



Linguistic Variations of Village Names in the Special Region of Yogyakarta: An Exploration of Local Identity and Cultural Heritage

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Abstract. The Special Region of Yogyakarta, known for its rich cultural heritage, offers diverse names of places that reflect the complex interaction between language and local identity. These names, which include administrative units such as (*kemantren*, *kelurahan*, and *kecamatan*), display a tremendous variety of linguistic diversity, drawn from national languages, local dialects, and foreign influences. This linguistic diversity is superficial and a reflection of the complex socio-cultural dynamics that have shaped the region over time. Village names often serve as markers of local identity, capturing their communities' unique history, customs, and environmental characteristics. By closely examining these toponyms, researchers can gain valuable insights into the intricate linguistic, cultural, and geographical networks that define the Special Region of Yogyakarta. Qualitative descriptive methods can be used to study language variations in village names in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, which involves systematic data collection and analysis from primary and secondary sources, such as historical records, linguistic studies, and ethnographic observations. The diversity found in village names in the Special Region of Yogyakarta reflects the vast cultural heritage and captivates the interplay between language and identity. Examining these linguistic patterns can provide researchers with invaluable information about the complex sociocultural factors that have influenced the region throughout history and contribute to ongoing efforts to preserve and celebrate the linguistic richness of this dynamic and diverse region.

Keywords: Language variation, toponymy, district, linguistics

1. INTRODUCTION

A growing body of literature recognizes the importance of linguistic variations. Recent developments in the field of linguistic variations have led to a renewed interest in exploring local identity and culture heritage. Yogyakarta is a city in Indonesia with a spe-

cial status, such as the Special Region of Aceh and the Special Capital Region of Jakarta. This special status is due to the presence of the kingdom that still stands today, led by Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwana X, the king of the Ngayogyakarta Sultanate Hadiningrat. The influence of the Sultanate is evident in the names of regions in Yogyakarta, including villages in the special area (Amrina & Wijana, 2023). These villages are created based on the needs and expectations of the local community, with the name of the area and the district referring to the area where the community lives together in a community (Hough, 2016). The naming of regions in Yogyakarta is not only influenced by the culture of the people living in the area but also by the history of the area. For example, Dutch vocabulary in Dutch and Japanese occupations influenced the names of regions and villages in the Special Region of Yogyakarta. For example, the name "Jepitu" in Gunungkidul District is an acronym for "jong pitu" which means "seven ships" in Dutch, while "klitren" in Yogyakarta is an acronym for "kuli train" which means "train worker" in English. These names were chosen based on the history and context of the area, with "klitren" being the name for the neighborhood near Lempuyangan station, which was once a stopover for rail transport workers. For linguistic evolution to occur, a population must exhibit diversity in language use, and there must be social mechanisms by which these variations can spread or be redistributed throughout the community. The influence of historical events on the naming of regions goes beyond Dutch and Japanese occupations, covering various periods in Yogyakarta's rich past. These names often reflect significant local events, important figures, or geographical features that shape an area's identity over time. In addition, preserving the names of these historic places serves as living proof of the area's cultural heritage, connecting current residents with their ancestral roots and fostering a sense of community pride (Sulistiyowati & Priyatmoko, 2019) (Regional Secretariat DIY, 2024) [4].

The study of linguistic variations in village names in the Special Region of Yogyakarta is crucial because it provides insights into the social and cultural factors that shape the use and change of language in the region. The linguistic diversity in the place names of Yogyakarta reflects historical influences and serves as a valuable resource for sociolinguistic research. Researchers can gain insights into the region's complex interactions between language, culture, and social dynamics by analyzing these names. This linguistic landscape provides a unique opportunity to explore how different cultural and historical factors shape local dialects and contribute to forming different linguistic communities in Yogyakarta.

There is a significant gap in the existing literature on linguistic variations in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, especially regarding the linguistic characteristics of villages and the factors that influence their use. For instance, a previous study explains the toponymy of districts in East Java, which emphasizes the aspects of its formation and explains the region's historical interaction with neighboring cultures and linguistic groups. Examining these place names' phonological and morphological characteristics can uncover the linguistic features unique to the Yogyakarta dialect, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of Indonesia's diversity. Such research can also inform language preservation efforts and education policies in the region, particularly for minority-speaking communities. There is a significant gap in the existing literature on

linguistic variation in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, particularly regarding the linguistic features of sub-and rural districts and the factors that influence their use [5], [6].

It is hypothesized that the linguistic characteristics of village names in the Special Region of Yogyakarta will vary based on geographical location, social status, and cultural identity. The analysis of village and district names in Yogyakarta can provide valuable insights into the linguistic ecology of the region, including language contact patterns, historical influences, and local dialect features. This current research can potentially uncover sociolinguistic patterns associated with factors such as social status and cultural identity, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of language variation. In addition, the findings can have practical applications in developing language policies and efforts to preserve cultural heritage in the Special Region of Yogyakarta.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

There has been a lot of research on linguistic variations in place names, such as studies that address the diachronic and synchronous development of place names in Singapore and the importance of toponymies as symbols of society's history, identity, and culture. The methodology used in this study was sequential occupancy and toponymic stratigraphy, a research approach in the fields of cultural ecology and historical geography, to understand the chronological development of place names and cultural complexes in Singapore. This research also refers to theoretical concepts in linguistics and anthropology, such as intercultural communication, applied linguistics, and semiotics [7].

In addition, we discuss village naming in the district based on toponymic studies. The naming pattern can be analyzed based on embodiment, social, and cultural aspects. In addition, this study shows that the toponymy of sub-districts in several districts can be categorized into two types of linguistic units: monomorphemic and polymorphic. The data were then processed to analyze the form of linguistic units, meanings, and categorization of sub-district toponymy in several districts. This article provides an overview of how the sub-district toponymy in the district has a meaning and philosophy that can enrich the local cultural repertoire and Indonesian language learning (Hilmy & Savitri (2023); Jannah et al. (2021).

"The social meaning of language variation in island communities" is a research paper that analyses the social meaning and use of linguistic variables in British English. The study focused on vocals in the lexical sets TRAP and BATH and utilized data from individuals living in the Scilly Islands, an archipelago off the coast of the United Kingdom. Research shows that TRAP and BATH variants on the island are associated with exposure to Standard English and the closest neighboring varieties of Cornish English, and the distribution generally reflects educational differences among speakers. However, two case studies revealed that speakers used atypical forms of education to position themselves in an interactional-dynamic manner [8].

3. METHOD

This present study used a qualitative research approach. The data source for this study consisted of the names of villages in the Special Region of Yogyakarta. The names of

these villages were sourced from the secretary's village books. Furthermore, the names of these villages were then analyzed using a toponymy approach, and the linguistic origins of the names were searched using several Javanese dictionaries, including Poerwadarminta (1939), the Ancient Javanese Dictionary Zoetmulder (1982), and the Gonda textbook "Sanskrit di Indonesia" (Gonda, 1973). In addition, a qualitative descriptive approach was used to analyze village toponymy in the Special Region of Yogyakarta. Data collection involved extracting village names from official sources, followed by a thorough analysis using toponymy theory and various Javanese and Sanskrit sources. This methodology allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the linguistic origins and cultural significance of village names, thus contributing to a deeper understanding of the local heritage and language development (Regional Secretariat DIY, 2024; Cacciafoco & Cavallaro, 2023).

4. RESULTS

The neighborhood's name comprises several languages and situations that have evolved at the time of naming. Certain descriptive labels are not literal but figurative, describing the environment as an entity that is different from its actual state.

- The most common village name that uses Sanskrit elements and is used repeatedly is found in Sleman District. Among the villages with the element of *sida* 'becoming' are *Sidorejo* 'prosperous', *Sidoluhur* 'noble/superior', *Sidomulyo* 'precious', *Sidoagung* 'becoming great', *Sidokarto* 'peaceful', *Sidoarum* 'fragrant', *Sidomoyo* 'hidden or obscure'. The word *sido* in naming the village is the local community's desire to ensure that the area is safe, peaceful, and has sufficient food sources.
- The use of Indonesian and Kawi is also found in several villages which means 'source or spring' such as in *Sumbersari* village 'a source or place of beauty', *Sumberagung* 'a large and magnificent source or place', *Sumberahayu* 'a source or place that provides security or tranquility'. There are also those who use the word *sendang*, which has the same connotation as the source word: *Sendangarum*, *Sendangmulyo*, *Sendangagung*, *Sendangsari*, and *Sendangrejo*. The Kawi language also names villages, namely *Margaluwih*, *Margodadi*, *Margomulyo*, and *Margoagung*. Meanwhile, the word *martani* which means life (Dewa & Wijana, n.d.) includes *Purwomartani* 'the tree that is the source of life,' *Tamanmartani* 'the garden of life,' *Tirtomartani* 'the source of water of life,' *Selomartani* 'between the sources of life,' *Sindumartani* 'the source of river life,' *Wedomartani* 'prosperous life,' *Minomartani* 'fish or mega which is the source of life.' *Bimomartani* is a strong Kawi language. In one of the districts of Kalasan and Ngemplak, Sleman Regency. The word *martani* can be considered a symbol of elements that exist in human life. Water, food, and mega are in harmony with human life. When exploring the meaning behind the naming of the village in the Sleman language, it was found that Sleman Regency describes a quiet life, like in heaven.
- The use of Arabic is evident in the nomenclature of *Kedundang* village. *Kedundang* is an acronym derived from 'kedung dai' or 'gedong dai'. In Javanese,

'kedung' means 'hole,' derived from the Indonesian language, while 'da'i' is Arabic, indicating an individual whose job is to preach or preacher. Etymologically, 'kedung da'i' can be interpreted as a preaching location.

Regional nomenclature using English and Malay was also observed in Klitren village. Klitren is an acronym derived from 'coolie' and 'train'. 'Kuli' is the Malay word for an individual who engages in work that relies on physical strength, whereas 'railway' is the English term for rail transportation. The Klitren area is inhabited by a railway worker community adjacent to the Lempuyangan station (Sulistiyowati & Priyatmoko, 2019). Because of the difficulty experienced by Javanese people in pronouncing 'kuli-train,' they articulate it as 'klitren.' As a result, the area was known as 'klitren' and was later designated as one of the names of the village in Gondokusumaman sub-district. Regional dialects refer to the variations in languages spoken in a specific geographic area of a country, rather than the separate languages themselves. Certain regional dialects have been given traditional names, distinguishing them as very different from the standard forms of languages spoken in the same region [10].

5. DISCUSSION

This study explores linguistic variations in village names within the Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta region, aiming to examine their association with local identities and cultural heritage. This research addresses a gap in existing knowledge by focusing on this region's village names and their cultural significance. By comparing these linguistic variations with those of other Indonesian regions, this study highlights the unique features of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta's linguistic landscape. The findings challenge the notion that these variations are arbitrary, instead emphasizing their cultural importance. Through linguistic analysis and supporting data, this research contributes to understanding a region's linguistic and cultural diversity, underscoring the need for preservation efforts. While this study provides valuable insights, it acknowledges limitations in scope and calls for further research to fully comprehend the implications of these linguistic variations on local identities and cultural heritage preservation in the Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta region.

This study discusses naming villages in the Banyuwangi Regency based on a toponymic study. The method used was a qualitative description method with data sources from village names in the Banyuwangi Regency obtained from the Banyuwangi Regency Population and Civil Registration Office. The data collection method used documentation with reading and recording techniques. The analysis technique used is an intralingual matching technique to connect the names of villages in the Banyuwangi Regency collected and analyzed. On the other hand, Hilmy and Savitri (2023) (Jannah et al., 2021) discuss place-name sub-districts in the Jember Regency.

Previous research has focused on linguistic variations in place names. However, there is limited knowledge of the specific linguistic variations in the names of villages in the Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta region and their cultural significance. This topic is important because it contributes to understanding the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta region and highlights the need to preserve the local identities and cultural heritage associated with these variations.

This linguistic analysis of village names in the Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta region sheds light on local cultural heritage and emphasizes the importance of preserving these unique identities. The findings of this study can potentially inform policy decisions related to cultural preservation and community development in the area. Moreover, this research opens avenues for similar studies in other regions, potentially leading to a more comprehensive understanding of Indonesia's rich linguistic and cultural tapestry.

6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, studying linguistic variations in sub-district and rural names in the Special Region of Yogyakarta provides valuable insights into the complexity of language use in this region. Several types of languages are found in naming urban villages in Yogyakarta Special Region, including Kawi, Malay, English, Sanskrit, Arabic, and Indonesian.

Future research directions may include investigating the impact of linguistic variation on social and economic development, examining potential language policy interventions to promote linguistic diversity and social cohesion, conducting comparative studies with other regions to identify unique patterns in Yogyakarta's linguistic landscape, analyzing the historical evolution of district names in relation to cultural shifts, developing new methodologies for mapping and analyzing linguistic variations, and exploring the practical applications of this research, such as informing urban planning initiatives or promoting cultural tourism.

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