

Some Features of Colloquial Indonesian Spoken in Lampung

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1. Introduction

1.1. About This Paper

This paper is trying to provide some informations on features of colloquial Indonesian spoken by speakers in Lampung province. Since it is located on the tip of southern Sumatra and has multi-ethnic population, colloquial Indonesian spoken here is said to resembles Jakarta's colloquial Indonesian. This paper will try to observe the characteristics by examining personal pronouns, discourse particles, negation, voice (variations of *meN-*), address terms and the usage of preposition *sama*. The variations of *meN-* and the multifunctional use of *sama* seem to be the same features that can be observed throughout Indonesia. Some personal pronouns (*kamu orang*, *kita orang*, *dia orang*), discourse particles (*geh*, *tah*), negation form (*mak*), and the borrowing of some regional terms of address (*uda*, *mang*) appear to be the regional features of Indonesian in Lampung.

1.2. Data

Data used in this study are taken from some transcripts from conversations (during the interviews about some matters on colloquial Indonesian usage in Lampung), free monologues/dialogues, etc recorded in Lampung. There are also some sample sentences to support some matter on grammatical function. I planned to use monologues data taken from Jackal and Crow narrations, but unfortunately almost all the informants used standard Indonesian (*bahasa baku*) when telling the story. In the end of this paper I will try to describe the data of Jackal and Crow of Lampung speakers.

We collected data from Javanese, Lampungnese and other first-languages native speakers¹. I also collected some sentences from conversation inside WhatsApp (freeware messenger application (WA)) chatting group (of people who are living or used to live in Lampung) that I belong to.

1.3. Background of Lampung Province

Population : 65% of Lampung's population are new-comers (*pendatang*). Native Lampung people are estimated to consist of only 13% [BPS Lampung, (2010)]. This situation, in

¹ UTSUMI Atsuko and I recorded some monologues in Lampung on August 6 to August 22th, 2017.

which the population of new comers by far exceeds that of indigenous people, has been going on since 1940 due to migration policy (Kolonisatie (since 1905) and Transmigrasi)[Levang (2003)].

Languages : In 1990, 78% of its population were native speakers of one of the following languages: Javanese, Maduranese, and Balinese [Levang (2003)]. Indonesian is used much more often than Lampungese language [Katubi (2006), Kaneko (2011)].

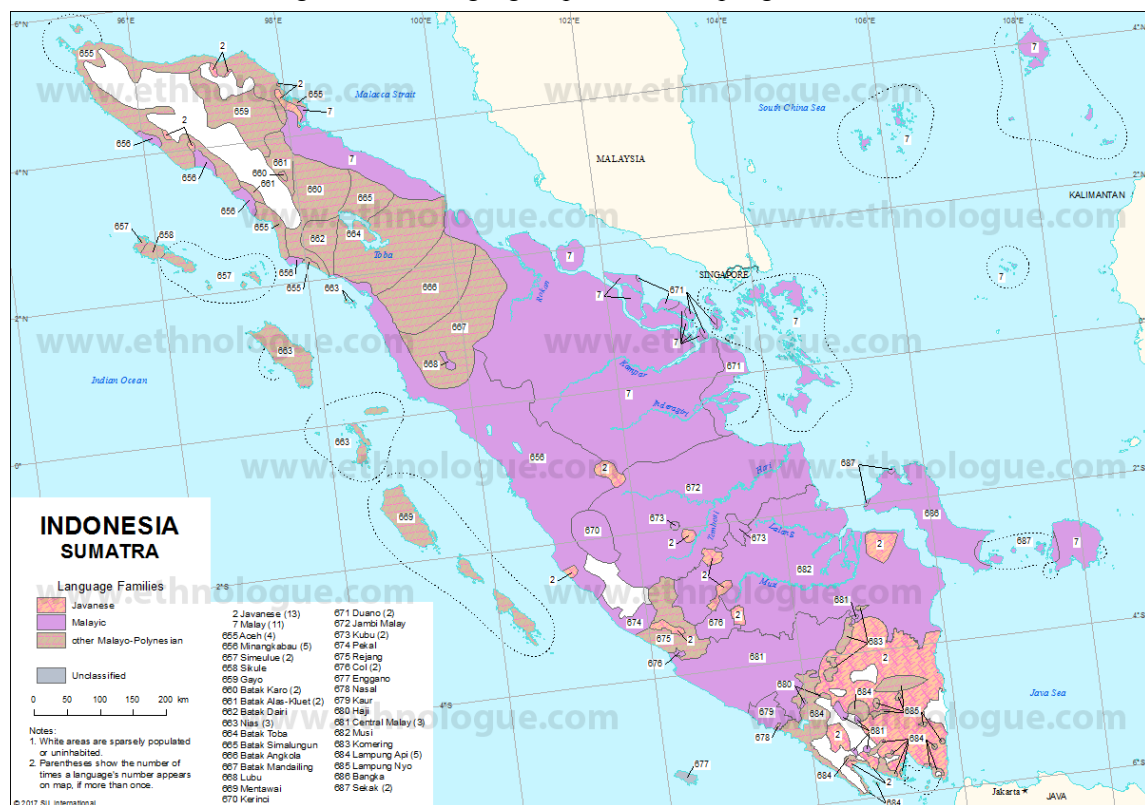
2. Languages Spoken in Lampung

Standard Indonesian (bahasa baku) : used at governmental offices, school, mass media.

Colloquial Indonesian : daily life, informal occasions.

Bahasa daerah : bahasa Jawa, bahasa Lampung (Api and Nyo dialect), bahasa Sunda, bahasa Batak, bahasa tionghoa (Hokkien dialect), etc.

Figure 1 The Languages spoken in Lampung Province



Ethnologue. Language of the World. "Indonesia, Sumatra" (copied on 2018.10.10)

https://www.ethnologue.com/sites/default/files/styles/original/public/maps/21/ID_sm__rgb.png?itok=qz3BxNps

3. Some Features of Colloquial Indonesian in Lampung

3.1. Personal Pronouns

Table 1 Personal Pronouns of Colloquial Indonesian in Lampung

Standard		Colloquial	
<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>saya, aku</i>	<i>kami</i> (excl) <i>kita</i> (incl)	<i>gua</i>	<i>kita orang/kitorang</i> (excl) <i>kita</i> (incl)
<i>kamu, Anda</i>	<i>kalian</i> <i>Anda sekalian</i>	<i>lo</i>	<i>kamu orang/kamorang</i> <i>lo orang/lorang</i>
<i>dia</i>	<i>mereka</i>	<i>dia</i>	<i>dia orang/dorang</i>

The inclusive form of first person plural is the same as standard Indonesian, *kita*. *Kita orang* is the exclusive form, but some informants also mentioned that *kami orang* is also used in variation to *kita orang*. Example below is taken from Jackal and Crow narration.

(1)

Nah kayak jambu yang kayak di tempat kamu orang itu kan rindang,
well D.PTCL like rose apple REL like at place 2PL that NEG.Q leafy
itu kan gak keliatan buah-nya,... .
that NEG.Q NEG visible fruits its
[Well, like the rose apple (tree) at your house, it's leafy right, the fruits are not visible]

People of age above 60's and have a Javanese background tend not to use the colloquial personal pronouns, especially the ones that similar to Jakartan Indonesian (*gua, lo*). They mentioned that these terms are slang or spoken by young generations only.

In Manado Malay there are *torang* (we) and *dorang* (they) [Stoel, (2005)], in South-east Asian Hokkien there are *wah lang* (我儂; we) and *yi lang* (伊儂)[Penang Hokkien Dictionary, <https://www.timothytye.com/dictionary/index.htm>], in Bangka Belitung there is *dorang* (they) [by informant of native Bangka Belitung].² It is interesting to find out the origin and the spread of this

² One of the informants in our research in Lampung is a Tionghoa ethnic who lived in Medan during her childhood, also spent some years in Jakarta before came to Lampung, and she told me that she did not surprise to hear _____ *orang* form spoken in Lampung. She also used these kind of personal pronouns in Medan.

kind of forms, since these forms do not appear in conversations using colloquial variation in Jakarta. In the last meeting I argued that these forms may be produced by influence from Chinese Hokkien.

3.2. Discourse Particles

Most of the discourse particles showed below are taken from free conversations/dialogs, interviews and WA chats. The colloquial Indonesian spoken in Jakarta has some familiar discourse particles such as *sih*, *dong*, *deh*, etc. These discourse particles also found in the conversations in Lampung but this paper is focusing only on some peculiar particles which can be considered as regional features, *geh* and *tah*. There is no discussions so far about these particles, but sometimes *geh* is indicated to have the same meaning and functions as *dong* of Jakartan. The two examples below taken from datas, both can be replaced by *dong*. Ewing (2005) noted that *dong* indicates that the hearer is expected to have already known what the speaker is saying, Miyake (2015) divided the functions of *dong* into several items (soft imperative, desperate request/interrogative, definiteness, and cheereing up) .

(2)

Nonton tvnya juga beda geh sekarang. (free conversation)

watch tv-DEF also different D.PTCL now

[What they watch on TV must be also different, now]

(3)

Anaknya gak bisa bahasa Indonesia geh. (used by informant of Tionghoan ethnic during interview)

kid-DEF NEG can Indonesian D.PTCL

[So (your) children can not speak Indonesian, right?]

Both example (2) and (3) show that the hearer is expected to have the same opinion with speaker; in (2) speaker has a strong opinion on her thought, but in (3) seems there is a slight of interrogative meaning by the speaker's statement³. The next example can not be translated to *dong*.

(4)

Udah lama nggak upacara geh ya. (free conversation)

already long NEG ceremony D.PTCL D.PTCL

³ The informant was told that the interviewer married to Japanese man, has 2 children and living in Japan, so she has an opinion that the children can not speak Indonesian.

[(I)didn't join the ceremony since long time, haven't I]

Rather than *dong*, *geh* in (4) can be replaced by question particle *kan*.

(5)

Ini beneran tah anak-anak SMP, SD ? (free conversation)

this true D.PTCL children

[Is this (really) true that SMP and SD students are?]

Sentence (5) is an example of *tah* which shows speaker's strong curiosity or shocked feeling on a matter⁴. *Tah* can be considered to be like question particle *ya* (associated to other colloquial Indonesian). As speaker purely expects the opinion from hearer, *tah* occurs mainly in interrogative sentences.

Particle known as to be a focus marker in Sundanese, *mah* also found frequently in conversations in Lampung.

(6)

(Koh) untuk Cina itu mah.

koh for Chinese that D.PTCL

[(Koh) is for Chinese]

(7)

Kalo taxi ga ada yg bagus say lampung mah. (WA conversation, January 12th, 2016)

if taxi NEG there is REL good my dear Lampung D.PTCL

[If taxi there is no good (company) here, my dear, in Lampung]

(8)

Novotel itu arah2 garuntang, cakep lah sekalian buat liburan mah.

Novotel that direction garuntang nice D.PTCL both for vacation D.PTCL

Novotel is around Garuntang (area), it's nice for both vacation (and stay).

⁴ In this conversation we were talking about the high rate of suicide by young generations including Junior High students and Primary School students.

(9)

...gampang itu makan pempek mah.

easy that eat pempek D.PTCL

[To treat you pempek, it's a piece of cake]

Just like in Sundanese sentences, the use of *mah* seems to be grammatically optional, without *mah* the sentences will still be well formed. Whether to provide new information, *mah* in sentences above mark a contrastive focus, which in language like Japanese is expressed by topic marker (*wa*).

3.3. Negation

Corresponding to the standard Indonesian *tidak*, various negative particles of colloquial ones include *nggak*, *gak*, *kaga/kaga*, and *mak*. *Kagak* is the one similar to Jakartan Indonesia, and the last mentioned *mak* seems to be one of the features of spoken Indonesian in Lampung.

(10)

Tulisannya kecil, mak keliatan. (sample sentence by informant)

word-DEF small NEG visible

[The words is small, it's not visible]

MJ is an abbreviation of "*mak jelas* (not clear)", it is one of slang words spoken in Lampung.

3.4. Voice

The data from Jackal and Cros narrations show a high frequent use of standard Indonesian *meN-*. The percentage is

Unprefixed form and the nasal prefix *N-* as said to be the informal register of actor voice [Ewing (2005)], appeared frequently in the free conversations (dialogs) or when the informant is being interviewed. Variations of actor voice verbs are as follows (the underlined ones are taken from Jackal and Crow transcript data).

baca, mbaca, ngebaca, ngebacain

dengar, denger, ?ngedengar, ngedenger, ngedengerin

antar, anter, ngantar, nganter, ?ngantarin, nganterin

liat, ngeliat, ngeliatin

ganggu, ngeganggu, ngegangguin

bawa, mbawa, ngebawa

ngelambat (SI=menjadi lambat)

nyepeda (SI =bersepeda, naik sepeda)

The *nge- -in* (SI= *me-kan*) variation should appear with verb base in schwa form [**ngedengar, ngedenger, *ngedengarin, ngedengerin; ngantar, nganter, *ngantarin, nganterin*].

3.5. Address Terms

Lestari (2018) showed that the terms of address originated from Javanese (as also used in other areas throughout Indonesia) *pak, bu, mas, mbak* are also widely used in Lampung. Also, some informants pointed out if they can find that the addressee has a specific ethnic background, they try to use the proper terms according to his/her ethnicity. For example, *bang* for a Sumatran male, *uda* for a Minangkabau male, *uni* for a Minangkabau female, *aak* for a Sundanese male, or *cik* and *koh* for Tionghoa ethnic people.

3.6. Others

- The mid central vowel sound (schwa) in the second syllable [*dapet, macem, cepet, sempet, denger, bener*].
- Multifunctional preposition *sama*. The function of *sama* in the colloquial Indonesian especially those which are spoken in Jakarta, has the functions as prepositions (similar to *dengan, di, untuk/buat, kepada, dar, terhadap*), to mark experiencer or actor (*oleh*) [see Utsuko and Lestari (2011)]. In Lampung these kinds of usage are also found.
- The use of *baru* as progressive aspect marker.

(10)

Gadis manis ini kira-kira umur 10 tahun ya, baru makan pisang. (monologue transcript from video of banana)

[This cute girl around 10, isn't she, is eating a banana]

(11)

Nanti telepon lagi ya, dia baru mandi sekarang. (sample sentence)

[Please call back later, he is now taking a bath]

4. Data taken from "Jackal and Crow"

Data was taken from 12 informants (with Javanese background and Lampungese background) on Jackal and Crow. There were just a limited number of examples that can be noted to

be the features of Lampung's colloquial varieties.

1. Variations of negation form: *tidak, gak, nggak*

2. Variations of *meN-* : the formal register *meN-* occurred in a high frequency. From 128 samples of *meN-* variations, and the formal register *meN-* are 71, unprefix form are 53, and *nge-* are 6 samples.

(12)

burung gak memakan ikan dalam sebuah karung yang ditemukannya.

(13)

Nah, ketika burung gak mengambil ikan tersebut, dia hinggap di sebuah pohon

Dibawah pohon itu srigala sedang mengamati. Nah srigala berfikir betapa enaknya jika dia mampu mendapatkan ikan tersebut.

(14)

Nah ini, anjing ini. Anjing, cuma ini kan nggak begitu, nggak begitu ganas, cuman dia ngeganggu juga, guk guk guk, nah dia takut kan, dia lebih tahu lah tempat yang aman kan ya.

3. Personal pronouns : there were only a very limited examples of personal pronouns. The example of Lampung colloquial Indonesian ones, only given by a speaker as shown in sentence (1).

4. Discourse particles : *geh, tah* did not appear. The forms found are *nah, gitu/gitu ya, lah ya, kok*, and *sih*.

5. Concluding Remarks

There is a tendency of Indonesian people to speak formally and use standard language when telling a story using pictures. It may be influenced by the fact that almost all the publications including comics are written in Standard Indonesian. As Jakarta's colloquial Indonesian can be found in a lot of sources (movies, drama, radio broadcast, etc) it is hard to find the regional varieties other than natural discourses (conversations).

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