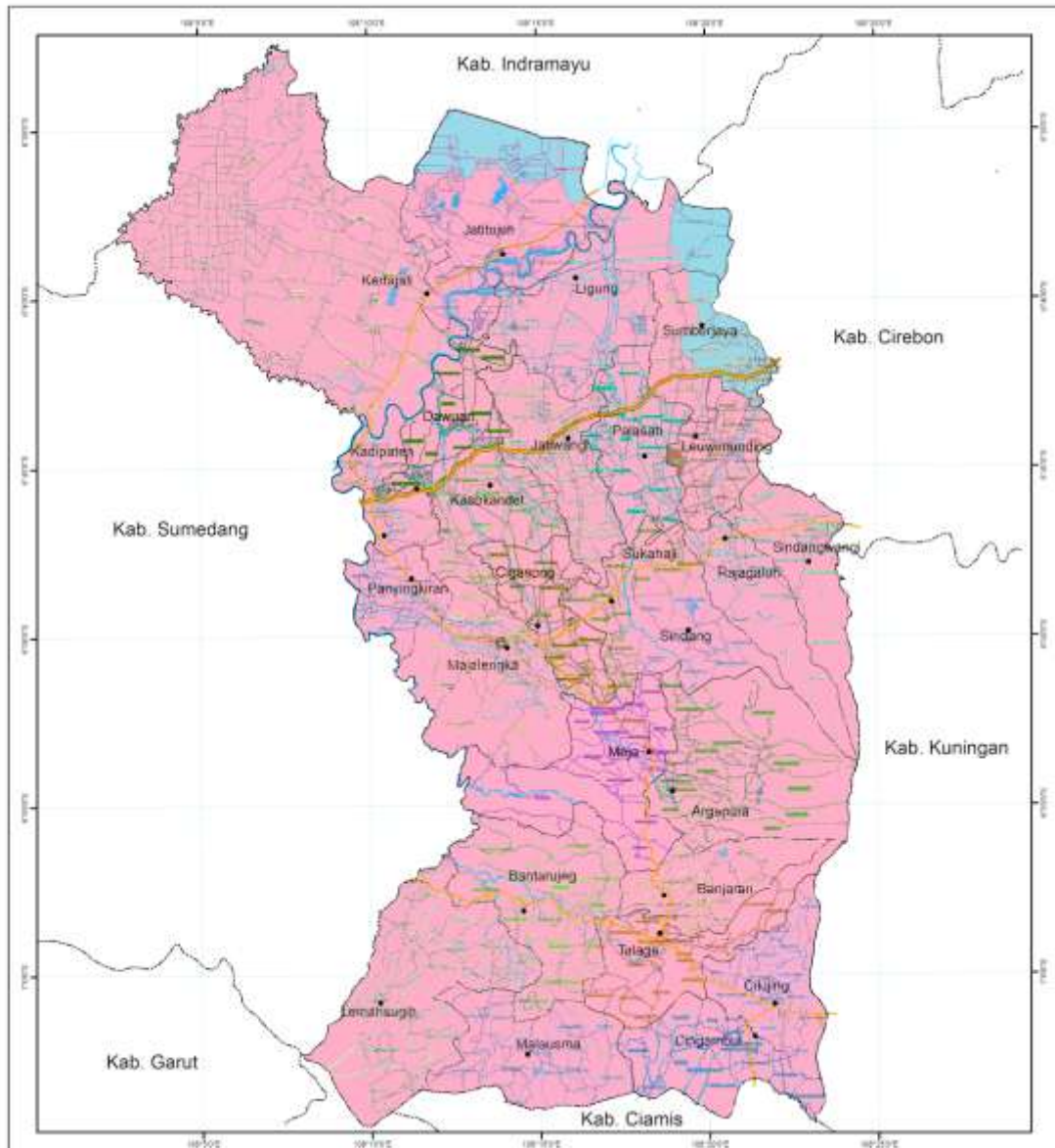
The informants of this interview are those who live in each urban villages even rural villages in Majalengka. Then, they were asked to translate each word on the list into Sundanese and Javanese or even their variation as well. This process resulted in variation of vocabularies based on urban villages where they lived. Those words were compared to Standard Sundanese that is natively uttered in other districts in West Java, e.g. Bandung, Ciamis, Cianjur, Tasik, and Garut or well-known as Priangan regions and Standard Javanese which is local language in Yogyakarta (I. Y. Fernandez, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, personal communications).

Results:-

According to the investigation, Sundanese was mostly spoken as the first language in several urban villages in Majalengka as mentioned above. However, there was a rural village in urban village Leuwimunding, called Desa Patuanan 'Patuanan urban village' which was categorized as an enclave of Javanese in Majalengka. It was certainly known as Javanese village of Majalengka since people who lived there tended to use Javanese, instead of Sundanese to contact with each other from the same area, even if its surrounding rural villages were home of Sundanese speakers. This claim was supported by several evidences found in the district, such as labeling the name of a company as *Pring Gadi* in which the word *pring* (in Javanese) 'bamboo' existed and *Artomoyo* that was the typical company name in Javanese-speaking districts. Despite the fact those people spoke Javanese, they could definitely speak Sundanese with Javanese accent to communicate with others from their surrounding rural villages.

In addition, the influence of Javanese could respectively be seen in contrasting regions that were urban villages Jatitujuh and Sumberjaya that shared geographical borders with Cirebon and Indramayu regencies where indigenous people uttered Javanese. The society of those regions spoke firmly Sundanese and Javanese. Some Javanese words were clearly used, such as *papat* 'four' instead of *opat* (in Sundanese) 'four', *ngewu* 'one thousand (Rupiah)' instead of *sarébu* (in Sundanese) 'one thousand (Rupiah)', *туру* 'sleep' instead of *saré* (in Sundanese) 'sleep', and *weteng* 'belly' instead of *beuteung* (in Sundanese) 'belly'.

According to the interview result, it could doubtlessly be stated that there were sound correspondences which were metathesis of phone [r], fusion of sound [u] and [a] becoming [o] that had specific features back, mid, tense, and rounded and prothesis of phone [a] in one-syllable words in those two areas bordering Javanese-speaking regions. However, those linguistics changes were different in other regions in Majalengka where the society spoke Sundanese. The distinctions referred to phone [r] remained uttered, fusions were not found, and prothesis of phone [e] in one-syllable words. Another contrasting aspects were explicitly found in labeling the company name and mosque, e.g. *Sugih* (in Javanese) 'reach' instead of *Beunghar* (in Sundanese) 'reach', *Moro Seneng* (in Javanese) 'hunting for fun', *Majapahit* 'a thalassocracy that was based on the island of Java and existed between 13th and 16th'. The following figure showed language border in Majalengka.

Figure 1:- Language Map in Majalengka

Note:

- Sundanese-speaking regions with no any knowledge of Javanese required
- Sundanese and Javanese-speaking regions
- Javanese-speaking enclave

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Conclusion:-

In general, Majalengka is home of Sundanese speakers. Yet two urban villages in this district were deeply influenced by Javanese since their surrounding villages are Javanese-speaking areas, e.g. Jatitujuh that formed border with Indramayu regency and Sumberjaya that shared border with Cirebon regency. Furthermore, there was a Javanese enclave found in Leuwimunding urban village.

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