



PHONETIC-PHONOLOGICAL AND LEXICAL COMPARISON BETWEEN BUKITTINGGI AND SIJUNJUNG SUB-DIALECT OF MINANGKABAUNESE

Shelcylia Azzahra¹, Jufrizal²

English Department
Faculty of Languages and Arts
Universitas Negeri Padang
email: shelcyliaa@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aimed to analyze the phonetic-phonological and lexical differences and similarities between the Bukittinggi and Sijunjung sub-dialect of Minangkabaunese. Although both sub-dialects are part of the same language family, there are differences between these sub-dialect. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method with data collected through direct interviews. A total of 216 words, based on the Swadesh List, were used as research instruments, and data were obtained from 10 native speakers of each sub-dialect. The findings show that 132 of the 216 words exhibit variation, with 111 representing phonetic-phonological changes and 21 showing lexical differences. Prominent phonetic-phonological patterns include the substitution of the phoneme /r/ in Bukittinggi sub-dialect into /w/ or /y/ in Sijunjung sub-dialect, vowel shifts such as /a/ in Bukittinggi sub-dialect becoming /ɔ/ or /ə/ in Sijunjung sub-dialect, and the deletion of /h/ in final position in the Sijunjung sub-dialect. Lexical variation also exists, with different vocabulary used for the same meaning. Based on Guiter's dialectometric formula, the percentage difference between the two sub-dialects is calculated at 61,1%, categorized as dialect variation. The outcomes of this research contribute to a deeper understanding of Minangkabaunese dialectology.

Key words: Dialectology, Phonetics, Phonology, Lexical, Minangkabaunese, Bukittinggi, Sijunjung.

A. INTRODUCTION

Language serves as a fundamental medium for human interaction and communication. It functions not only as a means to convey information but also as a reflection of a community's social and cultural identity. According to Yaguello, (1998), language is a vital tool that allows people to share knowledge, express

¹ English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on December 2025

² Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang

emotions, and understand each other's thoughts. In line with this, Budiman et al., (2024) emphasize that humans, as social beings, cannot be separated from language, since it is essential for creating and maintaining social relationships. Moreover, language embodies cultural values, traditions, and education, symbolizing the life and identity of a society (Yandra & Refnaldi, 2013).

Language is not a rigid or consistent system, though. It is always evolving and differing among speakers in various social groups and geographical locations. This phenomenon emphasizes the existence of linguistic variety within a single language and serves as the foundation for dialectology. Dialects are linguistic variants that are different due to social or regional influences in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Among these, social dialects are influenced by social class, occupation, and cultural background, whereas regional dialects reflect geographic variations. Regional variance, particularly at the sub-dialect level of the Minangkabau language, is the main focus of this study.

Minangkabaunese, a major regional language in Indonesia, belongs to the Austronesian language family and is mainly spoken in West Sumatra. Various dialects and sub-dialects have emerged in the Minangkabau region due to its diverse terrain, which encompasses both highlands and lowlands. The five primary Minangkabau dialects are Pasaman, Agam-Tanah Datar, Lima Pulu Kota, Koto Baru, and Pancung Soal, according to Raflis & Afdhal, (2021). Every dialect has distinct lexical, phonological, and phonetic traits that are shaped by migration, location, and cross-cultural interactions. For example, Bukittinggi, a highland urban center with thriving trade and education, frequently interacts with speakers from other regions, which leads to linguistic innovation. Conversely, Sijunjung, located in a rural and remote lowland region, tends to preserve more traditional language traits.

Minangkabaunese, a major regional language in Indonesia, belongs to the Austronesian language family and is predominantly spoken in West Sumatra. The Minangkabau region, with its diverse geography of highlands and lowlands, has led to the emergence of several dialects and sub-dialects. (Raflis & Afdhal, 2021) identify five main dialects of Minangkabau: Pasaman, Agam-Tanah Datar, Lima Pulu Kota, Koto Baru, and Pancung Soal. Each dialect has unique phonetic, phonological, and lexical characteristics influenced by geography, migration, and cultural contact. For instance, Bukittinggi, located in a highland urban center with active trade and education, tends to exhibit linguistic innovation due to frequent interaction with speakers from other regions. In contrast, Sijunjung, situated in a more rural and geographically isolated lowland area, tends to retain more conservative linguistic features.

The differences between the Bukittinggi and Sijunjung sub-dialects can therefore be attributed to environmental, historical, and social factors. These sub-dialects may vary in their sound systems and vocabulary usage, reflecting both phonetic-phonological and lexical distinctions. For example, phonological variation is found in cases such as the phoneme /r/ in the Bukittinggi sub-dialect becoming /w/ or /y/ in Sijunjung, or the vowel /a/ in Bukittinggi shifting to /ɔ/ or /ə/ in Sijunjung. Similarly, lexical differences also occur where distinct words are used to express the same concept. Such variations signify the natural evolution of

the Minangkabau language across regions and the influence of local environments and lifestyles on speech patterns.

Research on the comparison between Bukittinggi and Sijunjung sub-dialects is still limited, even though previous studies have explored other Minangkabau dialects. For instance, Wulandari & Nugraheni, (2019) analyzed phonological variation among Minangkabau speakers, while Wansyah & Jufrizal, (2023) compared lexical features between the Tanjung Bonai Aur sub-dialect and standard Minangkabaunese. However, these studies did not focus on the combination of phonetic-phonological and lexical aspects between Bukittinggi and Sijunjung. Therefore, the present study fills this gap by analyzing both sound and vocabulary differences between these two sub-dialects.

This research is significant for several reasons. Academically, it contributes to the field of dialectology by providing detailed documentation of phonetic-phonological and lexical variations within Minangkabaunese. Practically, it supports the preservation of regional languages that face decline due to modernization and the dominance of Bahasa Indonesia. By understanding the linguistic relationship between the Bukittinggi and Sijunjung sub-dialects, this study helps to strengthen cultural awareness and linguistic identity among Minangkabau speakers. Furthermore, the findings can serve as useful references for future comparative linguistic studies and the development of regional language learning materials.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a descriptive qualitative method to describe and analyze the phonetic-phonological and lexical differences between the Bukittinggi and Sijunjung sub-dialects of Minangkabaunese. Native speakers were directly observed and interviewed as part of this field-based dialectological study. Ten informants, five from Bukittinggi and five from Sijunjung, provided the spoken words for the study. They were chosen using Mahsun, (2017) criteria, which included being local, being between the ages of 25 and 65, being in good physical and mental health, and taking pride in their dialect. The primary instrument was the researchers herself, who were assisted by voice recorders and field notes to ensure accurate data. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) based on Chambers & Trudgill, (2004) was used to transcribe the data after it was gathered. The two sub-dialects were analyzed for phonetic-phonological differences, lexical distinctions, and identical forms. In order to ascertain the degree of dialectal difference and clarify the linguistic relationship between the Bukittinggi and Sijunjung sub-dialects, the percentage of variation was computed using Guiter's dialectometric formula (as cited in Mahsun, 2017).

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

Based on data analysis, researchers found six major phonetic-phonological and lexical differences between the Bukittinggi and Sijunjung sub-dialects of the Minangkabau language. These differences reflect changes in sound and vocabulary

usage, which developed as a result of geographical separation and patterns of social interaction. The six main types of differences are as follows:

NO	Findings on differences	Bukittinggi Dialect	Sijunjung Dialect	Word
1.	Phoneme /r/ changed into /w/ in the middle of the word	/burɔak/ /parɔɪk/ /burɔaŋ/	/buwɔɔk/ /pɔwɪk/ /bɔwɔɔŋ/	Bad belly bird
2.	Phoneme /r/ changed in to /ɣ/	/darah/ /barek/ /arɪ/	/daya/ /bɔɣɛk/ /aɣɪ/	Blood Heavy day
3.	Phoneme /a/ changed into /ɔ/	/gadaŋ/ /ambɔɪh/ /bacakak/	gɔdaŋ/ /ɔmbɔɪ/ /bɛɔkɔk/	Big Blow fight
4.	Phoneme /a/ change into /ə/	/talɪŋɔ/ /mambakɔ/	/təlɪŋɔ/ /məmbɔkɔ/	Egg freeze
5.	Phoneme /h/ is omitted in the end of word and diphthong /ua/ change into /uo/	/kumɔah/ /jatɔah/ /labɔah/	/kumɔɔ/ /jatɔɔ/ /ləbɔɔ/	Dirty Fall road
6.	Vocabulary difference or lexical difference	/karean lakɪ-lakɪ/ /tabaka/ /garumɛh/	/dɔnsanak Jantan/ /təpaŋŋaŋ/ /gawik/	brother burn claw

The findings of this research are based on the analysis of data collected from 10 native speakers five from Bukittinggi and five from Sijunjung, using 216 words Swadesh list as the instrument. After transcription and classification, the data revealed substantial phonetic-phonological and lexical variation between the two sub-dialects of Minangkabau. Specifically, 84 words were classified as identical, meaning both sub-dialects maintained the same pronunciation and lexical form, 111 words exhibited phonetic-phonological differences, reflecting changes in pronunciation and sound structure without altering meaning, 21 words lexical differences, where different words were used for the same concept.

The most prominent type of variation was found at the phonetic-phonological level, suggesting that both sub-dialects retain a largely shared core vocabulary, but diverge significantly in how these words are realized in speech. The phonetic-phonological differences primarily involve systematic sound changes, such as the Substitution of /r/ into /w/ and /ɣ/, the lowering of the vowel /a/ into /ɔ/ or /ə/, and the deletion of /h/ in final position.

1. Phoneme /r/ change into /w/

The replacement of the phoneme /r/ in Bukittinggi sub-dialect with the phoneme /w/ in Sijunjung sub-dialect. The change of the phoneme /r/ to /w/ is a phonological process known as semivowelization. Semivowelization is the process where /r/ is located between two vowels, resulting in a smoother and less narrow articulation. According to Chambers & Trudgill, (2004) phonological process that simplifies articulation and is often observed in dialectal variation. For example, the word 'buruk' [buroak'] /buroak/ in Bukittinggi sub-dialect becomes 'buruk' [buwɔək'] /buwɔək/ in Sijunjung sub-dialect.

2. Phoneme /r/ change into /y/

The change of the /r/ sound to /y/. The /r/ sound is a sound that we usually pronounce with a vibration of the tongue. Meanwhile, the /y/ sound is like a sound that comes from the throat, similar to the “gh” sound in Arabic. In the Sijunjung sub-dialect, the /r/ sound changes to /y/. This change does not occur in all words, but it is frequent and regular enough to be considered a characteristic of the Sijunjung sub-dialect. For example, the word 'darah' [da'rah] /darah/ in the Bukittinggi sub-dialect becomes 'darah' [da'ya] /daya/ in the Sijunjung sub-dialect.

3. Phoneme /a/ change into /ɔ/

the phoneme /a/ in Bukittinggi sub-dialect change into /ɔ/ in Sijunjung sub-dialect. The phonological change observed in the Sijunjung sub-dialect involves the lowering of the open vowel /a/ to the half-open vowel /ɔ/. This shift is consistently observed in words such 'berkelahi' [ba'tʃakak] /batʃakak/ in Bukittinggi sub-dialect become 'berkelahi' [bə'tʃɔkək] /bətʃɔkək/ in Sijunjung sub-dialect.

4. Phoneme /a/ change into /ə/

The change of the phoneme /a/ to /ə/ is one of the sound shifts found in the comparison of the Bukittinggi sub-dialect and Sijunjung sub-dialects. The phoneme /a/ is a fully pronounced and open vowel, Meanwhile, /ə/ is a vowel known as “schwa” or a neutral vowel, which is a vowel sound pronounced with a more relaxed tongue and mouth position, and sounds like a weak “e.” For example 'menggali' [ma'ŋgalɪ] /maŋgalɪ/ in the Bukittinggi sub-dialect becomes 'menggali' [mə'ŋgalɪ] /məŋgalɪ/ in the Sijunjung sub-dialect.

5. Deletion phoneme /h/ in the end of word

The phoneme /h/ in the final position in Bukittinggi sub-dialect is omitted in the last syllable in Sijunjung sub-dialect, It should be underlined that this difference only occurs if the final diphthong /ua/ in Bukittinggi sub-dialect changes to diphthong /ɔɔ/ in the Sijunjung sub-dialect, then the phoneme /h/ omitted in

Sijunjung sub-dialect, this happens at the end of the word. For example the difference in the word 'kotor' [ku'muəh] /kumuəh/ in Bukittinggi sub-dialect hange to the word 'kotor' [ku'muə] /kumuə/ in Sijunjung sub-dialect.

6. Lexical Differences

Lexical differences in this study are where speakers of the Bukittinggi sub-dialect and Sijunjung sub-dialects use different words to express the same meaning. For example, the word 'terbakar' [taba'ka] /taba'ka/ in Bukittinggi sub-dialect become 'terbakar' [tə'pangan] /təpangan/ in the Sijunjung sub-dialect.

Furthermore, the percentage of phonetic-phonological and lexical differences between Bukittinggi sub-dialect and Sijunjung sub-dialect, calculated using dialectometry formula, is as follows:

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

$$\frac{132 \times 100}{216} = 61,1 \%$$

Based on Guiter's formula, the percentage is 61,1%, which is obtained from S (number of different words) of 132, divided by n (number of words in the instrument, the Swadesh List consisting of 216 words), then multiplied by 100. According to Guiter (cited in Mahsun, 2017), the above calculation is categorized as a dialect difference. Dialect differences are differences that exist in language use between one group of speakers and another group of speakers who are still in the same language family.

2. Discussion

The findings of this research show that the Bukittinggi and Sijunjung sub-dialects have six main phonetic-phonological, and lexical differences. These differences demonstrate that, although still part of Minangkabaunese, both sub-dialects have developed unique sound and vocabulary patterns influenced by geography, social interaction, and language contact. This result supports the statement of Chambers & Trudgill, (2004) that every language naturally exhibits variation, both geographical and social, as part of its dynamic nature.

A total of 216 words were analyzed using the Swadesh List. Of these, 84 words were identical, while 132 showed differences, including 111 phonetic-phonological differences and 21 lexical differences. This shows that phonetic-phonological differences are the most significant differences between the two sub-dialects. It also suggests that phonetic-phonological differences are more prominent than lexical differences in these dialects.

The most dominant difference is phonetic–phonological, especially the change of /r/ into /w/ or /ɣ/ in the Sijunjung sub-dialect. This pattern shows a lenition process, where a consonant becomes weaker in pronunciation. According to Lass, (1984), sound change like lenition is a natural and universal process that happens as a language develops over time. The shift from /r/ to /w/ or /ɣ/ indicates a move toward easier pronunciation, which is also seen in other dialects that go through natural phonological change. It also reflects what.

Another important finding is the vowel shift from /a/ to /ɔ/ or /ə/ in the Sijunjung sub-dialect. This can be explained through vowel centralization, where vowels are produced closer to the center of the mouth. Ladefogde & Johnson, (2011) state that differences in vowel articulation can be clear indicators of dialect boundaries. The centralization process suggests that speakers of the Sijunjung sub-dialect tend to simplify vowel pronunciation, possibly due to local speech rhythm and sound habits that differ from those in the Bukittinggi area.

The deletion of /h/ in the final position is another phonological process found in this study. According to Lass, (1984), deletion is a common phonological process that makes pronunciation simpler. In the Sijunjung sub-dialect, the removal of /h/ after diphthongs, such as 'jatuh' [jatoah] /jatoah/ in Bukittinggi sub-dialect to 'jatuh' [jatoɔ] /jatoɔ/ in Sijunjung sub-dialect. This is consistent with the principle of ease of articulation, as proposed in phonological theory, where weaker final sounds often disappear in fast or casual speech.

Although not as prominent as phonetic–phonological differences, lexical differences remain significant. Words such as 'terbakar' [tabaka] /tabaka/ in the Bukittinggi sub-dialect become 'terbakar' [təpaŋgaŋ] /təpaŋgaŋ/ in the Sijunjung sub-dialect. This illustrates how vocabulary variation reflects cultural and environmental factors. According to Trudgill, (1983), lexical variation is heavily influenced by lifestyle, environment, and daily activities. In this case, Sijunjung's rural setting and traditional lifestyle may help preserve older or localized vocabulary, while Bukittinggi more urban environment promotes lexical innovation and borrowing.

In addition to phonetic-phonological and lexical analysis, this study also applied dialectometry to measure the rate of difference between the Bukittinggi sub-dialect and Sijunjung sub-dialect. Based on analysis of 216 words using dialectometry calculations, the percentage of difference between the two sub-dialect was 61,1%. According to Guiter (cited in Mahsun, 2017), a percentage of differences above 51% considered as dialect difference. Therefore, these results support the conclusion that Bukittinggi and Sijunjung are linguistically different dialect of Minangkabau.

Overall, the differences between Bukittinggi and Sijunjung sub-dialects are caused by a combination of linguistic, geographical, and social factors. The Bukittinggi sub-dialect, spoken in an urban highland area with high mobility, shows more openness to sound variation and new vocabulary. In contrast, the Sijunjung

sub-dialect, used in a rural and more isolated area, preserves older and more conservative sound patterns. This supports Chambers and Trudgill's (2004) view that urban dialects are more innovative, while rural dialects are more conservative. Therefore, this study confirms that the linguistic diversity within Minangkabaunese reflects not only natural phonological development but also the social and cultural life of its speakers.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This study concludes that the Bukittinggi and Sijunjung sub-dialects of the Minangkabau language exhibit phonetic-phonological and lexical differences, even though both belong to the same language family. Of the 216 root words analyzed, 133 showed variations, including 111 phonetic-phonological differences and 21 lexical differences. The main phonetic-phonological patterns include the transformation of /r/ to /w/ or /ɣ/, the shift of the vowel from /a/ to /ɔ/ or /ə/, and the deletion of /h/ in final position. Lexical variation shows that speakers in both regions use different words for the same meaning. The percentage of difference is 61,1%, which, according to Guiter's formula (as cited in Mahsun, (2017)), is classified as dialect differences.

The researcher is also well aware that this paper is far from perfect. Furthermore research could examine sub-dialect differences in Sijunjung within the same nagari but different jorong, while other analyses could examine differences between other Minangkabau dialects using broader phonetic-phonological, lexical, and semantic analyses. It is also recommended that young people continue to use dialects and regional languages in order to preserve regional languages. This study not only contributes to the understanding of Minangkabau dialectology, but also to the preservation of Indonesia's linguistic and cultural heritage.

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