



AN ANALYSIS OF SEMI DEAD WORDS FOUND IN SUNGAYANG SUB-DISTRICT OF TANAH DATAR REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses about Minangkabau language, especially semi dead words that occur in Sungayang District, Tanah Datar, West Sumatra. Semi dead words are words that are almost dead because the younger generation does not understand at all with the words, while the older generation still uses this word for daily communications. The author discusses what words were used by people in Sungayang Sub-district in daily communication, but these words were not used in the colloquial by the people of this district in the present. In writing this article, the authors are assisted by some informants to provide data information about the words that are not used anymore by people in Sungayang Sub-district in the present time. Then the authors grouped the data according to the type and factors causing the occurrence of semi dead words on the words. The results of this study indicate that the lexicons change (lexical change 89.61%) is the type of word that is almost dead (semi dead words) the most dominant in Sungayang district. Contact language (language contact 89.61%) is the most dominant factor of the occurrence of the word almost dead (semi dead words) in Sungayang District.

Key words: Bahasa Minangkabau, perubahan bahasa, *semi dead words*.

A. INTRODUCTION

Language has always changed from time to time because there is language contact in one society. This language contact causes language shift which finally gives impact on language change. The language change is caused by many factors, such as education, social condition, economy, migration and globalization. This language change can occur in the use of that language itself or in the words use, which can belong to phonological, morphological, lexical, syntactic or semantic change. The phenomenon of language change in the level of words can finally lead to the dead of words which can happen in any language. According to Jufrizal (2008), Human language is not formed from the form of which is like, but from a form that has a system, has a rule, and the

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naturally born of the renewed. However, language itself has always changed from time to time because there is language contact among language used by people in one society. This language contact causes language shift which finally gives impact on language change.

Language shift is one of the important linguistics issues that can influence language change. According to Romaine (2000:49), language shift is a process in which a speech community of language in a society alter to use or to speak another language. Language shift can also endanger the original language that used daily language in that community.

The word shift usually happens in many societies, including in the society in *sungayang sub-district of Tanah Datar regency* West Sumatra. There are some examples of semi dead words found in this area, for instance *tatiang*, when the author comes to getting clear data and they give the word *tatiang* and me as a writer asked what it was *tatiang* and the old people as informant provide an explanation of the word. She explained that *tatiang* is the word they used in the past days in mentioning the *take*. In the past, *tatiang* was used to say *glass* but now, people in that society do not use that word and they use *angkek*. And *kalang* was used to say ‘pillow’ but now people in that society do not used that word and they are use ‘*banta*’.

The topic about An analysis of Semi Dead Words to be focus of the discussion, there are some main points of the problem. *First*, research about the words used is no longer audible. *Second*, to identify the types and causes of language change of the dead words in *sungayang* society.

B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data of this research were all words that were no longer spoken by the young generation of *Sungayang* society and belong to semi dead words in *Sungayang* Sub-district of Tanah Datar Regency. The data were collected from the old informants who lived in the society in *Sungayang* Sub-district of Tanah Datar Regency and had knowledge about the use of some words in the past which were no longer spoken in the present time. The informants were in the age between 55-73 years old. Informants lived in the society for many years and know about words that were not used anymore by people in that society.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

1.1 Lexical Change

According to fromkin (2007:472) lexical change is any change in the lexicon, also in a more restricted sense, lexical replacement, where one lexical item is replaced by another, either entirely or its meaning only (with or without borrowing) it can be concluded that lexical change is the

changing of language in component of the grammar containing speakers knowledge about morphemes and words. Lexical change can divide into three points: there are addition of new words, borrowing or load words and loss of words.

a. *Sumpik*

The word *sumpik* found in *Sungayang* society is grouped into semi dead word. This word was used in the past by people in *Sungayang* to say “sack”. However, this term is no longer spoken by people in this society. Nowadays, they use the new word *karuang* instead of *sumpik*. From this case, this word can be categorized into lexical change because the substituted word used in the past and present time is different; and the substituted word has no relationship. In other words, the old word of *sumpik* has been replaced by the new word of *karuang*.

This semi dead word is caused by language contact which other speech communities that lived in this society. These speech communities are interacted with the speech community in *sungayang* in their daily life and then those languages come in contact. Finally, their language affects some lexical items and cause language change.

b. *Uncang*

Uncang was a traditional case that used by people in the past time to put money. It is categorized into semi dead word because this thing does no longer exist or is no longer spoken by people in this society, and automatically this word belongs to semi dead word in the present; instead people use *domet* to put their money. From that case, this word can be classified into lexical change in the category of loss of lexical item or semi dead word which really disappears and has no substitution word because people in this society do not use this anymore in their life.

This is caused by language contact. Besides, the growth of living or modernization also makes the things that are used by people in the society do not use the traditional pocket to put their money anymore. They would rather follow the fashion and use the more modern pocket which is known as *domet*.

1.2 Sound Change

According to Fromkin et al. (2011:464-465), sound change is a change in pronunciation, the process by which sound changes their

phonetic and nature and phonological system change. It can be concluded that phonological change is the changing of language in the level of pronunciation or in the way how language or the word is saying or pronounce. Sound change is also called phonological change. The change in a language can occur through the loss of phonemes or through the additions of phonemes.

a. Kurisi

Kurisi /kurisi/ is one of the words that can be categorized into semi dead word found in Sungayang society. This word was used by people in the past to say “chair”. However, this word is no longer spoken by people in this society. They tend to say kursi instead of kurisi. From this case, this word can be classified into sound change because there is pronunciation change in the middle of the word in which the vowel sound /i/ is deleted.

This is caused by spelling pronunciation because the spelling pronunciation itself can reintroduce a pronunciation that was changed through sound change. In this case, people in the past were pronouncing this word by using the vowel /i/ in the middle of word, while in the present this word is pronouncing without vowel /i/ in the middle of the word.

b. Sapai

Sapai was a word used by people in the past to say “broom” and now this word can be categorized into semi dead word found in Sungayang society because this word is no longer spoken by people in this society. They tend to use the word sapu instead of sapai. From this case, this word can be classified into sound change because there is a pronunciation change in the word ending in which the diphthong /ai/ becomes the /u/.

This dead word is caused by spelling pronunciation because the spelling pronunciation itself can reintroduce a pronunciation that was changed through sound change. In this case, people in the past were pronouncing the word sapai with /ai/ ending while in the present this word is pronouncing by /u/ ending.

1.3 Lexical and Semantic Change

Semantic change is the changing of language in the level of its meaning. As the changing of other elements of a language, changing of language in meaning can also occur. According to Fromkin et al. (2011:468), the changing of language in meaning can be divided into

three types; they are broadening, narrowing, and meaning shift for example is kangkuang

Kangkuang is one of the words that can be categorized into semi dead word found in Sungayang society. This word was used by people in the past to say 'frog'. However, this word is no longer used or spoken by people in this society. They tend to say kodok or koncek instead of kangkuang. From this case, this word can be classified into lexical and semantic change. It belongs to lexical change because the substituted words of the past and the present are different and has no relationship or they are replaced by the new words. It belongs to semantic change because the meaning shifts to another different meaning. In the past, kangkuang used to mean 'frog' (a kind of animal), while in the present kangkuang means 'a kind of leafy vegetable growing in water'.

This is happens because there is a language contact between the speech community in this society with other speech communities who become immigrant in this place. The speech communities are interacted with the speech community in Sungayang society in their daily communicator and then those languages come in contact. Finally, their language affects some lexical item and causes language change.

1.4 Morphological change

Fromkin et al. (2011:467) say that morphological change is any historical changes that affect the morphological structure of a language. It can be said that morphological change is the changing in the form of addition of affixes, loss affixes, and confounding, the change can be observed by comparing older and newer forms of the language or by looking at different dialect for examples is *cominmato*.

cominmato is one of the words that can be categorized into semi dead word found in *Sungayang* society. This word was used by people in the past to say 'glasses'. However, this term is not used anymore by people in this society and they tend to use the word *kacomato* instead of *cominmato*. From that case, this word can be categorized into morphological change in the form of reanalysis. As stated before, reanalysis can result in a new morphological structure for a word, like in this word.

This semi dead word is caused by reanalysis factor. In this case, the word *cominmato* was combined from component they are *comin+mato* and it was changed become *kacomato* that is also combined from two

component they are *kato+mato*. Therefore this word has been reanalyzed as consisting of two components.

1.5 Sound and semantic change

Semantic change is the changing of language in the level of its meaning. As the changing of other elements of a language, changing of language in meaning can also occur. According to Fromkin et al. (2011:468), the changing of language in meaning can be divided into three types: they are broadening, narrowing, and meaning shift for examples is *kaliang*.

Kaliang is one of the words that can be categorized into semi dead word found in *Sungayang* society. This term was used by people in the past to say 'can' however; this term is not used anymore by people in this society. They tend to use the word *kaleng* from that case; this word can be classified into sound and semantic change. It is belongs to sound change because the diphthong /ia/ was replaced by vowel /e/ and it becomes *kaleng*. It is also belong to semantic change because the meaning shift to another different meaning. In the past, *kaliang* was meant as a metal container for food or liquid while, in the present *kaliang* is meant as a black color of skin.

This word is caused by spelling pronunciation itself can reintroduce a pronunciation that was change through sound change in this case, people in the past more pronouncing the word *kaliang* with the diphthong /ai/ in the middle of the word, while in the present this word is pronouncing by the vowel /e/ in the middle of the word.

2. Discussion

Fromkin et al. (2011:478) state that dead words might occur when nobody cares to the dead words which is threaten omit, even do not use it anymore, it is indicated that the native speaker in that language are not responsible enough to keep their language. So that the young generations do not recognize it anymore and them know a new language. (Lumbantoruan,2005) Semi dead word is words are still known by speakers. But they do not wants to use it because of many factor such as less prestigious and prefer to use the new words that have better meaning According to Fromkin et al (2007), there are 5 (five) types of language change those are phonological change, morphological change, sound change, lexical change, and semantic change. However, In the analysis, the types of language change in the form of lexical change are more dominant rather than the others. It is happen because the semi dead words used in language spoken by people in the past and in the present time in

sungayang society. In this case, they use new different words to replace the words itself. However, in the lexical change the words used in the lexical change the words used in the past and in the present have the same meaning.

After the data have been analyzed, it was found the type of language change there are lexical change, phonological change, morphological change, sound and semantic change and lexical and semantic change. in lexical change there were 69 data from 77 data with the percentage is 89,61% , sound change there were 4 data from 77 data with the percentage is 5,19%, morphological change were 1 data from 77 with the percentage is 1,29 % , sound and semantic change were 1 data from 77 with the percentage is 1,29% and lexical and semantic change were 2 data from 77 data with the percentage is 2,59%.

The data analysis was calculated by using the percentage proposed by Sudijono (1987). The formulation of this percentage was frequency of one type (F) was divided with the total frequency (N), and then it was multiplied with 100%. Finally, the percentages would be acquired. The percentages are shown in the table below:

Table 3.7 The Percentage of Types of Language Change Found in *Sungayang* Sub-district of *Tanah Datar* Regency.

No	Types of language change	Total of the data	The percentage
1.	Lexical change	69	89.61 %
2.	Sound change	4	5.19 %
3.	Morphological change	1	1.29 %
4.	Sound and semantic change	1	1.29 %
5.	Lexical and semantic change	2	2.59 %
Total		77	99.97 %

Based on the table above, it can be seen that most frequency types of language change found in *Sungayang* Sub-district of *Tanah Datar* Regency is lexical change with the percentage 89.61%. Beside

are the types of language change this article also analyzed the causes of language change itself. Based on 77 of the data about dead words that had been analyzed, found there were four causes of language change in *Sungayang* Sub-district of Tanah Datar Regency there were language contact, spelling pronunciation, articulatory simplification, and reanalysis

Table 3.8 the Percentage of Causes of Language Change Found in *Sungayang* Sub-district of *Tanah Datar* Regency

No	Causes of language change	Total of the data	The percentage
1.	Language contact	69	89.61 %
2.	Spelling pronunciation	4	5.19 %
3.	Articulatory simplification	1	1.29 %
4.	Reanalysis	3	3.98 %
Total		77	99.97 %

In conclusion, from the table of data analysis, it can be concluded that most frequency cause of language change found in *Sungayang* Sub-district of *Tanah Datar* Regency is language contact. In this case, it was found that 69 of data were caused by language contact with the percentage 89.61%.

Semi dead word is words are still known by speakers. But they do not wants to use it because of many factor such as less prestigious and prefer to use the new words that have better meaning (Lumbantoruan,2005). According to Fromkin et al. (2011), here are 5 types of language change those are phonological change, morphological change, and syntactic change, lexical and semantic change. However, Based on the analysis there are only 4 types of dead words that are found in *Sungayang* and analyzed. They are lexical change, sound change, morphological change and semantic change.

Analyzed the types of language change, lexical change is more dominant rather than the others. According to Fromkin et al. (2011:472) lexical change is any change in the lexicon, also in a more restricted sense, lexical replacement, where one lexical item is replaced by another, either entirely or its meaning only (with or without borrowing) it can be concluded that lexical change is the changing of language in component of the grammar containing speakers knowledge about morphemes and words. It happens because the change of some words used in language spoken by people in the past and the present in Sungayang society. In this case, they use new different words to replace the semi dead words used itself. However in the lexical change the words used in the past and the present have the same meaning.

The example of lexical change found in the word sumpik, this word is not used anymore and substitute by the word karuang that totally different with the sumpik itself. And this modification does not change the meaning of word. Beside lexical change, Sound change happens since the pronunciation of the past and present words are different. In this case, the differences appear trough the changes, deletion or addition of vowel consonant or diphthong, the example is the word sapai changes becomes sapu.

Another type of language changes that also analyzed is semantic change. In the semantic change the past and present words are the same, however these words have differentiation in meaning. Kodok is the example of this type of language change. In the past, kodok means 'often' while in the present it means 'frog' the last types of language change that analyzed is morphological change. In this type, the change happens in the form of structure of the word. Another types of language change that also analyzed is morphological change, it can be said that morphological change is the changing in the form of addition of affixes, loss affixes and compounding, cominmato is the example of the morphological change this words used to say 'glasses' but people in this society tend to use the word kacomato instead of cominmato. This word can be categorized into morphological change in the form of reanalysis; reanalysis can result in a new word morphological structure for a word.

The last of the type of language change is sound and semantic change its mean that this change for sound and the semantic of the words. For example is kaliang. This term was used by people in the past to say 'can'. This word can be classified into sound and semantic

change. It is belongs to sound change because the diphthong /ia/ was replaced by vowel /e/ and it becomes kaleng. It is also belong to semantic change because the meaning shift to another different meaning. In the past, kaliang was meant as a metal container for food or liquid while, in the present kaliang is meant as a black color of skin.

There are some other previous studies on semi dead words done by other research that strengthen the reason of conduction this article, there is done by silvani (2012) was entitle “ An analysis of death words found in lubuk tarok sub-district of sijnjung regency. She found that 95 dead words which were categorized into four types of language change lexical change; phonological change; morphological change and semantic change. In her research, lexical change 88,42% was types of language change that occurred most commonly in that sub-district. In this pare the writer also found that the most frequent types of language change found in sungayang society is lexical change with percentage 89,61%.

D. CONSLUSION AND SUGGESTON

1. Conclusion

Based on the analysis and discussion that had been explained, there are from 77semi dead words, 37 are classified into noun, 23 semi dead words classified into verb, 13 semi dead words classified into adjective and 4 semi dead words classified into adverb so, the most frequently of past of speech are 37 semi dead words tahe classified into noun. There are four types of language changes found in *Sungayang* Sub-district of *Tanah Datar* Regency. There were lexical change, morphological change, sound change, semantic change and lexical and semantic change. In this discussion, from the data analysis and discussion it can be concluded that the most frequent types of language change found in this society is lexical change with percentage about 89.61 %.

Another point that was analyzed in data analysis and discussion was causes of language change happened in *Sungayang* society. These causes of that language change were language contact, spelling and pronunciation, articulatory simplification, analogy, and reanalysis. From the discussion can be concluded that the most significant cause of language change happened in *Sungayang* society is language contact with percentage 89.61%.

2. Suggestion

In this article, the writer only analyzes about the types and the causes of language change found in the semi dead words of *Sungayang* Sub-district of *Tanah Datar* Regency. While there are many aspects that can analyzed about language change and language dead. For instance, the study about comparison about between languages used in the past and the present time or from anthropological linguistic point of view can be analyzed how culture and thought can impact on language change or analyzed the causes of language change from sociolinguistic point of view and so on. There are many sources that can be used in analyzing language change such as local language old movie, novel, and so on. The writer just found the semi dead words in small area in *sungayang* society there is *orong*. But for further research who might be interesting in analyzing about language change to continue the analysis from other aspect that related to this topic, the writer suggests that find more than two old informants in this *sungayang* sub-district if the suggestion have been done may for the further research the researcher will found more about the semi dead words and dead words in this society.

Note: This article is written based on jannahtul wardiah's article under the advisors of Leni Marlina,S.S,M.A.

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