

Archaic Vocabulary of Greater Acehnese Dialect

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Abstract: This study deals with the study of the archaic vocabulary of Greater Acehnese dialect. The purpose of this study was to find the archaic vocabulary Greater Acehnese dialect, to measure the level of archaicity of Greater Acehnese dialect and the cause of the archaicity. The methods used in this study were a descriptive-quantitative approach and a descriptive-qualitative approach (mixed methods). It aims to describe the data obtained from the inferential statistical analysis. The data for this research was lists of vocabulary in Greater Acehnese dialect. Data analysis techniques included data selection, data classification, and data display. The results of this study indicated that the level of the Airtricity for Greater Acehnese dialect based on the age were 8,028 or 54.24% for young speakers and 5,715 or 33% for adult speakers. Based on the calculation, the difference in archaicity level between young and older speakers was 21.24%. Based on their profession, the highest level of archaicity was shown by students (2,258 or 56.45%), followed by civil servants (3,190 or 49.84%), carpenters (2,568 or 42.8%), farmers (2,718 or 39.97%), traders (2,840 or 39, 44%), and fishermen (169 or 10.56%). The causes of archaicity include the difference of profession, the fact that an object is no longer in use or has been extinct, and the age factor.

1 INTRODUCTION

The people of Aceh are both bilingual and monolingual. Bilinguals are generally capable of mastering two or more languages, in the case of Acehnese, Indonesian and local languages. Meanwhile, monolinguals can only speak their mother tongue, the first language obtained from birth. The monolingual community is generally settled in an area and has no contact with people speaking other languages in the neighboring areas. The people of Aceh as bilingual and monolingual people use Acehnese in daily communication.

Languages have always evolved and changed in accordance with the level of civilization of the society. The changes in a language are marked by the difference in the use of vocabulary by speakers in different generations. This situation also causes some vocabulary to disfavor or be lost in the in the language. Acehnese speakers have so far mixed up the vocabularies of Indonesian and Acehnese in communication. As a result, some vocabulary in Acehnese is now rarely used.

A language is categorized as endangered if it is used less and less in daily conversation because it loses its social or communicative function. The decreased domain of language use in the community

affects the language user's perception of the appropriateness of language use on the broader function. In addition, Kridalaksana (2009: 42) reveals that an unusual element of language used for specific effects sometimes appears in communication, and it is termed as archaism (archaism, atavism, revival form). Meanwhile, according to Lumbantoruan (2005: 53), the archaicity of a word can occur for linguistic factors that include aspects of phonology, morphology, and semantics. In addition, it can also occur due to sociolinguistic factors.

Some vocabulary of Acehnese which has almost become archaic, based on the authors' observation, includes *bada*, *tamca*, *bulo*, *ong*, *canden*, *kincu*, *kakoh*, *aleue*, *seuramoe*, *Aleuhad*, *thong*, *bunthok*. The words are Acehnese vocabulary but have rarely been used in daily communication. The different functions of Indonesian and Acehnese can be determined by social class, age, profession, work environment. This problem resulted in three questions, i.e. (1) Which words are categorized into archaic words? (2) What is the level of archaicity for vocabulary in Greater Acehnese dialect? and (3) What are the causes of archaicity?

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Archaic comes from the Greek, meaning an earlier period and no longer user or something with the characteristics of ancient or antique. Something in linguistics that is no longer used is often called "archaism". According to Martinus (2001: 60) archaic words are words that are outdated, and archaism is the use of words which are no longer common. Further, Partanto (2001: 45) defines archaic is a person who adherent of archaism that is flexible or understated, but easy to understand. Meanwhile, archaism is the idea of using obscure or primitive words or phrases for a particular purpose. Based on the above opinions, it can be concluded that archaic words are characterized by the fact that they are rarely used, and sacred. The archaic words are not or rarely used in daily communication. The use of these words is to make readers or listeners feel reluctant and in order not to them.

Three causes motivate the changes in Acehese. First, the changes are caused by contact with other local languages. This contact does not only occur between Acehese and other local languages in Aceh but it also comes in contact with local languages from other areas, for example through a transmigration program presenting Javanese in the midst of Acehese speakers. Second, the changes in Acehese can be caused by its contact with Indonesian. Third, globalization has increasingly put Acehese in stigmatized position within the speakers. They began to wonder about the benefits of learning the language because they the language is only used for daily oral communication.

According to Kurd (2014: 10) younger generation is generally more objective, simple, and critical about what happens in the society because they do not have emotional attachment to what happened in the previous generations. Such case has even occurred in the intergeneration. Young families who still use Acehese but teach and communicate with their children in Indonesian. The most noticeable language change is the addition of vocabulary. This lexical change can be interpreted as (1) certain vocabulary is no longer used, (2) the meaning of a word is changed, (3) new vocabulary increases.

A language will lose its vocabulary by various causes. In Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, "Official Dictionary of Indonesian" (2009), there are a number of archaic words such as *tetuang* "radio transmitter", *lamena* "armor", *kempang* "boat made from wood", *ungkah* "unload", *tarau* "to take yarn from the spindle and then reattached in the round of

the pellet ", *sangep* "fend off a blow", *sangгах* "place to sell in the house (in Bali)", *tinjak* "hard step", *timbuk* "slap", *paya-paya* "red saliva after chewing betel", *pedena* "crock or big vase", *pejatian* "favorite", *peluluk* "palm tree", *penganak* "a type of musical instrument", *pengatu* "old weapon", *pangeng* "very confusing", *pengga* "deep (for a plate or bowl)".

Linguists predict that half of the world's languages will become extinct. In Indonesia, according to Moseley (2010) in Atlas of World's Languages in Danger, there are 146 languages which are endangered and 12 languages that have become extinct. Those languages were mostly spoken in the eastern part of Indonesia. Language extinction can be motivated by several reasons. Austin and Sallabank (2011: 5-6) state that there are four main reasons for language extinction, i.e., natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, etc.), famine, and plaque; war and genocide; open repression, usually in the name of "national unity" or assimilation (including involuntary resettlement); and economic, political or cultural dominance.

The efforts that have been made by a related institution by publishing an online dictionary is very significant to halt language extinction. Therefore, to prevent local languages from extinction, it is necessary to revitalize the languages. One of the forms of language revitalization is language documentation.

3 RESEARCH METHODS

This research employed descriptive-quantitative approach and descriptive-qualitative approach (mixed methods). This research is a descriptive qualitative research. This type of research was selected because it could result in descriptive data (Djajasudarma, 2006: 11). The source of data for this research was the vocabulary of Greater Acehese dialect in Aceh Besar, which includes six sub-districts, i.e., DarulImarah, Lhoong, Ingin Jaya, Leupung; Lhoknga, and Baitussalam. The data of this research were the answer given by 80 respondents about archaic vocabulary. The data were collected by using two types of instruments, i.e., questionnaires and interviews. The data were analyzed by employing a content analysis technique. The data analysis steps include data selection, data classification, and description of the results obtained from the earlier two steps.

4 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 The Status of Archaicity

In this study, the respondents were classified based on age, i.e. teenagers (19 - 25 years old), and adults (>26 years old). Based on the age classification, the testing of archaic vocabulary was conducted on six professions, i.e., farmers, fishermen, traders, students, carpenters, and civil servants.

4.1.1 Based on Age Category

Of the 400 words presented to the respondents, 37 teenagers (chose the answer C (I have never heard or used the word), which is as much as 8,028 or 54.24%. Furthermore, the answer B (I have heard the word but never used it) was selected by the respondents, which is as much as 4,122 or 27.85%. Answer A (I still use the word) is selected by teenage respondents as much as 2,650 or 17.91%.

Similar tests were applied to 43 adult respondents. The answer C (I have never heard or used the word) was selected as much as 5,715 or 33%. Furthermore, the answer B (I have heard the word but never used it) was chosen by the respondents as many as 5,062 or 29%. Finally, the answer A (I still use the word) is chosen by the respondents as much as 6,423 or 37%.

4.1.2 Based on Profession Category

Of the 400 words presented to the respondents who worked as farmers, 2,718 or 39.97% of the words were considered archaic based on the answer C (I have never heard or used the word) selected by the respondents. In addition, the results of this study concluded that as many as 1,911 or 28.10% of the words were semi-archaic, based on the option B (I have heard the word but never used it). The words considered by the farmer respondents as active vocabulary were 2,171 words or 31.93%, based on the answer A (I still use the word).

For traders, 2,840 or 39.44% of the words were considered archaic, based on the answer C (I have never heard or used the word). In addition, the results of this study concluded that as many as 2,470 or 34.31% of the words were semi-archaic, based on the option B (I have heard the word but never used it). The vocabulary considered by respondents as an active vocabulary of 1,890 words or 26.25%, based on the option A (I still use the word).

Fisherman considered 169 or 10.56% of the presented words were archaic, based on their answer

of option C (I have never heard or used the word). In addition, the results of this study concluded that as many as 417 or 26.06% of the words were semi-archaic, based on the option B (I have heard the word but never used it). The words considered by the respondent as an active vocabulary were 1,014 words or 63.375%, based on the option A (I still use the word).

Civil servant and retired civil servant considered that 3,190 or 49.84% of the words were archaic, based on option C (I have never heard or used the word). In addition, the results of this study concluded that as many as 1,531 or 23.92% of the words were semi-archaic, based on option B (I have heard the word but never used it). The words considered by respondents as active vocabulary was 1,667 words or 26.23%, based on answer A (I still use the word).

For carpenters, 2,568 or 42.8% of the words were archaic, based on option C (I have never heard or used the word). In addition, the results of this study concluded that as much as 1,934 or 32.23% of the words were semi-archaic, based on option B (I have heard the word but never used it). The words considered by respondents as active vocabulary were as much as 1,498 words or 24.97%, based on the option A (I still use the word).

Meanwhile, students assumed that 2,258 or 56.45% of the words were archaic according to the respondent's answer of option C (I have never heard or used the word). The results of this study also show that 921 or 23.025% of the presented words were semi-archaic, based on option B (I have heard the word but never used it). The words considered by the respondents as active vocabulary were 821 words or 20.525% based on respondents' answers of option A (I still use the word).

4.2 Causes of Archaicity

The causes of the vocabulary archaicity in Greater Acehnese dialect can be classified into two categories, archaicity based on linguistic aspect and sociolinguistic aspect.

4.2.1 Linguistic Aspect

The causes of the archaicity in Greater Acehnese dialect include phonology, morphology, and semantics. The phonological aspects include loss of phonemes, e.g. *ieaden* "sewer water" which changes into *aden*, *lapekgaki* "doormats" becoming *lapekaki*, *cawanie* "finger bowl" becoming *cawan*, *neudukgaseu* "a part of roof in a house" becoming

gaseu, *peutoija* "wardrobe" becoming *peuto*, *jaruenggigo* "rare teeth" becoming *jareuengigo*, *sileuweu* "trousers" becoming *ileuweu*, *aseutana* "palace" becomes *istana*. Another phonological aspect is sound changes, e.g. *bentara* "soldiers" changing into *bintara*, *hariapeukan* "daily market" into *uroepeukan*, *makblin* "midwife" into *mablin*, *Seunanyan* "Monday" into *Inanyan*, *ijapalikat* "cloth" into *plikat*, *euncien* "ring" into *incin*. Second, the morphological aspect involves deletion of prefix {meu-} such as *bajeemeukeureuja* changing into *bajekeureuja*, the deletion of prefix {keu-} in *bruekkeukarah* into *bruekkarah*, and the elimination of infix {-eur-} for example, *ceureumen* becoming *cermen*. Third, in the semantic aspect, the vocabulary of Greater Aceh dialect becomes archaic because synonymous words tend to be used differently, so one word is used more often while the other is rare. The rarely-used words become archaic after a certain period of time. For example, *hariapeukan* is synonymous with *uroepeukan*, *go-go* is synonymous with *geulanteu*, *peudena* with *guci*, *purih* with *reunyeun*, *bisan* with *maktuan*, *pusu* with *goegandoe*. The archaicity of Aceh vocabulary is also influenced by the translation of Aceh into Indonesian.

4.2.2 Sociolinguistic Aspect

The Archaicity of vocabulary can be resulted from sociolinguistic aspects. First, the words can become archaic because of different professions, such as between carpenters and farmers. The carpenters call a supporting pule in a house as *indreng*, but this word is not familiar for farmers. Another example is the difference between the profession of fishermen and traders. For fishermen, the fishing nets are known by the word *nyap*. However, traders are unfamiliar with the word because it is not related to their daily life, so the word becomes archaic.

Second, the words become archaic because the object is no longer found. This is influenced by the development in society. For example, *kri* "tool to weed grass" is no longer used by Aceh speakers because the object is extinct and replaced with a new object. In addition, some of the traditional objects used by farmers in plowing rice fields are rarely seen, such as *langai* "plow", which is no longer found. It is no longer necessary for farmers to plow the fields with buffalo or cows because there is a plowing machine that can do it much quickly.

Third, the words become archaic because of the age factor. For teenagers, there are many Aceh words which are unknown to them because they

never find them again in daily life such as *neudukgase*, *jeurejak*, *tameh raja*, *tamehputro*, *peunepi*. Teenagers tend to know the vocabulary associated with the environment, objects that they have contact with. They have no inner bond with words commonly-used by previous generation. With the extinction of an object, Acehese will be abandoned by younger generation.

5 CONCLUDING REMARKS ON PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSE ABOUT ARCHAIC WORDS

Based on the 400 words of Acehese presented to the respondents, only two words were not categorized archaic. No respondents choose answer C for these words. Therefore, the word *gereupôh* was categorized into semi-archaic word (82.5%), and it is still used (17.5%), and *cawan* is still used with the percentage of 13.75% and considered semi-archaic with the percentage of 86.25%. In addition, the word *ernet* is in the 87.5% category and the phrase *maènrinuengkamèng* is in the category of 86.25%.

Preservation of local languages can be achieved by making a language planning, from planning the status of the language to receive vehicularload. Therefore, the language is not merely used as a means of communication. The most advanced planning includes establishing corpora for the local languages in order to attract more language users, which can make the languages accommodate more required meaning and use. Documenting the language is the first step in revitalizing endangered languages. The success of revitalization remains on the language speakers. However, central and local government, as the language policy maker, is also responsible for maintaining and preserving the languages in their territory.

6 CONCLUSION

Based on the results elaborated in the discussion section, it can be concluded that the status of vocabulary archaicity in Greater Aceh dialect can be analyzed based on age, i.e. teenagers (19-25 years old) and adults (26-70 years old). Further classification is based on the professions of the speakers at each age, spread in six sub-districts in Greater Aceh district. The results of this research concluded that the level of archaicity for vocabulary

in Greater Acehese dialect for teenagers was 8,028 or 54.24%, and for adults was 5,715 or 33%. The result shows that the difference in archaicity level between teenagers and adult was 21.24%.

Based on profession, the highest level of archaicity was showed the students (2,258 or 56.45%), civil servants and retired civil servants (3,190 or 49.84%), carpenters (2,568 or 42,8%), farmers (2,718 or 39.97%), traders (2,840 or 39.44%), and fishermen (169 or 10.56%). The highest level of archaicity was showed by the students at the age of teenager. In addition, the cause of archaicity experienced by students was the fact that they rarely speak Acehese in daily communication. This is also the case for civil servants and retired civil servants, i.e. because they use or used Indonesian dominantly at work.

The archaicity of vocabulary in Greater Acehese dialect was motivated by linguistic and sociolinguistic aspects. Based on the linguistic aspect, the archaicity of Greater Acehese dialect vocabulary can occur in phonological level such as phoneme deletion and sound change. Furthermore, in morphological aspect, the archaicity was caused by affix deletion, infix {-eur-} deletion. In semantic level, the archaicity was caused by the difference in frequency of using synonymous words. Based on the sociolinguistic aspect, the archaicity of words in Greater Acehese dialect was caused by the difference of profession, extinction of an object, age factor.

7 SUGGESTION

This research is a preliminary study related to the archaic vocabulary of Greater Acehese dialect. It is expected that further research adds more finding to the results of this study. In addition, the government is expected to update the Aceh language dictionary by publishing a latest edition, either in a printed copy or a digital copy. This effort will delay the extinction of Acehese marked by the loss of certain vocabulary. Finally, the academicians are expected to establish a local language study program, especially for Acehese, to introduce the local language to the younger generation. In the current practice, Acehese is only taught at the elementary school level, instructed by teachers of Indonesian.

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