

THE LINGUISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF JAVANESE NAMES A CASE STUDY IN SURAKARTA CENTRAL JAVA

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to discover the linguistic characteristics which appear through the distribution of vowels and consonants in Javanese names, based on a close look at the form, position, and distribution of vowels and consonants. This research was deemed important in order to help avoid making mistakes in pronouncing Javanese names, in particular by people from outside the ethnic Javanese community, since there is a wide variety of vowels and consonants in the Javanese language system. A qualitative descriptive research method was used. The data was collected from a list of names from the Department of Demography in the city of Surakarta. From the analysis that was carried out into the linguistic construction, it was discovered which variations of vowels were more prominent. Based on the position of the vowels in Javanese names, eleven vocoid phones were identified at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of Javanese names. An analysis of the consonants showed that there was a tendency towards a systemized used of prothesis, epenthesis, and paragogue. All three apply to both modern and traditional (old) Javanese names. It is hoped that this study of the linguistic characteristics of Javanese names will help to set straight a number of views from the past which need to be re-examined in order to gain a clearer picture of the ever-changing development of ideas and cultural taste in the Javanese community.

Keywords: Names, Javanese, characteristics, vowels, consonants

INTRODUCTION

The discussion of the linguistic characteristics of proper names in this research is an attempt to show the specific linguistic characteristics of Javanese names which in numerous aspects are different from the grammatical structure of the Javanese language in general. These characteristics refer to the forms and meanings of the proper names used by the Javanese community, which can be divided into three groups: the characteristics of sound which appear in the vowel and consonant patterns found in proper names, the characteristics of form, which can be analyzed based on their construction, elements, and components, and the characteristics of meaning, which can be discovered based on the choice of words (diction), meaning, and function.

This context needs to be outlined in order to gain a clearer idea of the form, meaning, and function, and also the laws of linguistics that apply. Proper names are a form of sound unit that is (partially) alien when compared to the characteristics of words in the Javanese language in general. This means that it is perhaps difficult in this explanation to avoid the

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possibility of a comparison of terms with existing linguistic terms. It is also likely that new terms will appear that apply specifically to the domain of names. Various forms of adaptation in the case of terminology and the use of language theories should be acceptable as a way to gaining a holistic understanding of the world of names.

Reality in the field shows convincingly that mistaken pronunciation of Javanese names – in particular by those from outside the ethnic Javanese community or those who do not understand the Javanese language – often occurs in social intercourse. For this reason, the problem of a sound system in the Javanese language needs to be presented in order to avoid these numerous mistakes. Why so? Because the names given to Javanese people exist, grow, and develop within the domain of the Javanese language, and as such, the use of the Javanese language (including ancient Javanese and Sanskrit) also clearly dominates the majority of these names. Other names used come from the Arabic language (for Moslems) and from the West, primarily for Christians (Suranto, 1983).

The characteristics of language sounds in Javanese names that are to be discussed in this study are limited to the names of people in the city of Surakarta, which show characteristics of form that are virtually the same as those from other surrounding areas, including the regions of Semarang (the capital city of the Central Java province), Yogyakarta, and Surabaya, where mostly the Javanese language is used, with the dominant vowel a [ɔ] (Sumarlam, 2001). This is different from the Western region of Central Java where a variant of the Javanese language is used in which the dominant vowel is a [a].

In connection with the sounds of vowels and consonants in the Javanese language, I encountered two different views, namely the traditional view, which follows the theories of Antunshono (1953) and Padmosoekotjo (1987) and the modern view, which is upheld by Verhaar (1990), Uhlenbeck (1982), and Edi Subroto (1992). According to Verhaar (1992), the traditional view separates vowels and consonants based on their sounds, whereas the modern view has used modern tools to establish a set of laws for linguistic sound that are considered to be universally superior in the linguistic context. After observing the traits and characteristics of the data and the various ways in which it can be used, I decided to use both of these viewpoints in order to remain consistent with the original goal of the study and to reiterate it both accurately and comprehensively.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative research method based on the theories of Miles and Huberman (1984) and Sutopo (2008). It is a bibliographical study with a single strategy which focuses on the names of Javanese people found in the city of Surakarta. The aim of the research is to understand the form, meaning, and function of Javanese names and also a number of existing linguistic phenomena. I believe that the use of a qualitative method is the right choice since it is able to provide a rich and holistic picture (see Merriam, 2008). The decision to use this method is related to the characteristics of the research topic, the data sources, and the research data (Marohaini Yusoff, 2004).

Straus and Crobin (2003) state that a research data source is a source of proof for the study. The data source for this research is a list of names of Javanese people from the city of Surakarta in Central Java, which was obtained from the Department of Demography in the city of Surakarta. The form of the data is words or groups of words, since elements of Javanese names often consist of two words joined together. The technique used for collecting the data was a content analysis. The collected data was analyzed based on phonetic, morphological, and meaning interpretation systems.

In order to test the level of validity of the data, a data triangulation test was used to compare one set of data with another of the same type (Merriam, 2008). The technique for data analysis used in this research was an interactive analysis technique which involved three activities that occurred at the same time, namely the reduction of data, presentation of data, and verification (Sutopo, 2002). The several different types of Javanese names were arranged in an orderly and systematic manner based on the classification of each in connection with the vowel and consonant distribution in Javanese names. The next step was to understand and interpret the names based on the results of the linguistic analysis in order to obtain a clear description of the linguistic characteristics of Javanese names.

The Characteristics of Vowel Sounds in Javanese Names

The Javanese language used in the city of Surakarta recognizes the existence of six types of vowel phonemes, namely a, i, u, e, o, and ê as the *schwa* vowel, or “*pêpêt*” in Javanese (Padmosoekotjo, 1987; Wedhawati, 2001). The first five vowels each have two vowel allophones. One series of allophones was given a grave accent (â, ò, è, ù, ì) by Uhlenbeck (1982) while the other series was given an acute accent (á, ó, é, ú, í). It is clear then – based on the sounds – that the Javanese language recognizes ten vowel phonemes, namely /i/ (*minthi* [mintɨi] ‘gosling’ or cygnet’), /e/ (*kere* [kere] ‘very poor’), /a/ (*alas* [alas] ‘forest’), /u/ (*untu* [untu] ‘tooth’), /o/ (*bodho* [bodɨo] ‘stupid’), /ɨ/ (*pintik* [pitɨ?] ‘chicken’), /ɛ/ (*elek* [ɛɛ?] ‘ugly’), /ə/ (*pelem* [pələm] ‘mango’), /ɔ/ (*ketok* [ketɔ?] ‘visible’, *padha* [pɔ dɨ ɔ] ‘same’), /U/ (*kalung* [kalUŋ] ‘necklace’) (Mardiarsita, tt; Nothofer, 1980).

Wedhawati (2001) states that the vowel sound *a* has two allophones, /ɔ/ and /a/. The vowel *a* that is read as /ɔ/ is found in the following names: *Lesmana* [lɛsmɔɔ], *Supana* (supɔɔ), *Sugiyana* [sugiyɔɔ], *Mulyana* [mulyɔɔ]. The vowel *a* that is read as /a/ is found in the following names: *Sumarta* [sumartɔ], *Jumadi* [jumadi], *Sukiman* [sukiman], *Tasman* [tasman], and other names of a similar form. In names such as *Lesmono* [lɛsmɔɔ], *Supono* [supɔɔ], *Sugiyono* [sugiyɔɔ] (with the variants *Sugiono*, *Sugihono*, and *Sugihyono*), and *Sumarto* [sumartɔ], the vowel sound *o* becomes /ɔ/. The vowel phoneme *o* that is read as /o/ is found quite rarely in original Javanese names (with the exception of names such as *Santosa* or *Bondan*), and is usually used in more modern names that have a Western influence (for example *Rinaldo*, *Edo*, *Rosi*, or *Robert*), or Arabic influence (such as *Sofi*, *Mustofa*, *Sofyan*, or *Nordin*), or names that are influenced by the Indonesian language, such as the names *Topan* and *Norma* (see Suharno, 1987).

The vowel sound *i* also has two allophones, namely /i/ as in [Rini] and /ɨ/ as in [Ningsih]. In general, if the vowel sound /i/ is between two consonants, it occurs in the last syllable of a name, such as in the names *Sukarmin* [sukarmɨn], *Dalimin* [dalimɨn], *Juarin* [juarɨn], *Simin* [simɨn], or other similar names. The vowel sound “u” also has two allophones, namely /u/ and /U,o/, for example in the names *Yuyun* [yuyun], *Umi* [umi], *Munawaroh* [munawarɔh], *Tukijo* [tukijɔ], and *Mashud* [mashUd], *Abdul* [abdU], *Mariyun* [mariyUn], *Jaitun* [jaitUn], *Sariyun* [sariyUn], and other similar names. The vowel sound ê (*pêpêt*) /ə/ appears in the names *Senet* [sənət], *Setu* [sətu], *Leginah* [ləginah], *Setya* [sətyɔ], *Leres* (lərəs), *Teguh* [təguh], and other similar names (see Antunshono, 1953). As Uhlenbeck (1982) also acknowledges, the principles or rules on this subject are extremely complicated, and I believe that there will never be a solution to this problem since the way in which names are written depends strongly on the person giving the name, his or her knowledge, and motivation. Sometimes, mistakes in the way a name is written are intentional, with the sole purpose of creating something ‘different’, unique, or competitive, or for certain subjective reasons so that a name appears different from other existing names. For example, the name *Radya*

[radyɔ] has a number of variants, such as *Radiya* [radiyɔ], *Radiyo* [radiyɔ], *Radia* [radiyɔ]; the name *Priya* also appears in several variants, namely *Priyo* [supriyadi], *Supriyadi* [supriyadi], *Priyadi* [supriyadi], *Supriadi* [supriyadi], or even *Prio* [priyɔ].

Based on these examples of names, I would assert that the classification of Javanese names from a phonological point of view needs to pay attention to the existence of phones, both vocoids and contoids. The classification of these two phones should pay attention to phonetic articulation and the position in a name. I consider the second classification to be more significant in this study, as I believe that the basis of phonetic articulation truly aims to show the existence only of the vocoid phoneme alone.

The Position of Vowel Sounds in Javanese Names

What vocoid phones may be positioned at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of a name? The answer to this question is presented in the form of a table below:

Table 2.3 The distribution of vocoid phones from the Javanese language in proper names

Vocoid Phone	Position in Javanese names		
	Beginning	Middle	End
a [a]	[adi], [anuŋ], [aŋgi]	[supadi], [sutarji]	[dian], [Rinawan], [diah]
a [ɔ]	-	[sutɔnɔ], [sartɔnɔ]	[suwitɔ], [sətɔyɔ], [palgunɔ]
i [i]	[indah], [iman]	[sakina:], [Tasmija:]	[?astuti], [murni], [roni]
i [I]	-	[prayItnɔ]	[paIŋ], [suparIŋ], [dɔamIŋ]
u [u]	[umbɔnɔ], [utɔmɔ]	[sayuti], [maruti]	[wahyu], [ayu], [kundaru]
u [U]	-	[abdUla:]	[sariyUn], [jumiyatUn]
e [e]	[eŋgar], [elɔʔ]	[solekah],	[wage], [
e [ɛ]	[ɛsti], [ɛstuningsi:]	[sukesi]	-
e [ə]	[ləsmana]	[susətrɔ]	[sunjəp]
o [o]	[okta], [omega]	[Santosɔ]	[rəbo], [edo]
o [ɔ]	[rɔni], [nɔvita]	[fatɔni]	[yuliantɔ], [satɔnɔ]

When the vowel phoneme (vocoid phone) [a] is positioned at the beginning of a name, it most often occurs with the vowel pattern (Uhlenbeck [1982] uses the term vocalism) a-I, such as in the examples *Adi*, *Ali*, *Amir*, *Asih*, *Ais*, *Abi*, *Afi*, *Arsi*, *Ardi*, *Amik*, *Asti*, and other similar forms. The same is true for names in which the vowel phoneme a [a] occurs in the middle and at the end, which are also quite common. The vowel phoneme a [ɔ] however occurs very rarely at the beginning of names. When it occurs in the middle and at the end of names, a [ɔ] often uses the inter-vocal consonants -t-, -m-, and -n-. The vowel phoneme [i] as the initial vowel or final vowel in a name is found very frequently in Javanese names. The vowel phoneme /i/ is pronounced [I] when occurring in the final syllable of a name with the vowel pattern (vocalism) a-i [AsIh, dasIh, niŋsih, wakIh]. An exception is the name *Anik* [aniʔ].

This rule does not apply for name elements outside the elements of Javanese names, such as *Adis* [ad̥is], *Aziz* [azis], *David* [d̥avid], and *Danis* [d̥anis]. Modern names follow the linguistic rules of their language source.

Table 2.4 Vowel parameters in the Javanese language

	<i>Front</i>		<i>Middle</i>		<i>Back</i>		<i>Structure</i>
	<i>Not round</i>		<i>Not round</i>		<i>Round</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	
High	I				u		Closed
Madya (middle)	e		ə		o		Semi-closed
	ɛ				ɔ		Semi open
Low	A					α	Open

According to Wedhawati (2001), based on the position of the tongue (how high or low it is), the vowels in the Javanese language are divided into three groups, namely high, middle, and low. Based on which part of the tongue moves, Javanese vowels are also divided into three groups, namely front, middle, and back vowels. Based on the relationship between the active articulatory and passive articulatory positions, the vowels in the Javanese language are divided into four types, namely closed, semi-closed, semi-open, and open vowels. Based on the shape of the lips and the length of the vowel, Javanese vowels are also divided into three groups, namely vowels that are round, not round, and neutral.

The Characteristics of Consonant Sounds in Javanese Names

The Javanese language recognizes twenty one different consonant sounds (Uhlenbeck, 1982; Verhaar, 1999; Padmosoekotjo, 1987). Raffles, meanwhile, states that there are only twenty consonants (because the consonant phonemes /y/ and /w/ fall into the same group). The table below shows the twenty one consonants in the Javanese language:

Table 2.5. Consonant sounds in the Javanese language

		<i>D e n t a l</i>				
		<i>Labial</i>	<i>End of tongue</i>		<i>Palatal</i>	<i>Velar</i>
			<i>Raised</i>	<i>Not raised</i>		
Closed sound	Intensive	P		t	C	k
	Not intensive	B	d̥	d	J	g
	N a s a l	M		n	Ñ	ŋ
	Sibilant			s		
	Liquid			l, r		
	Semi-vocal	W			Y	
	Glottal consonant					q, h

In this research, the transcriptions used are phonetic transcriptions which use the symbols generally used in phonetics and portographic transcriptions which are used specifically to

write in the Javanese language, with the addition of glosses which are written using single quotation marks ('...').

One point which is interesting to mention in the discussion of Javanese consonant sounds in relation to Javanese names is that there are several variations of sound changes in the names of Javanese people. This discussion is perhaps along the same lines as that of Hendrokumara (2004) in his article entitled "Changes of Form in the Javanese Language" ("*Berbagai Perubahan Bentuk Bahasa Jawa*"). The difference is that I view the topic within the context of Javanese names. The most prominent form of a change of sound is the use of additional sounds or prothesis. This can be seen, *firstly*, in the addition of the glottal consonant phoneme [h] at the front of names that begin with a vowel phoneme (see also Sudaryanto, 1994).

<i>Arjo</i>	[arjɔ]	–	<i>Harjo</i>	[harjɔ]
<i>Utomo</i>	[utɔmɔ]	–	<i>Hutomo</i>	[hutɔmɔ]
<i>Adi</i>	[adi]	–	<i>Hadi</i>	[hadi]
<i>Urip</i>	[urip]	–	<i>Hurip</i>	[hurip]
<i>Arnawa</i>	[arnɔwɔ]	–	<i>Harnawa</i>	[harnɔwɔ]
<i>Endra</i>	[endrɔ]	–	<i>Hendra</i>	[hendrɔ]

Secondly, in the addition of consonant phonemes or nasal consonants in the middle (*epenthesis*) of names, between a vowel phoneme and a consonant phoneme, for example:

<i>Yudi</i>	[judi]	–	<i>Yusdi</i>	[jusdi]
<i>Sukono</i>	[sukɔnɔ]	–	<i>Sungkono</i>	[sɔŋkɔnɔ]
<i>Kadi</i>	[kadi]	–	<i>Kasdi</i>	[kasdi]
<i>Egi</i>	[ɛdɔgi]	–	<i>Etgi</i>	[ɛtdɔgi]
<i>Efa</i>	[efa]	–	<i>Elfa</i>	[elfa]

Thirdly, the use of paragogues, or the addition of certain non-independent morphemes at the ends of names, which in terms of form changes the function of the word to become a name, without changing to any significant extent the original meaning of the word before it was altered.

<i>Harto</i>	[hartɔ]	–	<i>Hartono</i>	[kartɔnɔ]
<i>Kuswa</i>	[kuswɔ]	–	<i>Kuswanto</i>	[kɔswɔntɔ]
<i>Wahyu</i>	[wahju]	–	<i>Wahyudi</i>	[wahjudi]
<i>Rokim</i>	[rɔkim]	–	<i>Rokimin</i>	[rɔkimɪn]
<i>Dian</i>	[dian]	–	<i>Diana</i>	[diana]
<i>Legi</i>	[ləgi]	–	<i>Legimin</i>	[ləgimɪn]
<i>Sugih</i>	[sugɪh]	–	<i>Sugihono</i>	[sugɪhɔnɔ]
<i>Barno</i>	[barnɔ]	–	<i>Subarnaji</i>	[subarnaji]

CLOSING

This study seems simple in that it is limited to the distribution of vowel phonemes and consonant phonemes in Javanese names in the city of Surakarta. The most dominant marking characteristic in Javanese names is the distribution of vowels and consonants, and whether or not this has any influence on the system of interpretation merits special attention. From the analysis that was carried out, a new phenomenon appeared, namely the evidence of long names and short names. Longer names often have their roots in the basic form of shorter

names (simple names), such as in the case of *Darma*, *Darmanto*, *Sudarmanto*, *Sudarmantono*. Changes in the form of names would appear to have a strong influence on the distribution of vowels in that longer and more varied allophonic lines emerge.

In connection with Uhlenbeck's (1982) suggestion that longer names are extensions of shorter names, I would agree. However, the idea that this subject is closely related to "social class" in the Javanese community perhaps needs to be re-examined. I prefer to say that there are only two forms of names, namely simple names and names that are more complex (Sahid, 2010). From the data collected, it is clearly evident that the matter of short and long names is related more to taste rather than to social class, which has now undergone a complete change. It is true that every name has a different cultural background and as such it is important to study or research this subject over and over again in order to discover the developments and changes that are continually taking place in the thoughts, social conventions, and cultural taste of the community. This analysis of the linguistic characteristics of Javanese names would seem to open up a new awareness, that in fact the statement that 'a name is an indication of class' is now difficult to sustain, although the assertion that a name is an indication of culture (rural-urban) may perhaps still be taken into consideration.

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