

Phonology in the Variations of Balinese Greeting Words in the Ungasan Dialect

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Abstract— This paper is titled *Phonological Variations of the Balinese Ungasan Dialect*. It examines the phonological processes occurring in Balinese Greeting Words of the Ungasan Dialect, which differ from those in the standard Balinese dialect. The study aims to uncover linguistic phenomena in the field of phonology, specifically focusing on phonological processes. The research employs a qualitative descriptive approach, analyzing the natural use of Balinese Greeting Words in the Ungasan Dialect to ensure an objective depiction. Phonological processes serve as the framework for mapping the unique characteristics and differences of this dialect, while the concept of dialect is explored as a geographical determinant. The study identifies phonological variations in the Balinese Ungasan Dialect's greeting words, including "men," "pan," and "nang." Among these, a new phonological process, namely the process of apheresis deletion, was found.

Keywords— Phonology, Dialect, Balinese.

I. INTRODUCTION

The variety of a language that is commonly recognized is referred to as a dialect. A dialect is defined as a language variety used by subgroups of a linguistic community, identifiable through its distinct grammar, phonology, and vocabulary. Traditionally, linguists used the term "dialect" to refer to language varieties determined by geographical factors, but its current usage also includes varieties influenced by social factors within the user group. According to Holmes (2013:140), a dialect is a language variety distinguished by its vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. The speech of individuals from different social and regional groups may vary in these aspects. Language variation occurs not only in multilingual or bilingual societies but also in monolingual societies. Even when speakers only know one language, variations within that language can still be observed. Language use can reflect the identity of a specific group and construct various aspects of social identity. Language variation may also arise due to environmental factors, social status, gender, age, ethnicity, and social relationships.

The Ungasan dialect of Balinese is one of the Balinese dialects that has been frequently studied, although a detailed description and analysis to characterize the linguistic uniqueness of the native Badung community is still needed. This study examines greeting words in the Ungasan dialect of Balinese, chosen because even within a single geographic area, there are diverse variations compared to the standard Balinese dialect. This study explores the phonological processes of greeting words in the Ungasan Balinese dialect, which differ from those in the standard Balinese dialect.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Phonological variation is the variation in language found within the field of phonology, encompassing variations in sounds and phonemes (Nadra, 2009:23). In generative phonology theory, sound variations occurring from their base or underlying forms undergo a phonological process, which can be examined through formulating specific rules. The basic concept of generative phonology is that every morpheme has a single base form. Using phonological rules, all morpheme variants occurring in different environments can be derived from their underlying form (Suparwa, 2009:14). To represent lexical variations of morphemes and analyze their sound levels, generative phonology differentiates two levels: phonetic representation using the symbol [...] and the more abstract phonemic representation using the symbol / ... /. The distinction between phonetic and phonemic representation enables explanations of sound variations caused by environmental or distributional factors, commonly referred to as allophones. Allophones are assumed not to be listed in the underlying forms (base components) but appear in phonetic representations. Allophones are significantly discussed in phonology as they indicate the uniqueness of a language.

Phonological Processes

Phonological data are usually presented in the form of transcribed phonetic or phonemic vocabulary. If the data are presented as phrases or clauses, the possibility of phonological processes occurring must be considered, influenced not only by sound environments but also by grammatical environments such as morphological markers, word classes, syntactic functions, and more. Pastika (2005:172) states that phonological processes involve sound changes influenced by sound environment, morpheme boundaries, and grammatical elements directly or indirectly. According to Pastika (2005:93), three aspects must be considered to determine sound changes: the sound that changes, the nature of the change, and the environment in which the sound changes. These three aspects must be determined by carefully identifying the data, starting with recognizing consonant sounds based on their articulation place and manner and recognizing vowel sounds based on their height, frontness or backness, roundness or flatness, and other features. Once these sounds are clearly identified, further identification of sound positions within the lexicon or post-lexicon can proceed. Observations should confirm the sound environments, morpheme boundaries, or word boundaries. Grammatical category aspects, such as syntactic structures

(voice, transitivity, tense, aspect, etc.) and morphological structures (presence or absence of markers for possessives, cases, word classes, etc.), also require attention. Numerous phonological processes occur in the world's languages; however, this discussion is limited to deletion processes and those involving tongue-back features, such as vowel raising.

Deletion Processes

Deletion may be influenced by several factors, with the position of the sound being a particularly significant aspect to discuss. According to Pastika (2005), one or more sounds, whether vowels, consonants, or a combination of both, can be deleted at the beginning, middle, or end of a morpheme. Sounds deleted at the beginning of a morpheme are referred to as "afesis," those deleted in the middle as "syncope," and sounds deleted at the end as "apocope."

Afesis

Indonesian speakers often eliminate sounds at the beginning of specific words, which can include forms like greeting words and particles, as demonstrated below:

- /ibu/ [bu, ibu]
- /bapak/ [pak, bapak]
- /adik/ [dik, adik]
- /kakak/ [kak, kakak]
- /kakek/ [kek, kakek]
- /nenek/ [nek, nenek]
- /sudah/ [udah, sudah]
- /tətapi/ [tapi, tətapi] (Pastika, 2005:113)

The issue is why the first syllable is eliminated rather than the second or last syllable. From a phonological perspective, the primary stress is placed on the explicitly retained syllable, while the weak stress on the initial syllable predisposes it to deletion.

Syncope

Deletion can occur in weak sounds (commonly vowels) located in the middle of morphemes. In Indonesian, such deletions often involve a schwa vowel situated between obstruents and sonorants. This pattern is also found in other languages, such as English.

In Indonesian: Elision in the middle of a morpheme

- /bəlum/ [blum, bəlum]
- /pələut/ [plaut, pələut]
- /təraŋ/ [traŋ, təraŋ]
- /kələpon/ [kləpon, kələpon]
- /tərima/ [trima, tərima]

Apocope

Weak stress on a syllable heavily influences the likelihood of sound or syllable deletion, which can occur not only in the initial or middle syllable but also in the final syllable, a process referred to as "apocope."

Loanwords from English in Indonesian

The deletion process can also be observed in Indonesian loanwords borrowed from English:

English	Indonesian	photograph	<i>foto</i>
standard		<i>standar</i>	
text		<i>teks</i>	
export		<i>ekspor</i>	

import	<i>impor</i>
passport	<i>paspur</i>
post	<i>pos</i>

The feature of the tongue dorsum.

TABLE 1. Vowel Symbols and Slide Sounds according to APA

		Front		Central		Back	
		Spread	Round	Spread	Round	Spread	Round
High	Glide	y	w̥			Y̥	W
	Tense	i	ü	i	u	ĩ	U
	Lax	I	Y̥			ĩ	Y
Middle	Tense	e	ö	Ə	ø	Ě	O
	Lax	ɛ	ɔ̥	ʌ		Ě	ɔ
Low		æ	œ	a, ɐ		a	ɒ

High sound is associated with the raising of the tongue's blade or back towards the roof of the mouth. This feature includes high characteristics for vowels and semivowels as well as for consonants. Vowels and semivowels with high features include [i, u, I] and [y, w], while consonants with high features are [k, g].

Conversely, the low feature is associated with the lowering of the tongue's back, moving away from the roof of the mouth. This feature also applies to vowel and consonant sounds. Low-feature vowels include [a, ɔ, ɑ], while low-feature consonants are typically only glottal sounds such as [h, ʔ], and other consonants are not associated with the low feature.

Dialect

A dialect is a linguistic variation that differs in terms of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation (Holmes, 2013: 140). There are two other characteristics that a dialect possesses: (1) a dialect is a set of local speech forms that differ from one another, which share common features, with each being more similar to one another than to other forms of speech in the same language, and (2) a dialect does not have to encompass all speech forms of a language. The differences that distinguish dialects include five types of distinctions. Phonetic differences fall within the field of phonology, where speakers of a dialect or language are usually unaware of these variations. This is accompanied by semantic differences, which refer to the creation of new words resulting from phonological changes and shifts in form. On the other hand, onomasiological differences indicate the use of different names for a single concept across various locations. In contrast, semasiological differences involve the application of the same name for different concepts. Lastly, morphological differences lead to the creation of language innovations.

According to Wardaugh and Fuller (2015:42), the term dialect can also be used to describe speech differences associated with various social groups or classes. A direct issue in this context is defining social or class groups and assigning the appropriate weight to various factors that can be used to determine social position, such as occupation, place of residence, education, income, new money versus old money, race or ethnicity, cultural background, caste, religion, and so on. Regional dialects are geographically based, while social dialects arise from social groups and are connected to various factors, with the main ones appearing to be social class,

religion, and race/ethnicity.

III. METHOD

This research aims to investigate phonological phenomena, particularly phonological processes, using a descriptive qualitative approach. The material for this study comprises spoken greetings from native speakers, making the study objective. The research was conducted in Ungasan Village, covering several community subunits (*banjar*), including *Banjar Kelod*, *Banjar Kertha Lestari*, *Banjar Kangin*, *Banjar Giri Dharma*, and *Banjar Werdi Kosala*. The data for this study were oral in nature and collected from informants who provided linguistic information related to phonology. There were ten informants from the different *banjar*, selected based on specific criteria (Mahsun, 2005): male or female; aged between 25 and 65 years; parents, spouses, or the informants themselves were born and raised in the village and have rarely or never left it; maximum educational level of junior high school ; middle-class social status, ensuring limited mobility; occupations such as farmers or laborers; pride in their dialect (isolect); and physical and mental health. Informants meeting these criteria were chosen to ensure data authenticity and that the information genuinely represented the reality of the Balinese language.

The methods employed in this study were observation and interview methods. The observation method was conducted by observing language use, aided by the elicitation technique. The data elicitation involved further steps such as recording, supported by the free-involvement observation technique, where the researcher observed dialogues among informants without participating. The interview method was used by conversing with informants and utilizing a prompting technique. This technique involved using a list of pre-prepared questions to elicit accurate responses.

This study used the intralingual matching method for data analysis. According to Mahsun (2005:118), the intralingual matching method involves comparing linguistic elements within the same or different languages. Data analysis began with data identification, marking each dataset distinctly. Next, the phonological processes in the Ungasan Balinese greeting words were identified and analyzed following Schane's theory of phonological processes. Data analysis results were presented using formal and informal methods. The formal method involved presenting results with symbols, such as double slashes // to indicate phonemic sounds, square brackets [] for phonetic sounds, and other phonetic symbols for transcribing the sounds of the Ungasan Balinese dialect. Meanwhile, the informal method was used to explain phonological processes using plain language, resulting in a textual narrative.

IV. RESULTS

Three phonological processes are identified in the features of the Balinese Dialect of Ungasan, particularly found in terms of greeting words. The greeting words referred to in the following data are:

/men/ [Men] 'Bu'
/pan/ [Pan] 'Pak'
/nang/ [Nang] 'Pak'

Based on the data collection, when talking about others, the informants commonly use greeting words, whether they are using second-person pronouns or direct address terms. The Balinese Dialect of Ungasan greeting words used in the context of referring to the parents of a sibling or a person they know include *men*, *pan*, and *nang*.

The phonological process discussed here is the loss of sounds in the form of *afresis*. The loss occurs at the beginning of the word (initial position), specifically known as *afresis*. This process was observed in the Balinese Dialect of Ungasan and presented as follows:

/men/ [Men] 'Bu' → Context: *Men Putri* 'Bu Putri' (Putri' mother)

/pan/ [Pan] 'Pak' → Context: *Pan Ayu* 'Pak Ayu' (Ayu' Father)

/nang/ [Nang] 'Pak' → Context: *Nang Leteg* 'Pak Leteg' (Sir Leteg)

These data are presented as fragments of phrases within clauses. This process of phonetic loss is not mandatory but optional. In some utterances, the phrases are pronounced fully, while in other cases, the forms appear with the loss of the initial syllable. The use of the greeting words *Men Putri* and *Pan Ayu* in this context is generally found when the reference is made by the child. In standard Balinese dialect, it would typically be pronounced as /memen ayu/. The first syllable undergoes the loss process, as the vowel /ε/ is weak and unstressed. From a phonological perspective, the main stress is placed on the preserved syllable, while the initial syllable receives weaker stress, leading to its loss.

A variation of the greeting word for addressing a father, */nang/*, is found in all informants' speech and is used in reference to someone's actual name. This also experiences *afresis*. The dialect variant */nanang/* is not widely found. In several regions, */nanang/* also refers to the word for father, and it undergoes *afresis* at the initial position. Phonologically, in */nanang/*, the second syllable receives strong stress, and the vowel /a/, which is low, front, open, and unrounded, undergoes loss in the first syllable, represented by [a], symbolizing the low vowel sound (low, front, open, unrounded).

In this paper, variations of the Balinese Dialect of Ungasan greeting words were found, namely *men*, *pan*, and *nang*. From these variations, a new phonological process was identified, specifically the phonological process of *afresis* loss. Of course, there are still many more greeting words that can be further explored for their phonological processes. It is hoped that further research will provide more complex insights into this dialect.

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