



## **SEGMENTAL PHONEMES OF MINANGKABAUNESE LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN INDROPURO DIALECT**

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### **Abstract**

Even though Indropuro dialect is a variation of Minangkabau language, they both have basic difference such as in Segmental phoneme. Hence, this research investigates the segmental phonemes of Indropuro dialect in Pesisir Selatan and how it is different from standard Minangkabaunese. The aim of this research is the identification and the distribution of consonant, vowel, and diphthong sound. Descriptive method is used as the methodology of this research. In this research, the writer uses interview with talk face by face strategies to collect the data. The result of this research shows that there are 31 phonemes of Indropuro dialect. They are divided into 20 phonemes consonant; /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /č/, /j/, /k/, /g/, /ʔ/, /s/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /r/, /l/, /w/, /u/, and /y/, 6 phonemes vowel; /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, /o/, and /ə/, and 5 diphthongs; /Ia/, /ay/, /aw/, /ua/, and /uy/. Moreover, the distributions of consonant, vowel, and diphthong sounds have variant distribution. Some of the consonant and the vowel have complete distribution, but all diphthongs are incomplete distribution. It is different from standard Minangkabaunese, which has 32 phonemes; 20 consonants, 5 vowels, and 7 diphthongs. The result shows that there are differences of them. It is because Indropuro dialect is not fully the same with standard Minangkabaunese even though they are in the same language. Based on that fact, it can be concluded that the segmental phoneme of a dialect in Indropuro is not fully the same with the standard one.

**Key words:** Segmental Phoneme, Consonant, Vowel, Diphthong, Indropuro

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Language is a system to communicate for human. According to Febbi (2017:91), in Indonesia, there are at least 700 local languages. One of them is Minangkabau language. Except Mentawai, most people in West Sumatera speak Minangkabaunese. However, it does not mean that they will speak in the same dialect. The people who live in the south of Pesisir Selatan, such as Indropuro

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speak Minangkabaunese with dialect that is different enough from standard Minangkabaunese. According to Maksan, et al (1984:17-18), the dialect is different because it is influenced by language contact from Bengkulu and Jambi.

Beside lexical differences, Indropuro dialect is also different in phonological aspect. Phonologically, each different language has different way to produce sound. Refnaldi (2008:3) explains that phonology is the study of how sounds that are produced by people in particular language are organized and arranged into patterns and systems. There are two scopes of phonology. Those are phonetics and phonemics. Demolin (2005:95) states that phonetics describes how the speech sound are created, received, and transmitted in language. On the other hand, Dardjowidjojo (2009:17) explains that phonemics is the study of sounds in order to determine whether the certain sounds is contrast or not with other sounds, or the certain sounds differentiate meaning or not.

Related to this research, phonemics is the point of the research analysis. In this research, the writer analyzes the phonemes that can be found in Indropuro dialect. Phonemes are the smallest unit of a language which can differentiate meaning. Idsardi (2003) says that phonemes are the phonetic alphabet of the mind. Phonemes are how human mentally represents speech and how human stores the sounds of words in human's memory. Phonemes are divided into two categories. Those are primary phoneme which is known as segmental phoneme and secondary phoneme which is known as supra-segmental phoneme. Rosa (2013:56-65) states that phoneme is categorized into segmental phoneme including (consonant, vowel, diphthong) and supra-segmental phoneme including (stress, pitch, intonation, and juncture).

The segmental phoneme is an individual sound or an individual phoneme which is produced on one segment of speech which work on the segmental level. The term segment is any discrete unit that can be identified, either physically or auditorily, in the stream of speech (Hussain and Sumaiya, 1:2015). The segmental phoneme is categorized into consonant, vowel, and diphthong sounds.

Consonant is a sound of a language that is produced because of the air stream from the lungs blocked by one of vocal tracts such as lips, teeth, etc. Fromkin et al (2007: 195) explains that the consonant sounds is made because of there is an obstruction in the vocal tract when the air flows from the lungs. The sound is articulated with complete or partial closure of the vocal tract. For examples are sound [p] is produced because of an obstruction with the lips, sound [t] is produced because of an obstruction with the front of the tongue, sound [k] is produced because of an obstruction with the back of the tongue, etc.

In contrary to consonant sound, there are sounds that are produced without any obstruction in the vocal tract when the air flows from the lungs. This kind of sounds is called as vowel sounds. Jufrizal (1999:39) states that the vowel is sound that is produced with no interruption of the air passage through the oral cavity, as the result the sounds become voiced continuous sounds. Whenever the vowel sounds are produced, the air stream from the lungs is not blocked in any way in the mouth, so that, it is no easy to feel exactly where the vowel sounds are made.

Moreover, diphthong is known as a gliding vowel which is combination of two adjacent vowel sounds within the same syllable. Moreover, according to

Dardjowidjojo (2009:33), a diphthong is the sound of combination of two different vowels in the same syllable, and then the stronger stress falls on the first vowel. Thus, it can be said that a diphthong is the sound of words which is pronounced as two different vowel sounds in the same syllable.

Naturally, the distribution of phoneme can be found in the initial position, middle position, and final position (IMF). However, not all phonemes can be found in the initial, middle, and final position. Sometimes, some phonemes only can be found in the initial and middle position, or in the initial and the final position, or even in some languages, the phoneme only can be found in the initial position.

Crane, Yeager and Randa 1981 (1981:72) discover how to find and identify a phoneme in language. They developed the concept of minimal pairs in order to identify a phoneme in language. A minimal pair is any two words that contain the same number of segments, but differ in meaning, and exhibit only one phonetic difference. Furthermore, Strassler (2003) explains that there are three steps about how to identify phoneme in a language.

Basically, the best step to identify phoneme is using the concept of minimal pair. Two words which differ in only one sound in a given position. For example, the words *tin* [tin] and *sin* [sin] which have different meaning. These two words are categorized into minimal pair. The difference of phoneme /t/ and phoneme /s/ differ the meaning of the two words.

If there is no minimal pair, look for possible contextual influence (allophones). Allophones are the variant of phonetic realizations of one and the same phoneme. Allophonic variants are the variants that are conditioned by the environments in which they occur. They occur in mutually exclusive environments, i.e., they never overlap, they are in complementary distribution.

If there is no contextual influence, then look for the free variation. Two phonemes which may appear in the same context without causing a change in meaning. For example, phonemes /p/, /t/, /k/ are aspirated phoneme when they appear in the initial position in English language.

At last, related to the explanation above, the writer of this research analyzed about the segmental phoneme of Indropuro dialect in Pesisir Selatan. The writer identified the phonemes that occur in Indropuro dialect using the concept of minimal pairs and see the place of their distribution in a word. It can be found in the initial position, middle position, or final position, and even can be found in all of the position.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research was conducted by using the descriptive method, where this research described the identification and the distribution of segmental phonemes (consonant, vowel, and diphthong) of Minangkabau language spoken in Indropuro Pesisir Selatan. Descriptive method is the process of describing the data based on accurate data which is collected from the informants or participants by using interviewing, questioning, observation, etc. The data of this research were words

that were pronounced by native speakers of Indropuro dialect which contain of consonant, vowel, and diphthong substance.

In this research, the researcher himself was the key instrument to collect the data. Thus, the researcher directly went to the field to collect the data from the informants. Moreover the addition instruments of this research was swadesh list (300 words), writing tools (including pen and notebook), and tape recorder. The swadesh list was used as the interview guideline. The writing tools were used to write the specific words from the utterances of the informants. The tape recorder was used to record the interview between the researcher and the informants.

The data of this research were collected by using direct method. The researcher went to the field to gather the information. The researcher talked and asked questions directly to the informants in face to face. The technique of data collection used in this research was an interview through technical talk by face to face strategy (Sudaryanto, 1988:7). Researcher asked about vocabularies based on the Swadesh list and basic vocabularies that have been prepared. Then, the data which contain information were recorded and wrote in the notebook. Recording was done in order to provide a more accurate data.

### C. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

#### 1. Finding

Basically, there are three methods that can be used to identify phoneme of a language such as using minimal pairs, possible contextual influence (allophones) and free variation. Luckily, in Indropuro dialect, the phonemes can be identified only by using the concept of minimal pairs.

There are forty pairs phonemes consonant of Indropuro dialect that can be identified using minimal pair concept. These pairs of phoneme can be seen in two words that have similar pronunciation. It can be seen in one of identification processes below. The following pairs of phonemes belong to two separate phonemes, because they function to differentiate meaning.

Phoneme /u/ and /t/

Data:

<i>aghing</i> [aʉiŋ] ‘Day’	-	<i>ating</i> [atɪŋ] ‘Hearth’
<i>bughung</i> [buʉuŋ] ‘Hunting’	-	<i>butung</i> [butuŋ] ‘Blunt’

Based on the data analysis, there are 31 phonemes of Indropuro dialect in Pesisir Selatan. They are divided into 20 phonemes consonant; they are /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /č/, /j/, /k/, /g/, /ʔ/, /s/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /r/, /l/, /w/, /u/, and /y/, 6 phonemes vowel; they are /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, /o/, and /ə/, and 5 diphthongs; they are /la/, /ay/, /aw, /ua/, and /uy/. This tables below show the classification of consonant sound based on place and manner of articulation and and vowel sound of Indropuro dialect.



Table 1: The classification of consonant sound of Indropuro dialect based on place and manner of articulation.

Place of articulation		Bilabial	Alveolar dental	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Manner of articulation						
Stop	Voiceless	p	t	č	k	ʔ
	Voiced	b	d	ǰ	g	
Fricative	Voiceless		s			h
Nasal	Voiced	m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
Lateral	Voiced		l			
Trill	Voiced		r			
Glide/Approximant	Voiced	w		y	ɥ	

Table 2: The classification of vowel sound of Indropuro dialect.

	Front	Central	Back
<b>High</b>	i		u
<b>Mid</b>	e	ə	o
<b>Low</b>		a	

Indropuro dialect has variant distribution. There are 6 consonants that have complete distribution. They are /p/, /t/, /s/, /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/. The rest of them are incomplete distribution. Moreover, there are 3 vowels that have complete distribution. They are /i/, /e/, and /a/. Vowels /u/ and /o/ occur in the middle and final position, but vowel /ə/ only occurs in the middle position in word. Furthermore, all diphthong of Indropuro dialect are incomplete distribution. Diphthong /Ia/, /oa/, /ua/ and /uy/ only occur in the middle position in word, and diphthong /aw/ only occurs in final position.

This table below shows the distribution of phoneme consonant of Indropuro dialect in Pesisir Selatan.

Table 3: The distribution of consonant sounds of Indropuro dialect.

Phonemes	Position in Word		
	Initial	Middle	Final
/p/	<i>pendek</i> [pendeʔ] ‘Short’	<i>sepo</i> [sepo] ‘Who’	<i>slop</i> [səlop] ‘Sandal’
/b/	<i>banyak</i> [baŋʔ] ‘Many’	<i>ambo</i> [ambo] ‘I’	-
/t/	<i>taling</i> [taliŋ] ‘Rope’	<i>atok</i> [atoʔ] ‘Roof’	<i>gigit</i> [gigit] ‘Bite’
/d/	<i>duduk</i> [duduʔ] ‘Sit’	<i>tidu</i> [tidu] ‘Sleep’	-
/č/	<i>clik</i> [čəliʔ] ‘See’	<i>acak</i> [ačaʔ] ‘Good’	-
/ǰ/	<i>jait</i> [ǰait] ‘Sewing’	<i>tujuh</i> [tuǰuh] ‘Seven’	-
/k/	<i>kcik</i> [kəciʔ] ‘Small’	<i>iko</i> [iko] ‘This’	-
/g/	<i>galo</i> [galo] ‘All’	<i>agih</i> [agih] ‘Give’	-
/ʔ/	-	-	<i>asok</i> [asoʔ] ‘Smoke’
/s/	<i>sepo</i> [sepo] ‘Who’	<i>asok</i> [asoʔ] ‘Smoke’	<i>es</i> [es] ‘Ice’
/h/	-	-	<i>basah</i> [basah] ‘Wet’
/m/	<i>mak</i> [maʔ] ‘Mother’	<i>kumuh</i> [kumuh] ‘Dirty’	<i>itam</i> [itam] ‘Black’

/n/	<i>nam</i> [nam] ‘Six’	<i>sinan</i> [sinan] ‘There’	<i>lapan</i> [lapan] ‘Eight’
/ñ/	<i>nyasah</i> [ñasah] ‘Wash’	<i>inyu</i> [iñu] ‘They’	-
/ŋ/	<i>ngan</i> [ŋan] ‘Don’t’	<i>angik</i> [aŋi?] ‘Hot’	<i>gdang</i> [gədaŋ] ‘Big’
/r/	-	<i>krjo</i> [kərjo] ‘Work’	-
/l/	<i>lamu</i> [lamu] ‘Long’	<i>clik</i> [cəli?] ‘See’	-
/w/	<i>uwan</i> [uwan] ‘Uncle’	-	<i>kalau</i> [kalaw] ‘If’
/ɥ/	<i>ghambut</i> [ɥambut] ‘Hair’	<i>aghing</i> [aɥiŋ] ‘Day’	
/y/	-	<i>ayi</i> [ayi] ‘Wate’	<i>balai</i> [balay] ‘Market’
/a/	<i>acak</i> [aca?] ‘Good’	<i>nam</i> [nam] ‘Six’	<i>kida</i> [kida] ‘Left’
/i/	<i>icek</i> [ice?] ‘Seed’	<i>clik</i> [čəli?] ‘See’	<i>ayi</i> [ayi] ‘water’
/u/	-	<i>duo</i> [duo] ‘Two’	<i>siku</i> [siku] ‘Tail’
/e/	<i>etek</i> [ete?] ‘Aunty’	<i>kaek</i> [kae?] ‘Cut’	<i>embe</i> [embe] ‘Pail’
/o/	-	<i>atok</i> [ato?] ‘Roof’	<i>apo</i> [apo] ‘What’
/ə/	-	<i>kbut</i> [kəbut] ‘Dust’	-
/Ia/	-	<i>anjnag</i> [aŋŋaŋ] ‘Dog’	-
/ay/	-	<i>maili</i> [mayli] ‘Flow’	<i>balai</i> [balay] ‘Market’
/aw/	-	-	<i>ijau</i> [ijaw] ‘Green’
/ua/	-	<i>iduang</i> [iduaŋ] ‘Nose’	-
/uy/	-	<i>mbuih</i> [məbuyh] ‘Blow’	-

In the other side, standard Minangkabaunese language has 32 phonemes. There are different phonemes occur in Indropuro dialect. Both standard Minangkabaunese and Indropuro dialect have 20 phonemes consonant. However, there is no phoneme /z/ found in Indropuro dialect and there is no phoneme /ɥ/ found in standard Minangkabaunese language. Moreover, standard Minangkabaunese language has 5 vowels, but Indropuro dialect has 6 vowels with phoneme /ə/. Furthermore, standard Minangkabaunese language has 7 diphthongs, but Indropuro dialect only has 5 diphthongs. There is no diphthong /ea/ and /oy/ found in Indropuro dialect.

## 2. Discussion

This study analyzes about the segmental phoneme of standard Minangkabaunese language spoken in Indropuro in Pesisir selatan. The focus of this study is the distribution of the segmental phonemes (consonant, vowel and diphthong). Then, the findings of the study are compared with standard Minangkabaunese language, and see the understanding of native speakers of standard Minangkabaunese of Indropuro dialect.

There are twenty phonemes consonant found in Indropuro dialect in Pesisir Selatan. They are /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /č/, /j/, /k/, /g/, /ʔ/, /s/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ñ/, /ŋ/, /r/, /l/, /w/, /ɥ/, and /y/. They are different from standard Minangkabaunese language. Ayub, et al (1993:22-28) state that there are also twenty consonants of standard Minangkabaunese language. However, there are two differences of consonant sound found in standard Minangkabaunese and Indropuro dialect. Firstly, there is

no velar glide voiced sound “/ɥ/” found in standard Minangkabaunese language, but it is found in the Indropuro dialect such as in word *bgheh* [bəɥeh] which means ‘rice’. Secondly, in the other side there is no alveolar fricative voiced sound “/z/” found in Indropuro dialect, but it is found in standard Minangkabaunese language.

Velar glide voiced sound “/ɥ/” in standard Minangkabaunese is just an allophone of dental trill “/r/” such as in word *baghe* [bauɥe] and *bare* [bare] which have the same meaning (rice). It means that, the phoneme /ɥ/ in standard Minangkabaunese is a variant of phoneme /r/ which does not function to differentiate meaning. Moreover, one cause the phoneme /z/ is not found in Indropuro dialect is because of native speakers of Indropuro dialect seldom and even never using sound /z/ in their conversation. If it is found in Indropuro dialect, it may be just a borrowing word that is spoken by speakers that have been influenced by Indonesian language.

Same as other languages, the phonemes of Indropuro dialect are also classified into two classifications. According to Rosa (2013:43), the consonant sound is classified into place and manner of articulation. Thus, the explanation below shows the classification of consonant sound of Indropuro dialect based on place and manner of articulation.

Based on place of articulation, consonant sound of Indropuro dialect is divided into bilabial sounds such as /p/, /b/, /m/ and /w/, alveolar dental sounds such as /t/, /d/, /s/, /n/, /l/ and /r/, palatal sound such as /ç/, /j/ and /ɲ/, velar sounds such as /k/, /g/, /ŋ/ and /ɥ/, and glottal sounds such as /ʔ/ and /h/. In the other side, based on manner of articulation, the consonant sound of Indropuro dialect is divided into stop sounds such as /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /ç/, /j/, /k/, /g/ and /ʔ/, fricative sounds such as /s/ and /h/, nasal sounds such as /m/, /n/, /ɲ/ and /ŋ/, lateral sound such as /l/, trill sound such as /r/, and glide sounds such as /w/, /y/ and /ɥ/.

The phonemes consonant of Indropuro dialect in Pesisir Selatan have variant distribution. Based on finding, there are six phonemes consonant which have complete distribution. It means that they occur in initial, middle, and final position in word. The rest of them are incomplete distribution. It means that they only occur in two positions and even only occur in one position in word. It is different from standard Minangkabaunese language. (Ayub, et al, 1993:30-32) found that phoneme consonant of standard Minangkabaunese have nine complete distribution and the rest of the incomplete distribution.

Moreover, there are six phonemes vowel found in Indropuro dialect in Pesisir Selatan. They are /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, /o/, and /ə/. There is one vowel of indropuro dialect that cannot be found in standard Minangkabaunese language. That is central mid sound “/ə/”. In indropuro dialect, this phoneme only occurs in the middle position after consonant sound such as in word *klak* [kəlaʔ]. Based on the word *kelak*, it can be seen that phoneme /ə/ occurs after consonant /k/.

According to Dardjowidjojo (2009:107), there are four parameters to classify the vowel sounds. Those are the height of the tongue, the position of the tongue, the rounding and not rounding of the lips, and the tense and lax state of the muscles. However there is no tense and lax state of the muscles occur in Indropuro dialect, because they do not influence anything toward the phonemes.

The phoneme which is given long pronounced (tense vowel) does not influence the meaning at all.

Beside consonant and vowel, Indropuro dialect also has diphthong sound. Dardjowidjojo (2009:33) explains that a diphthong is the sound of combination of two different vowels in the same syllable, and then the stronger stress falls on the first vowel. Based on the finding, Indropuro dialect has five diphthong sounds. They are /Ia/, /ay/, /aw/, /ua/, and /uy/. There are also differences of diphthong sound of Indropuro dialect with the standard Minangkabaunese. Standard Minangkabaunese language has seven diphthongs (Ayub, et al, 1993:25). However, there is no diphthong /ea/ and /oy/ found in Indropuro dialect.

The distribution of diphthong sound of Indropuro dialect has variation. There is none diphthong which have complete distribution. It means that the distribution of diphthongs of Indropuro dialect only occur in two positions and even only in one position in word.

#### D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings of this study, it is found that there are 31 phonemes in Indropuro dialect. They are divided into 20 phonemes consonant; they are /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /č/, /j/, /k/, /g/, /ʔ/, /s/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /r/, /l/, /w/, /w/, and /y/, 6 phonemes vowel; they are /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, /o/, and /ə/, and 5 diphthongs; they are /Ia/, /ay/, /aw/, /ua/, and /uy/. The distribution of phonemes in Indropuro dialect has variation. There are nine phonemes that have complete distribution including consonant and vowel. It means that they can be found in the initial, middle and final position in word. They are consonants /p/, /t/, /s/, /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/ and vowels /i/, /e/, and /a/. In the other side, all diphthongs in indropuro dialect are incomplete distribution.

The result of this study brings suggestion to a lot of side. This study may be used as a reference related to the segmental phoneme of a particular language to the linguistic students. It is suggested that the next researchers can developed this research related to this subject in different perspective.

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