OVERWHELMING USE OF JAVANESE WORDS IN INDONESIAN: 
THE LATEST TRENDS

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ABSTRACT

Indonesian has been influenced by foreign languages such as English, Dutch, Spanish, Sanskrit, Chinese and Arabic and regional languages. Among the regional languages, due to the number of population, geographical and the social cultural political factors, the Javanese language has overwhelmingly influenced the Indonesian language especially in the vocabulary. So the purpose of this study is to discover that more and more of the new Indonesian of Javanese language hybrid has slowly and gradually been accepted by the language users. The Javanese words are used in entertainment presentations, advertisements, cinetron dramas, Indonesian films, comedies, and songs. The results and conclusion of this study is that the new Javanese Indonesian hybrid which is spread quickly mainly through electrical media of TVs and now by the printed media as well is well accepted by the language users.

Key words: language hybrid, language users, diglossic, colloquial, formal, informal, standard, sub standard, non standard, multilingual, addressee, vocative

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesian has been influenced by other languages such as Dutch, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Arabic, Sanskrit, and other regional languages i.e. Javanese, Sundanese etc even before it became a national language. Of all the regional languages, Javanese has been the most influential which is due to the social, political, cultural and geographical factors and also in the number of population. The Javanese reside in more areas in Java having almost half of the whole population of Indonesia. Jakarta, the capital city, is in Java, which is the centre of the influencing factors. When there was dissatisfaction in the society that Indonesian had been borrowing foreign words especially from English indiscriminately, there have been efforts to supply more domestic synonyms and paraphrases. Since the 1980s, Moeliono A. has been compiling words deriving from local languages and Sanskrit. Many words are accepted unanimously like swalayan, swa sembata, cepat saji, daur ulang, canggih, etc. Some words, however, do not survive and are not well accepted by the users such as pramuria and mangkus.

Lately, there are Javanese words used overwhelmingly. A lot of these words have been used in colloquial Indonesian and are considered as non standard. They are not frequently used formally or in written form but more in informal style and in conversation.

2. THE AIM OF THIS STUDY

The aim of this study is to discover that more and more of the new Indonesian of Javanese language hybrid has slowly and gradually been accepted by the language users.

3. METHOD

Javanese words were collected from advertisements, entertainment presentations, comedies, cinetron dramas (Indonesian soap

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operas), Indonesian films, and songs mainly from TVs, then tabulated and categorized into several groupings, i.e. nonstandard, sound-meaning, phrasal expression, vocative or addressee and apparition world.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY

Though the Javanese language is not taken as a (low) variety compared to Indonesian as a national language, it is not a case of diglossic situation. It is more of multilingualism in a multilingual society (Wardhaugh, 2002, p. 88-101). Javanese is more dominant because of the stated factors and it is richer in synonyms and paraphrases than in Indonesian. It is the frequent occasions of Javanese words used in advertisements, songs, comedies, cinetron, Indonesian films and entertainment presentations via electronic media that makes the words spread quickly and easily. Now more and more words are also used in printed media as well, there might be a feeling of resentment as if Indonesian is invaded and engulfed more by Javanese words. In fact, there is a shift of use in the language as was stated in 1960s by Tanner and Geertz. Tanner (1967, p 134) stated that ‘Indonesian ..... democratic language. Local languages like Javanese tended to be used only with intimates when the shades of respect or distance were necessary, particularly when in the presence of important older people’. His findings conform to prediction by Geertz (1960, p. 259) ‘Indonesian ..... Javanese will continue to be used “in certain special contexts as for special purposes”.

The collected words then were tabulated and categorized into five groups: non standard, sound-meaning, phrasal expression, vocative and addressee, and apparition world, for examples:

**nonstandard:**
- amblas: ‘disappear without notice’
- apik: ‘neat, nice and trim’
- gebyar: ‘glittering’
- gondok: ‘angry/annoyed’
- lancung: ‘impudent/say improper things’

**sound-meaning:**
- bres: ‘sound of heavy rainfall’
- cas cis cus: ‘fluent’
- ceplas-ceplos: ‘speak spontaneously’
- cling: ‘sparkling’
- kincing: ‘sparkling’
- dag dig dug: ‘sound of heartbeat’
- nyrocos: ‘speak endlessly’
- nyut-nyut: ‘pain in the head’
- gerr: ‘laugh together’

**phrasal expression:**
- dukun tiban: ‘shaman who receives power through something which suddenly befell him’
- gonjeng-ganjing: ‘critical situation’
- gembar-gembor: ‘bruit about’
- kumpul kebo: ‘live together without legally married’
- panji klatung: ‘a jobless person without permanent place’
- rayuan gombal: ‘false flattery’

**vocative or addressee:**
- mas: ‘addressee to young male person’
- mbak: ‘addressee to young female person’
- pakde: ‘addressee to older uncle’

**apparition world:**
- gendruwo: ‘male jin’
- nini towok: ‘spirit possession involving figure made of sticks and coconut shell’
- santet: ‘practice of black magic’
- tuyul: ‘hairless boy’

Other examples are in the Appendix.

5. CONCLUSION

The current trend, however, shows that the new hybrid of Javanese Indonesian language is more and more accepted as the popular variety of use through electric and printed media. This language has even become fully used as “standard” Indonesian without resentment and being made fun of as it used to be intentionally, unintentionally or comically implied, and therefore, it has enriched the
Indonesian language. This finding surpasses even contrary to Tanner’s and Greetz’ statements about the Javanese language.

6. REFERENCES


Appendix

nonstandard:

gamblang : ‘very clear’,
gerah : ‘hot, flushed’,
gandrung : ‘infatuated’,
gombal : ‘worn out’
ngeh : ‘comprehend’,
ngakak : ‘laugh loudly and boisterously’,
kambuh : ‘suffer a relapse’,
kangen : ‘miss, homesick’,
‘acung : ‘an errand boy’,
memble : ‘incapable to show good performance’,

lot : ‘tough’,
lugu : ‘simple’,
legowo : ‘sincere’,
 lengser : ‘abdicate’,
gebug : ‘beat’,
nyasar : ‘get lost’,
ambruk : ‘collapse/fall down’,
nomplok : ‘be in large quantities, pile up’,

ketus : ‘sharp, mean’,
ganteng : ‘handsome, goodlooking’,
copot : ‘dislodged’,
ces pleng : ‘cure instantly’,
ceriwis : ‘talkative’,
cerewet : ‘talk sharply’,
jewer : ‘pull or tweak one’s ear’,
maling : ‘thief’,
mbeling : ‘naughty’
edan : ‘crazy’

sound-meaning:

kres-kres, cres-cres : ‘sound of cutting’,
mimik : ‘drink’,
ma’em : ‘eat’,
nyem-nyem : ‘munch food’,
 kriuk-kriuk : ‘crackling sound of eating’,
ser : ‘feel sensually or erotically’,
senut-senut : ‘painful headache’,
nyes or ces : ‘cold’,
nyos : ‘hot’

phrasal expression:

raja singa : ‘venereal disease’,
rejeki nomplok : ‘good fortune is piling’,
salah kaprah : ‘common error but accepted by custom’,
tuplek bleg : ‘spill all over, big gathering at the same time’
gundul pacul : ‘without hair, completely bald’
adem-ayem : ‘cool and peaceful’

vocative or addressee:

mbah : ‘addressee to grandfather or grandmother’
bude : ‘addressee to older aunt,
oom : ‘addressee to younger uncle originally from Dutch’
tante : ‘addressee to younger aunt’,
eyang : ‘addressee to grand father or grandmother’
gus : 'addressee to a man'
nyi or nyai : 'addressee to an older pious woman'

apparition world:
weve : 'female jin',
demit : 'jin