



“TANSI LANGUAGE” IN SAWAHLUNTO AS A RESULT OF ACCULTURATION: A Dialect or A New Language In West Sumatera?

Fikri Ridho Pambudi¹, Jufrizal²
English Department
Faculty of Languages and Arts
Universitas Negeri Padang
email: Fikriridhopambudi@gmail.com

Abstract

The aim of this study was to determine whether *Tansi Language* in Sawahlunto is a new language kind in West Sumatra or a dialect based on sociolinguistic analysis, speech community, language attitude, and language loyalty. Type of this research is descriptive qualitative in order to describe that *Tansi Language* is a language or Creole which has been claimed by the previous researcher. This research successfully determines that *Tansi Language* is a new language kind in West Sumatra by comparing one hundred words of Swadesh list between *Tansi Language* to Minangkabaunese standard Language, and supported by questionnaires and interview sheets to get the data. According to Swadesh list, *Tansi Language* is categorized as a language differences with percentage 73% which is the accumulation of lexical differences and sound differences. Thus, it can be concluded that Tansi Language is a new Language in West Sumatra.

Key words: Acculturation, Dialect, Language Comparison, Tansi Language.

A. INTRODUCTION

West Sumatra is well known with a traditional culture which is called “Minangkabaunese”, Minangkabaunese is a dominant culture that exists in West Sumatra. Because of the existence of Minangkabaunese culture, the language that is used in West Sumatra dominantly is Minangkabau language. But actually, there are two languages that used in west Sumatra, they are Minangkabau language and Mentawai language. Mentawai language is only used by people who

¹ English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on September 2019

² Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang



live or born in Mentawai Island. On the other hand, Minangkabau language is used in the authority of Minangkabau kingdom that is from west Sumatera until Negeri sembilan, Malaysia.

Dominant culture that exists in west Sumatera has developed Minangkabaunese people use Minangkabau language naturally as a mother tongue. Minangkabau language is used in daily life and daily conversations. It can be seen that environment influences the language which is used by people who live in West Sumatera. Domination of Minangkabau culture in West Sumatera tends to force or attract people who come to west Sumatera to use Minangkabau language. But in a city in west Sumatera with society in a highly multicultural civilization, such as Sawahlunto, instead of using Minangkabau language, the citizens in Sawahlunto city also use *Tansi* language in daily life and in daily conversation. There is no language without cultural interference and some cultural items are generated and spread out by means of language. Language development occurs in line with those cultural development possessed by its speaker in dynamic ways. Language forms and functions, as a matter of fact, are parts of human cultures which are static phenomenon (see further Foley,1997;Kramsch, 2001;Jufrizal et.al,2003)

Tansi Language tends to be used in several places in Sawahlunto due to the spread of Javanese inheritance people who live and remain in Sawahlunto. Domination of Javanese culture in Sawahlunto has been begun from sixteenth century because of the colonialization of Portuguese people who brought the workers from Java to Sumatera as slaves in coal mine in Sawahlunto. Because of the domination of Javanese people who had lived in Sawahlunto for about more than four decades had produced an environment with high intensity of acculturation between Javanese culture and Minangkabaunese culture. That is why Sawahlunto evokes a language that is called *Tansi* Language. *Tansi* language is a result of the acculturation and language contact of multicultural environment that evolve as a language or language variations.

This paper is needed to be done in highly purpose to explain language phenomenon that evokes in Sawahlunto and this paper will discuss whether *Tansi* Language is a form of dialect or a new language that evokes in West Sumatera. The data were collected by the researcher himself as a native speaker of *Tansi* Language. The data were derived from the comparative analysis between *Tansi* Language and Minangkabaunese standard language using a hundred words of Swadesh list by means of related theories of Dialectology. The discussion on this topic give the reader opportunities to know and see deeply about the language phenomenon in Sawahlunto and the interrelationship between language and culture as a result of acculturation.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The type of this research was descriptive qualitative because this research described that *Tansi Language* whether it is a language or a Creole which has been claimed by a linguist named Putri Emirsah Syafril. In contrary, *Tansi Language* has been certificated as an Intangible Heritage in Indonesia from West Sumatera, especially from Sawahlunto. Further, the type of this research was chosen due to the fact that the form of the data were not number and there was no formula which was used to draw conclusion in this research. In addition, according to Creswell (2014:2) qualitative approach is used to understand how and why social or human problem exist. Thus, the approach suited this research because sociolinguistics concerned with problems of how society and language related as a result of the contact between society and language in a particular place.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

The focus of discussion presented in this paper is on two characteristics only, mainly to determine whether *Tansi Language* is a dialect or a new language that evolves naturally in West Sumatera as a result of acculturation. Let's see what the data proves.

Data : A hundred words of Swadesh list

no	English	Indonesian	Minangkabaunese	Phonetics symbol	Tansi language	Phonetics symbol	Level of differences
1	I	saya, aku	aden	/ ʌden /	aku	/ ʌku /	lexical
2	you	kamu, engkau	ang / kau	/ ʌŋ /	ke	/ ke /	lexical
3	he (male)	Dia	inyo	/ iŋɒ /	Dia	/ diʌ /	lexical
4	we	kami, kita	Awak	/ ʌwʌk /	kitak	/ kitʌʔ /	lexical
5	you (plural)	kalian	Kalian	/ kʌliʌn /	kalian	/ kʌliʌn /	none
6	they	mereka	mereka	/ məʔekʌ /	mereka	/ məʔekʌ /	none
7	this	ini	iko	/ ikɒ /	ini	/ ini /	lexical
8	that	itu	itu	/ itɒ /	itu	/ itɒ /	none
9	here	disini	disiko	/ disikɒ /	Disini	/ disini /	lexical

10	there	disana	Disinan	/ disinʌn / /	disana	/ disʌnʌ /	lexical
11	who	siapa	Sia	/ siʌ /	sapa	/ sʌpʌ /	lexical
12	what	apa	apo	/ ʌpʊ /	apa	/ ʌpʌ /	sound
13	where	dimana	Dimano	/ dimʌnʊ / /	dimana	/ dimʌnʌ /	sound
14	when	kapan	bilu	/ bilʊ /	kapan	/ kʌpʌn /	lexical
15	how	bagaimana	ba'a	/ bʌ'ʌ /	ba'a	/ bʌ'ʌ /	none
16	not	bukan, tidak	indak	/ indʌk /	ndak	/ ɛndʌk /	sound
17	all	semua	sado	/ sʌdʊ /	kabeh	/ kʌbeh /	lexical
18	many	banyak	banyak	/ bʌjʌk /	banyak	/ bʌjʌk /	none
19	some	beberapa	bara	/ bʌrʌ /	beberapa	/ beberʌpʌ / /	lexical
20	Few	sedikit	saketek	/ sʌkete' / /	seketek	/ sɛkete' /	sound
21	other	lain	lain	/ lain /	lain	/ lain /	none
22	one	satu	satu / ciek	/ sʌtʊ // ʃie' /	satuk / ciek	/ sʌtʊ' // ʃie' /	sound
23	two	dua	duo	/ dʊʊ /	duak	/ dʊʌ' /	sound
24	three	tiga	tigo	/ tigʊ /	tigak	/ tigʌ' /	sound
25	four	empat	ampek	/ ʌmpe' /	empat	/ ɛmpʌt /	lexical
26	five	lima	limo	/ limʊ /	limak	/ limʌ' /	sound
27	big	besar	gadang	/ gʌdʌŋ /	gedek	/ gɛde' /	sound
28	long	panjang	panjang	/ pʌndʒʌŋ / /	panjang	/ pʌndʒʌŋ /	none
29	wide	lebar	laweh	/ lʌweh /	lebar	/ lebʌr /	lexical
30	thick	tebal	taba	/ tʌbʌ /	tebel	/ tɛbɛl /	lexical
31	heavy	berat	barek	/ bʌre' /	berat	/ bɛrʌt /	lexical
32	small	kecil	ketek	/ kete' /	ketek	/ kete' /	none

33	short	pendek	pendek	/ pende' /	pendek	/ pende' /	none
34	narrow	sempit	sampik	/ sɑmpi' /	sempit	/ sɑmpit /	sound
35	thin	tipis	tipih	/ tipih /	tipis	/ tipis /	sound
36	woman	perempuan	padusi	/ pɑdusi /	perempuan	/ pɛrɛmpuɑn /	lexical
37	man (adult, male)	lelaki , pria	laki-laki	/ lɑki-lɑki /	lakik	/ lɑki' /	lexical
38	man (human being)	manusia	urang	/ ʊrɑŋ /	orang	/ ʊrɑŋ /	sound
39	child	anak	anak	/ ɑnɑ' /	anak	/ ɑnɑ' /	none
40	wife	istri	bini	/ bini /	binik	/ bini' /	sound
41	husband	suami	laki	/ lɑki /	lakik	/ lɑki' /	none
42	mother	ibu	amak	/ ɑmɑ' /	mamak	/ mɑmɑ' /	lexical
43	father	ayah	apak	/ ɑpɑ' /	bapak	/ bɑpɑ' /	lexical
44	animal	binatang	binatang	/ binɑtɑŋ /	binatang	/ binɑtɑŋ /	none
45	fish	ikan	ikan	/ ikɑn /	ikan	/ ikɑn /	none
46	bird	burung	buruang	/ bʊrʊɑŋ /	burung	/ bʊrʊŋ /	lexical
47	dog	anjing	anjiang	/ ɑndʒiɑŋ /	anjeng	/ ɑndʒɛŋ /	sound
48	louse	kutu	kutu	/ kʊtʊ /	kutu	/ kʊtʊ /	none
49	snake	ular	ula	/ ʊlɑ /	uler	/ ʊlɛr /	sound
50	worm	cacing	caciang	/ tʃɑtʃiɑŋ /	caceng	/ tʃɑtʃɛŋ /	sound
51	tree	pohon	batang	/ bɑtɑŋ /	batang	/ bɑtɑŋ /	none
52	forest	hutan	rimbo	/ rimbʊ /	rimbo	/ rimbʊ /	none
53	stick	ranting	rantiang	/ rɑntiɑŋ /	ranting	/ rɑntiŋ /	sound

54	fruit	buah	buah	/ bʊʌh /	buah	/ bʊʌh /	none
55	seed	biji	biji	/ biɖʒi /	bijik	/ biɖʒi' /	sound
56	leaf	daun	daun	/ dʌʊn /	daon	/ dʌʊn /	sound
57	root	akar	aka	/ ʌkʌ /	akar	/ ʌkʌɾ /	sound
58	bark	pepagan	kulik (kayu)	/ kʊli' /	kulit	/ kʊlit /	sound
59	flower	bunga	bungo	/ bʊŋɔ /	bunga	/ bʊŋʌ /	sound
60	grass	rumput	rumpuik	/ ɾʊmpʊi' /	rumput	/ ɾʊmpʊt /	sound
61	rope	tali	tali	/ tʌli /	tali	/ tʌli /	none
62	meat	daging	dagiang	/ dʌgiʌŋ /	dageng	/ dʌgɜŋ /	sound
63	blood	darah	darah	/ dʌɾʌh /	darah	/ dʌɾʌh /	none
64	skin	kulit	kulik	/ kʊli' /	kulit	/ kʊlit /	sound
65	bone	tulang	tulang	/ tʊʌŋ /	tulang	/ tʊʌŋ /	none
66	fat	lemak	lemak	/ lɛmʌ' /	lemak	/ lɛmʌ' /	none
67	egg	telur	talua	/ tʌʊʌ /	telor	/ tɛʊɾ /	sound
68	horn	tanduk	tanduak	/ tʌndʊʌ' /	tanduk	/ tʌndʊ' /	sound
69	tail	ekor	ikua	/ ikuʌ /	ekor	/ ekɔɾ /	lexical
70	feather	bulu	bulu	/ bʊʊʊ /	bulu	/ bʊʊʊ /	none
71	hair	rambut	rambuik	/ ɾʌmbʊi' /	rambut	/ ɾʌmbʊt /	sound
72	head	kepala	kapalo	/ kʌɾʌʊʊ /	kepala	/ kɛɾʌʌ /	lexical
73	ear	telinga	talingo	/ tʌliŋɔ /	kuping	/ kʊpiŋ /	lexical
74	eye	mata	mato	/ mʌtʊ /	mata	/ mʌtʌ /	sound
75	nose	hidung	hiduang	/ hiɖʊʌŋ /	idung	/ iɖʊŋ /	lexical
76	mouth	mulut	muluik	/ mʊʊʊi' /	mulut	/ mʊʊʊt /	sound
77	tooth	gigi	gigi	/ giɟi /	gigik	/ giɟi' /	sound
78	tongue	lidah	lidah	/ liɖʌh /	lidah	/ liɖʌh /	none

79	finger nail	kuku	kuku	/ kəkɔ /	kuku	/ kəkɔ /	none
80	foot	kaki	kaki	/ kɛki /	Kakik	/ kɛki' /	sound
81	leg	tungkai	tungkai	/ tɔŋkai /	tungkai	/ tɔŋkai /	none
82	knee	lutut	lutuik	/ lotoi' /	dengkul	/ dɛŋkɔl /	lexical
83	hand	tangan	tangan	/ tɛŋɛn /	tangan	/ tɛŋɛn /	none
84	wing	sayap	sayok	/ sɛjɔ' /	Sayep	/ sɛjɔp /	sound
85	belly	perut	paruik	/ pɛrɔi' /	perut	/ pɛrɔt /	sound
86	guts	Usus	Usus	/ ɔsɔs /	Usus	/ ɔsɔs /	none
87	neck	leher	lihia	/ lihia /	leher	/ leheɾ /	lexical
88	back	punggung	pungguang	/ pɔŋgɔɔŋ /	punggung	/ pɔŋgɔŋ /	sound
89	breast	payudara	buah dado	/ bɔɔh dɛdɔ /	susu	/ sɔsɔ /	lexical
90	heart	jantung	jantuang	/ dʒɛntɔɔŋ /	jantung	/ dʒɛntɔŋ /	sound
91	liver	hati	hati	/ hɛti /	ati	/ ɛti /	sound
92	sleep	tidur	lalok	/ lɛɔ' /	tidor	/ tidɔɾ /	lexical
93	river	sungai	batang aia	/ bɛtɛŋ ɛiɛ /	kali	/ kɛli /	lexical
94	smoke	asap	asok	/ ɛsɔ' /	asep	/ ɛsɔp /	sound
95	dirty	kotor	kumuah	/ kɔmɔɔh /	kotor	/ kɔtɔɾ /	lexical
96	straight	lurus	luruih	/ lɔɾɔih /	lurus	/ lɔɾɔs /	sound
97	smooth	halus	aluih	/ lɔiɔih /	alus	/ lɔsɔ /	sound
98	near	dekat	dakek	/ dɛkɛ' /	deket	/ dɛkɛt /	lexical
99	round	bulat	bulek	/ bɔɛɔ' /	bulet	/ bɔɛɔt /	sound
100	bad	jelek	buruak	/ bɔɾɔɛ' /	jelek	/ dʒɛɛ' /	lexical

From the data above, *Tansi* Language has 73% differences, 31% differences in lexical level, and 42% in sound level. Actually, *Tansi* Language sounds and forms like Javanese or Indonesian language, but in several words, *Tansi* Language also sounds and forms like Minangkabau language with a few differences in the level of lexicon and words. The number of differences that *Tansi* Language contains are able to prove that *Tansi* Language can be categorized as a new language in West Sumatera. Even the differences are still dominated by sound change, but it has enough characteristics to be admitted as a new language.

There are three levels of differences shown in the data above, firstly is lexical difference. Lexical difference means the level of difference is in the lexical level where in a word, there is a syllable that is different from the standard language. See the example below !

no	English	Indonesian	Minangkabaunese	Phonetics symbol	Tansi language	Phonetics symbol	Level of differences
1	sleep	tidur	lalok	/ lʌb' /	tidor	/ tidɔɾ /	lexical
2	You	kamu, engkau	ang / kau	/ ʌŋ /	ke	/ ke /	lexical
3	all	semua	sado	/ sʌdɔ /	kabeh	/ kʌbeh /	lexical

From the data that can be seen before, the lexical differences between *Tansi* Language and Minangkabaunese standard language is highly different, even from Indonesian Language. From the data also can be seen that *Tansi* Language is influenced dominantly by Javanese language. The word “*Kabeh*” is derived from Javanese language which has the meaning ‘all’ (semua), and the word “*ke*” is also derived from Javanese language which is based on the word “*kowe*” /kɔe/ in Javanese which evolves into a sound change by reducing vowel /ɔ/ and pronounce “*ke*” /ke/. Instead of this change, *Tansi* language has formed its own characteristics and developed certain words into a new language form.

The second is the level of sound differences, as can be seen in the table below.

no	English	Indonesian	Minangkabaunese	Phonetics symbol	Tansi language	Phonetics symbol	Level of differences
1	one	satu	satu / ciek	/ sʌtɔ // ʃie' /	satuk / ciek	/ sʌtɔ' // ʃie' /	sound
2	two	dua	duo	/ dɔɔ /	duak	/ dɔʌ' /	sound
3	three	tiga	tigo	/ tigɔ /	tigak	/ tigʌ' /	sound

The data above proves the difference in the level of sound, for example in the word *satu* (one) can be seen the changes is only by adding of sound /k/ at the end of the word become /satoʔ/. This addition occurs naturally and develops by the native speakers of Tansi Language as a result of acculturation.

The last one is the similarities of *Tansi Language* and Minangkabaunese Standard Language. In these words, there is no difference that occurs in this words, see the table below!

no	English	Indonesian	Minangkabaunese	Phonetics symbol	Tansi language	Phonetics symbol	Level of differences
1	tongue	lidah	lidah	/ lidʌh /	lidah	/ lidʌh /	none
2	fingernail	kuku	kuku	/ koku /	kuku	/ koku /	none
3	hand	tangan	tangan	/ tʌŋʌn /	tangan	/ tʌŋʌn /	none

These words show that even Indonesian, Minangkabaunese Standard Language, and *Tansi Language* has the interrelationship each other. It proves that in the certain words, the word that has no transformation may be based on the wide of spread of a language and dominant use in a country. In this case, Indonesian is the standard language and the national language of Indonesia also influenced both Minangkabaunese Standard Language and *Tansi Language*. It can occur because of the intensity of language contact between Indonesian and Minangkabaunese Standard Language and *Tansi Language* and Indonesian as the dominant one take a role to standardize the language in common.

Practically, all human languages have their own specific ways of development. The unique ways of speakers transform the words and the language may be based on the cultural background and interaction between human beings. *Tansi Language* is one of the example of unique ways of transforming and developing a language in a particular place. On the other hand, Minangkabaunese Language as a dominant Language also intervene *Tansi Language* speakers in developing and adopting words which are used.

The level of differences that *Tansi Language* contains can be defined as a new language as a result of an effective acculturation. Based on the data that have been explained, it can be concluded that *Tansi Language* is a new language that exist in West Sumatera as a result of acculturation of certain cultures. *Tansi Language* is a product of the development of language change, language contact and acculturation in a particular place. It is supported that *Tansi Language* is a new language in West Sumatra, especially in Sawahlunto.

2. Discussion

Based on research findings, the aspect of the differences between *Tansi Language* compared to Minangkabaunese standard language, there are 71% of differences that *Tansi Language* contains when it is compared to Minangkabaunese standard language. The number of differences that *Tansi*

Language contains is considered as a new language according to the percentage of dialectometry which is stated by Lauder, (2002:40). The percentage of dialectometry :

- a. differences > 70% are considered as language difference
- b. differences 51% - 69% are considered as dialect differences
- c. differences 41% - 50% are considered as sub-dialect differences
- d. differences 31% - 40% are considered as speech differences
- e. differences <30% are considered as no differences

The formula that is used in dialectometry according to Remacle,(1972) is :

$$\frac{S}{n} \times 100\% = d$$

S = total number of differences compared to standard language

n = total number that is being compared

d = vocabulary distance in percentage

Based on the data, *Tansi Language* is identified as a language differences by total of vocabulary distance is 73%. Thus it can be concluded that *Tansi Language* is categorized as a new language from West Sumatra.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Acculturation that occurred in Sawahlunto for a long time has produced a unique language phenomenon, the mixture of certain cultures evoke *Tansi Language* to rise and function as a language in common. Practically, all human languages have their own specific ways of development. The unique ways of speakers transform the words and the language may be based on the cultural background and interaction between human beings. *Tansi Language* is one of the example of unique ways of transforming and developing a language.

The level of differences that *Tansi language* contains can be defined and hypothesized as a new language. The researcher needs a further research to determine that *Tansi language* is a new language in west Sumatera in a larger concept, but based on the data that have been explained, it can be concluded that *Tansi Language* is a new language that exist in West Sumatera as a result of acculturation of certain cultures. *Tansi Language* is a product of the development of language change, language contact and acculturation in a particular place.

Note: This article is written based on the Fikri Ridho Pambudi's thesis under the supervision of advisor Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M.Hum

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