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# Variations of Sundanese in Agrarian Societies in Central Java

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to describe the differences in language variations, explain the history of language development, and describe the differences in language variations in the agrarian society in Central Java. The problem that arises is how is the language variation, the history of development and the difference in language variation in the agrarian society in Central Java?. This research is qualitative with an approach that uses sociology and dialectology qualitative approach. The data collection technique is by recording a list of questions and answers from informants directly or in writing. Then record images and sounds using a mobile phone. The results of the study show that there are two language variations, namely Sundanese and Javanese. Comparison of language variations in agrarian societies in Central Java includes phonology, morphology and lexicals.

Keywords: Acculturation, Agrarian Language, Central Java, Dialectology, Javanese Sundanese Language, Language Variation

# 1 Introduction

Language is the most important aspect of human life. People use language to communicate and help them go about their daily lives. Language is used by humans as a source of interaction that causes diversity, and different languages in the human realm always have different variations, characteristics, and identities [1], [2]. Human beings as social beings use language whenever it is necessary to form an identity, in order to maintain the authenticity of thoughts and attitudes related to the development of individuals or groups of society. Language and human beings are an inseparable unit. Both have a strong influence on human life and the creation of a very ideal socio-cultural environment. In fact, language is a tool that unites differences between people, creating two cultures with the concept of language growth. Language is a cultural milestone to ensure diversity in society. Culture is increasingly becoming a whole pattern, with the same language that expresses the values of social personality at the level of humanity with a historical background. It is said that the cultural level is closely related to the linguistic community, and the linguistic community has a meaning that is constantly developing and developing in its application through the society itself [3]–[5].

Regional languages in Indonesia are usually introduced as the mother tongue or first language by teachers. Then the speaker will learn other languages, such as Indonesian as the national language, English as an international language, and other regional languages. Speakers who can only master one language are called lingual, if they master two languages are called bilingual, and if they master more than two languages they are called multilingual. Bilingual or multilingual societies often experience code switching or code mixing, because they are affected by language mastery both as speakers and speaking partners. Over time, code switching and code mixing can cause language to be dynamic. The development of language causes the loss of the original identity of the language of a particular region. To find out the original language in an area, dialect research is needed. After that, dialect research can be compared with other dialect studies to describe the comparison between dialects of one region and another, especially areas whose geographical distance is close because they tend to have similarities. [6]–[9]

The problem of language variation in the Central Java region is important to be researched in the dialectical paradigm. This is because each region always has a different language variation, which is followed by history as the most influential impact on language development. This statement can be proven by several previous researchers, such as those carried out by Agustin (et al., 2023), with the focus of his study being to describe the lexical differences in Javanese dialect variations and mapping Javanese dialect variations. The results of the research conducted by Nadyanita & Morelent (2023), show the phonological differences between the Kumun Debai dialect and the Pondok Tinggi dialect. Research conducted by Sudana (et al., 2023), with the results showing differences in the variation of the Sundanese language in the Pangandaran region. Then the research

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conducted by Islamiyah (et al., 2024), with a focus on language variations influenced by history, geography, and social status. Based on the above research, it shows that research on language variations can be said to be very diverse. However, from previous research, no language variations were found that were influenced by history in the agrarian community in Central Java.

Basically, the two fundamental aspects of language are form and meaning. The formal aspect is related to the sound, letters, and structure of the language, while the semantic aspect is related to the vocabulary, function, and grammatical aspects. The form and meaning of a language shows the difference between one speaker and another, resulting in the emergence of language variants and language variations. The emergence of these variations is due to influencing factors such as geographical location, social groups, linguistic context, and changes from time to time, as well as the needs of speakers regarding communication facilities and social contexts. In connection with this statement, this research is important to be carried out, it is based on the knowledge of the general public about language variations in various regions that are still not fully understood. [14]–[17]. This encourages researchers to conduct an assessment of language variations in agrarian communities, as well as a vehicle to introduce language kinship between regions with different geographical and historical conditions. Thus, this research is expected to be a source of information about language variations in agrarian communities in the Central Java region.

#### 2 Research methods

The characteristics of the data studied are about the kinship of words from various regions seen from its history, the collection of words is based on the list of morrish swadesh, so this type of research is qualitative with an approach that uses sociology and dialectology. [18] The use of these two approaches in this language variation research is very much in line with this study. It is based on the definition of Sociology which can be interpreted as a field that studies the order in society, while dialectology is a scientific field that refers to the study of language variations [19], [20]. Thus, this study examines how a history can have an impact on language kinship.

The research location that is the focus of the study is in the Cilacap Regency area consisting of three sub-districts with each of six villages used as observation points. The three sub-districts studied include Cimanggu District (Cimanggu Village and Panimbang Village), Karangpucung District (Surusunda Village and Ciporos Village), and Majenang District (Jenang Village and Cilopadang Village) the research method used is Pupuan Field, a method that has two material selection techniques, namely direct recording and indirect recording. The data collection technique is by recording a list of questions and answers from informants directly or in writing. Then record images and sounds using *a mobile phone*.

#### 3 Result and Discussion

## 3.1 Comparison of Language Variations in Agrarian Communities in Central Java

Each language has different variations. Linguistic variation is a set of human speech patterns that contain sounds, words, and grammatical features that may be uniquely related to external factors, such as geography and social factors. The emergence of language diversity is not only due to the heterogeneity of its speakers, but also due to the variety of social interactions carried out. The variety of languages used due to the differences in speakers, situations and purposes of language use is called linguistic variety [16], [21], [22]. This diversity also occurs in several areas in Central Java, especially in Cilacap Regency. The researcher collected data in three sub-districts, namely Cimanggu, Majenang, and Karangpudung Districts, each sub-district was taken from two villages. The results obtained show that there are differences in language variations from various linguistic levels, namely lexical, phonological, and morphological. Based on the results of the research that has been obtained, the researcher conducts data coding to make it easier to separate data with different categories. The following is a gloss comparison of 6 villages that are observation points.

## 3.1.1 Phonology

Phonology is a branch of linguistics that studies language sounds based on their functions. Phonology is the linguistic part that analyzes sound systems. In addition, phonology has models and systems for analyzing different phonemes based on their functions[23]–[25].

Phonological differences in language variations refer to phonetic or phonemic pronunciation differences, phonological variations consist of vowel and consonant changes [12], with their categorization being very perfect, perfect and imperfect. Variations at the phonological level in an area are usually caused by a tendency to use phonemes in their vocabulary. [26] However, the change in phoneme did not cause a significant shift in

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meaning from the area where the researcher found phonological variations, the following are the findings and presentations from the results of field research.

Table 1. Consonant Variations of Objects, Tools, and Nature of Sundanese

List of Sundanese Words in Panimbang Village (TP 3)			List of Sundanese words in Surusunda Village (TP 2)	Arti
Sentong	Sentong	Enggon	Enggon	Ladle
Ciduh	Ciduh	Ciduh	Ciduh	Saliva
Asep	haseup	Aseup	Asep	Smoke
Taneuh	Taneuh	Taneuh	Taneuh	Soil

Information:

TP = Observation Points

The first gloss is the word tickong, there is a difference in the phonological aspect, it is caused by the process of changing the phoneme and decapitating the sound of the word. Phoneme changes are found in TP 1,2,3,4 namely in the gloss of Sentong and Enggon, the word still takes its original form from the word centong in Indonesian. However, because Javanese has a tendency in nasal consonants in some vocabulary, there is a change in the phoneme of Indonesian vocabulary if translated into Javanese. While sound patches are found in TP 1,2,3,4, in Smoke and Soil gloss. Both words have the addition of the phoneme /ə/. The words Aseup and Taneuh belong to the difference in linguistic variation at the phonological level, it is based on the addition of phonemes that were originally smoke and earth, so that a new form with the status of the word is created.

Table 2. Consonant variations of Objects, Tools, and Nature in Javanese

List of Javanese Words in Jenang Village (TP 6)	List of Javanese Words in Ciporos Village (TP 1)	Word List Javanese Cilopadang (TP 5)	Meaning
Centong	Centong	Centong	Centong
Idu	Idu	Idu	Ludah
Kukus	Kukus	Kukus	Asap

Information:

TP = Observation Point

The first gloss, namely the word Idu, there is a difference in the phonological aspect, it is caused by the process of phoneme reduction and decapitation of word sounds. Phoneme changes are found in TP 1, 5, and 6, namely in the gloss of Spit and Smoke, the word idu still takes the original form of the word Spit in Indonesian, while the word steam experiences consonant variations from the original word, namely the word smoke. However, because Javanese has a tendency in semi-vowel consonants in some vocabulary, there is a change in the phoneme of Indonesian vocabulary if translated into Javanese. Thus, changes and additions to phonemes can lead to the creation of new forms with unchanged word status.

# 3.1.2 Morphology

Morphology is a branch of linguistics that identifies the basic unit of language as a grammatical unit. Morphology examines the peculiarities of word forms and the influence of changes in word forms on word groups and their meanings[27]. The difference in language variation at the morphological level is related to the process of affixation, compounding, morphophonemic, and reduplication [28]. The variation of language in this aspect focuses on the form of affixes that are plural. The following are findings and presentations from the results of field research related to differences in variation in morphological levels [29].

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**Table 3.** Morphological Variations of Sundanese Words Deeds and Breakdowns

List of	List of Sundanese	List of Sundanese	Word List	Meaning
Sundanese	Words in	Words in Ciporos	Sundanese language	
Words in	Ciamnggu Village	Village	of Surusunda	
Panimbang	(TP 4)	(TP 1)	Village (TP 2)	
Village (TP 3)	, ,	,	- , ,	
Mikir	Mikri	Mikir	Mikir	Think
Seri	Seserian	Nyengserikeun	Seri	Laugh
potongan	motongan	potongan	Motongan	cut
Ngajait	Ngajait	Ngajait	Ngajait	Sew

In the gloss of the word Laughter, there is a difference in the morphological aspect, it is based on the use of prefixes in Sundanese, which has differences with the rules of affixation in Indonesian. The prefix in the gloss of the word Laughter uses the concept of kinship from the initial phoneme, namely /S/, this difference causes the word laughter to change in terms of the shape of the lexem. However, these changes did not cause a shift in the meaning of the word. Laughing Gloss is found in TP 1,2,3, and 4. The morphological difference also applies to the gloss of Mikir (thinking), and the root word of thinking is think. Suffixes such as ma-, sa, ar- an become suffixes that have a plural meaning, or change a word that represents something more than one.

**Table 4.** Morphological Variations of Javanese Words Deeds and Breakdowns

List of Javanese Jenang Words (TP 6)	List of Javanese Words Ciporos (TP 1)	Javanese	Meaning
		Cilopadang (TP 5)	
Mikir	Mikri	Mikir	Think

In the table above, morphological form variations are identified in the word think, the morphological difference refers to the change in the form of the prefix suffix, mi-, which makes the p phoneme undergo fusion into /m/. The root word of *thinking* is *thinking*. Suffixes such as mi- become suffixes that have a plural meaning, or change a word that represents something more than one morphological difference in the gloss of thinking found in TP 1, 5, and 6.

Table 5. Variations in Human Morphology and Kinship of Sundanese

List of Sundanese	List of	List of Sundanese	Word List	Meaning
Words in	Sundanese	<b>Words in Ciporos</b>	Sundanese	
Panimbang Village	Words in	Village (TP 1)	language of	
(TP 3)	Ciamnggu		Surusunda Village	
•	Village (TP 4)		(TP 2)	
Kawinan	kawinan	kawinkeun	Kawinkeun	Intercourse
ngaringkuk	Ringkuk	Ngaringkuk	Ngaringkuk	Groaned

Based on the table above, it is found that there are morphological variations for the field of meaning with the categories of Human and Kinship, such as the word berse, which undergoes morphological changes in the Sundanese language, namely Kawinkeun and Kawian, in the suffixes -an, and -eun. The change in affixation is based on the tendency to use the phoneme /ə/ in some words, this tendency makes Sundanese have its own characteristics from other languages. However, the change in the phoneme in morphological variation has no effect on the meaning of the root word for intercourse. Morphological variations of the intercourse gloss include mating and mating, which are found in TP 1, 2, 3, and 4. Suffix variations also apply to suffix gloss, which has various forms of suffixes including ngaringkuk and ringuk. The suffix nga- in Indonesian is taken from the prefix meng-, the fusion of phonemes occurs due to an adjustment with Sundanese, the suffix nga- in Sundanese changes a word into a verb. The change of the suffix meng- to nga- and -an to eun, does not cause a shift in the meaning of the word.

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**Table 6.** Variations in Human Morphology and Kinship of the Javanese Language

List of Javanese Words in Jenang Village (TP 3)	List of Javanese Words in Ciporos Village (TP 1)	Word List Javanese Cilopadang Village (TP 5)	Meaning
Kawin	kawin	Kawin	Intercourse
Ngetokna suara	Ngetokna suara	Ngetokna suara	Groaned

Based on the table above, it can be seen that there is a morphological change for the meaning field of the categories of Human and Kinship, such as in the word meringkik, which has undergone a morphological change in its Javanese language, namely Ngetokna Suara. The change in affixation is based on the tendency to use the nasal phoneme /ng/ in some words, this tendency makes Javanese unique from other languages. However, the change in the phoneme in morphological variation has no effect on the meaning of the root word meringk. The morphological variation of the squeaky gloss is Ngetokna Suara, which is found in TP 1, 5, and 6. The suffix nge- in Indonesian is taken from the prefix meng-, the fusion of phonemes occurs due to an adjustment with the Javanese language, the prefix nge- in Javanese changes a word into a verb. The change of the suffix meng- to nge- does not cause a shift in the meaning of the word.

#### 3.1.3 Lexicon

Lexical meaning is the meaning of linguistic symbols that are still basic, that is, they do not have connotations or grammatical relationships with other words [30]. The difference in language variation in the lexical context is related to the lexems that are combined to create the same meaning with different word classes [31]. The variation of language at the lexical level in each region is usually caused by the same historical linkage in the area, so that the people share each other's language but with different pronunciation of words. The following are the findings and presentations of the results of field research that are related to lexical-level language variations.

Table 7. Members of the Sundanese Language Agency

List of Sundanese	List of Sundanese	List of Sundanese	Word List	Meaning
Words in Panimbang	Words in Ciamnggu	Words in Ciporos	Sundanese language	
Village (TP 3)	Village (TP 4)	Village (TP 1)	of Surusunda	
		- ' '	Village (TP 2)	
Nenen	enen	breast	nyusu	Breast
Getih	Getih	Getih	Getih	Blood
Hulu	Hulu	Hulu	Hulu	Head
Huntu	Huntu	Huntu	Huntu	Tooth

Information:

TP = Observation Point

Based on the table above, it is identified that there is a lexical variation, such as in the gloss of the word nyusu, in the word there is a difference in the lexical aspect, it is based on a combination of lexems and pronunciation variations in Sundanese. Lexicon nyusu, lexically means milk, but when viewed from a cultural meaning, the word can have two different meanings, depending on the situation in which it is used. The lexicon of the word nyusu can mean milk which refers to a type of white drink. But it can also refer to the meaning of the action of a person who gives milk to his child, it also applies to the nenen lexicon which can mean a woman's body part, but also means the act of breastfeeding a baby. While the enen lexicon is meaningfully called breast. Milk gloss was found in TP 1, nyusu gloss in TP 2, enen gloss in TP 4, and nenen gloss in TP 3.

Lexicon changes are also found in the words head and teeth, which when translated in Sundanese as Hulu and Huntu, are found in TP 1, 2, 3, and 4. Both words are used at a younger age, because in some areas the words huntu and upstream are included in the category of low (rough) language varieties, for example in Garut, Tasikmalaya, and Pangandaran mountains. The change in the lexicon in some of the gloss actually does not change or shift the overall meaning. This means that the meaning between words remains the same and is always related to the status of different words.

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**Table 8.** Members of the Javanese Language Agency

List of Javanese Words in Jenang Village (TP 6)	List of Javanese Words in Ciporos Village (TP 1)	Word List Javanese Cilopadang Village (TP 5)	Meaning
susu	susu	susu	Breast
Getih	Getih	Getih	Blood
Endhas	Endhas	Endhas	Head
Untu	Untu	Untu	Tooth

Information:

TP = Observation Point

Based on the table above, it is identified that there are lexical variations, such as in the word tooth, which if translated in Javanese into untu, is found in TP 1, 5, and 6. The word is used in an age level where the lexicon change in the gloss is true, does not change or shift the overall meaning. This means that the meaning between words remains the same. Lexicon changes in the words head and blood when translated in Javanese into endhas and getih, are found in TP 1, 5, and 6. The word can be used in a younger age level, while at an older age level the word endhas is said to be rude or disrespectful if spoken to an older person. The word head can be replaced with the word sirah to be more subtle if it is pronounced to an older person, such as Javanese krama, ngoko. Meanwhile, the word bloodih can be pronounced at a young age and an older age

Table 9. Sundanese Deeds and Livelihoods

List of Sundanese Words in Panimbang Village (TP 3)	List of Sundanese Words in Cimanggu Village (TP 4)	List of Sundanese Words in Ciporos Village (TP 1)	Word List Sundanese language of Surusunda Village (TP 2)	Meaning
Nyeseh	Nyeseh	Nyeseh	Nyeseh	Wash
Ulin	Kaulinan	Ulin	Ulin	Play
Babaran	lahiran	Babaran	Babaran	Give birth
Taek	tataekan	tataekan	tataekan	Ride

Information:

TP = Observation Point

Based on the table above, lexicon changes can be understood to be able to change words into certain classes of words that lead to actions, such as in the gloss of Menaiki, in Sundanese there are variations of gloss in the form of taek and tataekan. The word taek means something higher than the ground level, while tataekan refers to the actions of a person who is climbing something. Thus, the lexicon change in the word ascending experiences an expansion of meaning with different word classes. This applies to gloss playing with variations of the lexicon of play and iron, the word ironwood refers to the meaning of the word play with a singular nature, while the game refers to the object of a person's game, so that the word has an expanded meaning but is interrelated. In contrast to the word birth, which only has one meaning without expansion which makes the word change the word class.

Table 10. Javanese Deeds and Livelihoods

List of Javanese Words in Jenang Village (TP 6)	List of Javanese Words in Ciporos Village (TP 1)	Word List Javanese Cilopadang Village (TP 5)	Arti
Ngumbaih	Ngumbaih	Ngumbaih	Wash
Dolan/Dolanan	Dolan/Dolanan	Dolan/Dolanan	Play
Babaran	Babaran	Babaran	Give birth
Numpak	Numpak	Numpak	Ride

Information:

TP = Observation Point

Based on the table above, it is identified that there is a lexical variation, such as in the gloss of the word play, in the word there is a difference in the lexical aspect, it is based on the combination of lexems and pronunciation

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variations in Javanese. Lexicon dolan/tolanan, lexically means to play, but when viewed from a cultural meaning, the word can have two different meanings, depending on the situation in which it is used. The lexicon of the word dolan can mean that a person goes somewhere to play, while tolanan refers to when a child and his friends are playing together. Doll/toy lexicons were found in TP 1, 5, and 6. Lexicon changes are also found in the word soil, which when translated into Javanese becomes weak, found in TP 1, 5, and 6.

Based on the differences in language variations at various levels of language, the following is the distribution of two Sundanese and Javanese words in several regions that are observation points.

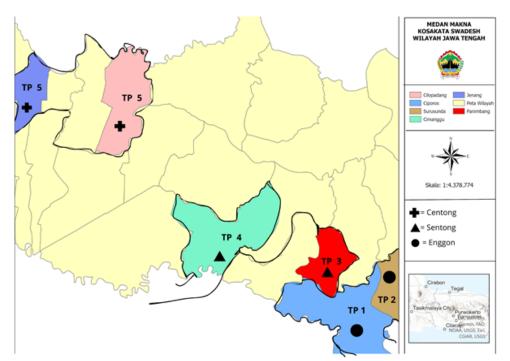


Figure 1. Isogloss Sundanese Word Centong

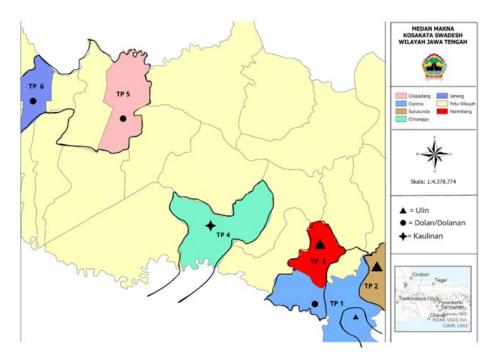


Figure 2. Isogloss Javanese-Sundanese play words

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Based on the map of the spread of two different languages above, it can be observed, that there are two locations that use two languages, namely Sundanese and Javanese, the location includes Jenang Village and Ciporos Village, it is due to the geographical conditions of the two areas which are on the provincial border, namely West Java and Central Java. While those who only use Sundanese are TP 2, TP 3, and TP 4, the locations include Cimanggu Village, Panimbang Village, and Surusunda Village. Finally, the area that only uses Javanese is TP 5 (Cilopadang Village).

# 3.2 Geographical Conditions in Agrarian Communities in Central Java

The history of language development is based on three sub-districts with six villages, it can be understood that the development of language in these areas was not spared from the mass colonization of the Dutch East Indies and the relationship between the Galuh and Mataram kingdoms. Transportation in the past was different from today, so the majority of people at that time were traders and travelers. As a result, the area of the main route across different regions became a stopover place for various communities. Thus, it became the starting point for the acculturation of language and culture mixed with people from various royal regions in Java.

The language used by the people in the Cimanggu District area is Sundanese, the history of language mixing in Panimbang Village and Cimanggu Village began, when there was a long march from the Galuh army camp of the Siliwingi Kingdom to the Kingdom of Mataram. The soldiers who were members of the long journey to Mataram used land routes and passed through the rivers that surrounded the area. Based on the influence of the Galuh Kingdom, naming in some areas is dominated by the word Ci at the beginning of the word, in Sundanese Ci is Cai, which if translated into Indonesian means water.

Residents who met the galuh army, then rested and there were several soldiers who wanted to settle in the village. The area occupied is included in the Central Java region (Javanese), the occurrence of marriages between Sundanese and Javanese tribes gives birth to many new offspring and the majority of parents teach their children in Sundanese. The Sundanese language used slowly changed to coarse Sundanese, which initially used Sundanese (Apik), it was also supported by geographical conditions that had hotter temperatures and were in the highlands. Based on several previous studies, it is said that geographical conditions can affect the language of a region.

From the research that has been carried out, not all areas that are observation points use Indonesian. After being explored and investigated in the field of meaning described in isogloss, it was found that if a region is more inclined to the west, then the tendency in the use of Sundanese is higher. Then if an area is oriented to the east, then the use of the language is dominated by Javanese. This is strengthened by historical records that explain that the Sindangsari area is the border between the Galuh Kingdom and the Mataram Kingdom, so that cultural and linguistic acculturation occurs.

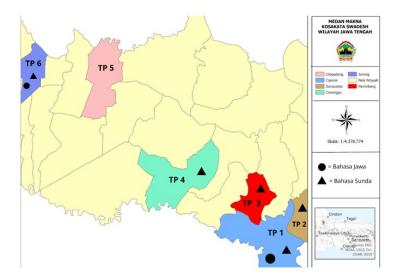


Figure 3. The Distribution of Sundanese-Javanese Language in Central Javanese Society

## 4 Conclusion

The variation of language in agrarian societies is caused by the cultural exchange of two different kingdoms, so that people share each other's languages but with different pronunciations, affixes, and lexical forms.

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Language variations found based on linguistic level classification include phonology, morphology, and lexical language variations. The language variations found are not only influenced by historical developments, but also by the geographical conditions of the region which is one of the crucial factors, such as influences from the west and east. The kinship shown in the language variations of agrarian societies shows that there are traces of how a language can evolve.

The implication of this study is that it can conduct an assessment with different perspectives, such as the influence of the social order on the formation of language variations, by digging deeper into the social system in it, then it can also examine how traces from the era of colonialism can create absorbed vocabulary in language. Thus, the more diverse a research in the study of dialectology, it can be the subject of discussion and develop linguistic linguistic theories. The weakness of this study is the limited time, so that the deepening when digging up the research data, is not completely complete, so that the researcher may miss some important things from the dialectological study.

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