

## PINPOINTING SEMANTIC SHIFTS IN THREE DIVERSE GENERATIONS OF KUNINGAN REGION

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### Abstract

Lexical semantic changes were pinpointed on three distinct generations of Kuningan Region so as to find out their tapestry and figure out their prevalent influential factors. They were both analyzed and identified by the employment of the qualitative descriptive method with questionnaires and interview as data collection techniques. It was shown that referring to 141 appearances, broadening and narrowing meaning took up respectively 24.82% and 7.09%. Meanwhile, both Ameliorization and Pejorization made up 29.07%, while Taboo comprised 9.92%. Subsequently, it was notified that all factors were of prevalence, namely linguistic, historical, psychological, social causes, foreign language influences, and novel word needs. It is concluded that typical types of lexical semantic changes as well as their determining factors are prevalently identified. It is imperative that corpus study be implemented and timelines related- lexical semantic changes be touched upon for the further research.

**Keywords:** *Semantics; Lexical Changes; Generations; Lexical Change Types; Lexical Change Factors.*

### INTRODUCTION

Language is dynamic means that language is developing not only by time and generation but also due to the development of mind within its users based on Pateda (2010, p. 158). The using of language is proven by the shape of words and sentence. Human being is the user of words and sentence means that human being also as the one who enrich the vocabulary related to its need. Either the mind of human being or the usage of words and sentences always develops and progress. The development can be as the increasing or decreasing of the quality as well

as quantity of word. Speaking of word quality means that we are talking about meaning or sense.

As time goes, in the daily life the researcher commonly find the new words related to the lexical semantic change. For example “*pujangga*”/ “poet” which long time ago means as “*ular*”/ “snake” but nowadays it’s known as “*penyair*”/ “poet” only. These kind of words created by the certain situation happens in the certain level of community in the society. The usage of these unique new words has increased

nowadays specifically in the level of youth users because they are mostly creative in communication. Beside that, the researcher also notice meaning variation within society, especially one word that has more than one meaning. Moreover, there are also rude and polite words that being used in the society. These cases belong to the semantic change then these phenomena challenged the researcher to discover deeply what are the types of semantic change and the reasons behind.

Several researchers have conducted studies in semantic change. it's clear that semantic change can't be separated with generations in communal, specifically proven by old generation and young generation (Robinson, 2012). Subsequently, basically this research told the researcher regrading the holistic meaning of meaning and truth, which means truths and meanings we arrive at involving words and beliefs can be thought of as "more or less accurate 'stories' we make up about things" (Dawes, 2013). Lastly, distinguished the words were found from the title of newspaper into the types of semantic change such broadening and narrowing meaning, ameliorization and pejorization, assimilation (Adriani, 2014). Regarding to the previous studies, the missing path was attempted to fill out by this study, in particular.

Based on the explanation and prior studies above, the researchers were interested in conducting a research about Lexical Semantic Change of *bahasa* (indonesian) that was proven by three distinct generations participants. In other words, the details of Semantic Change via Lexical Analysis encountered in three different generations residing in areas of Kuningan Region were sought in depth.

## METHOD

The researchers implemented the qualitative method for this research because semantic change is a part of semantics which is branch of linguistics. The researchers also wanted to describe the study of semantic

change within apparent time of three distinct generations, so the qualitative descriptive method was choosen.

Moreover, the research design that used was ethnographic research. According to Haris (1968) on Creswell (2007, p. 68) states that Ethnography is a qualitative design in which the researcher describes and interprets the shared and learned patterns of values, behaviours, beliefs, and language of a culture-sharing group. An ethnography focuses on an entire cultural group. As both process and outcome of research, ethnography is a way of studying a culture-sharing group as well as the final, written product of that research.

The researchers obtained the data from the three distinct generation of Kuningan region choosen by 5 areas of Kuningan there were Kuningan Center (Siliwangi), Cigugur, Cidahu, Jalaksana, and Darma as the representatives. Kuningan's population is 1.035.589 people, consists of 520.632 male and 514.957 female. The participants that were choosen were the active speakers of Bahasa that always use Indonesian Language in daily activities such as college students, teacher, civil servants, and retirees.

In getting the data, the researchers interviewed 15 participants. Each area were represented by 3 participants. They were one from youngest group (20-29 years old), one from middle-aged speakers (40-49 years old) and one from oldest generation (70-79 years old). This was according to judgment sampling which is presented by Milroy (2003, p. 26) states that the principle underlying judgment sampling is that the researchers identifies in advance the types of speakers to be studied and then seeks out a quota of speakers who fit the specified categories. On the other hand, Alwasilah (2002), claims that there is no certain number of participants in qualitative research, the most important is that the participants are choosen based on the purposive sampling.

Moreover, Britain (1992) in Milroy (2003, p. 36) claims that the most relevant for the language change discussion is comparing speakers of three generations aged 20-29, 40-

49, and 70-79. The researchers used open ended questionnaires and semi structured interview for the data collecting techniques.

discussed under following point. They were Types of Lexical Semantic Change and Factors behind it.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

There are two findings that found. It will be answered the research questions of this research. The findings would be

Table 4.1

Lexical Semantic Change Found in Three Distinct Generations of Kuningan Region

NO	TYPES OF SEMANTIC CHANGE	FREQUENCIES	PERCENTAGE
1	Broadening	35	24.82%
2	Narrowing	10	7.09%
3	Ameliorization	41	29.07%
4	Pejorization	41	29.07%
5	Taboo	14	9.92%
Total		141	100%

Table 4.1 reveals the total number of lexical semantic change found in three distinct generations of Kuningan Region. The type of lexical semantic change that mostly found were Ameliorization and Pejorization (29.07%). The second was Broadening meaning (24.82%), the third was Taboo (9.92%) and the last was Narrowing meaning (7.09%).

The detail of findings presented based on the data that gained from questionnaires and interview. There were 213 words that spread in the questionnaires and 141 words that were gained. To reveal the 15 participants from three distinct generations, the researcher used A code for youngest group, B code for the middle-aged speakers, and code C for the oldest group. Moreover the researcher also presented the percentage of each word to reveal the number of right answers in accordance to the holistic meaning from the dictionary.

The researchers tried to analyze the phenomena behind the percentage. Based on Pateda (2010). The reason why ameliorization and pejorization have the highest percentage which was 29.07% of each could be because of the perceiving of the language users. Most of the participants do understand which one was the polite word and which was the impolite one to be used to

another people. Moreover, based on Ullman (1997) on Parera (2002), states that eufimism or pseudo-eufimism also as the factor of ameliorization and pejorization, Eufimism has background of humanity. People ten to avoid to hurt another people hurt, to show the dumb, and to offend or insult other. Thus, it was not strange to find that ameliorization and pejorization were the most common of lexical semantic change found in Kuningan Region.

However, although the ameliorization and pejorization are the most common lexical semantic change found in Kuningan Region, these ameliorization and pejorization are temporary semantic change. Why? Because the value of the words is synchronic. Due to Chaer (2009), The value of the words is synchronic. In diachronic, it may change because of the perspective of life that usually adjust with the development of culture and society, then it changes the ameliorative or pejorative form of the words.

Moreover, regarding the broadening and narrowing meaning which have the second and fourth rank comparing to others which were 24.82% and 7.09% were because of several reasons. According to Pateda (2010), it might be because of the influence of context into specific meaning or the using of new word in free combination, or even the

relation of sense of meaning in current and previous era. Again, the language users and the period of time does matter. In accordance to that, Parera (2002) states that the broadening meaning is quite interesting for Bahasa, because Indonesian people tend to make the generalization.

On the other hand, the reason why taboo has the third rank which was 9.92% rather than the others was might be because of the influence of the foreign language or the adopted words. (Ibid) however, most of the people can relate the new words with its meaning when they were coming in sentence for the very first time. Moreover, Parera (2002) claimed that the strangeness of language users towards meaning and the loss of motivation also causes taboo. Thus, the percentage of taboo was seemed logic. The next findings are regarding the factors influence lexical semantic change that were found in Kuningan Region.

In answering the research question number two regarding the factors influence the lexical semantic change, the researcher laid on the theory by Ullmann (1972, p. 198-210) in Pateda (2010, p. 163-168). The researcher conducted the semi-structured interview towards those participants and gave several questions related to the factors of lexical semantic change. Based on the fieldwork result, the researcher found all factors of lexical semantic change that classified into linguistics causes, historical causes, psychological causes, social causes, the influence of foreign language, and the needs of new words. The detail of findings for the second research question is presented below.

Based on the data collected above, there were 6 factors influencing lexical semantic change that were found in Kuningan Region. The theory used in analyzing the data was proposed by Pateda (2010). Then the researcher classified the answer of the participants to ; Linguistics Causes, Historical Causes, Psychological Causes, Social Causes, The Influence of Foreign Language, and The Needs of New Words.

By classifying the factors above, we can conclude that there are infinity reasons on why language or semantic is change proven by the factors that found. In line with the statement that language is dynamic, Parera (2002) claims that there is no status quo in language. Language always develops due to the era and its users. Thus, there is none stationary in language. Every language component such phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, or even pragmatics always develops.

## CONCLUSION

In conducting the research, the researcher implemented the open-ended questionnaires and semi-structured interview techniques in collecting the data. The data were collected from spreading the questionnaires and interviewing participants from 3 distinct generations that coming from 5 different areas of Kuningan to reveal the entire society of Kuningan Region. As formulated in the previous chapter, there are two research questions of the study. The first is regarding the types of lexical semantic change that found in Kuningan Region, and the second is regarding the factors influence the lexical semantic change in Kuningan Region. Thus, based on the findings and discussions, the conclusion is as follow:

Firstly, in answering the research question number one, the researcher used the theory from Hock (1991). The types of lexical semantic change are : broadening and narrowing meaning, ameliorization and pejorization, and taboo. The researcher spread questionnaires which consists of 213 words approximately and finally found 141 words related to the lexical semantic change. The mostly found types of semantic change that found in Kuningan Region were ameliorization and pejorization which have 41 frequencies of each. Then, it mean they reached about 29.07% of each from the entire words were found. The second was Broadening meaning which has 35 frequencies and reached about 24.82%. The

third, was taboo that has 14 frequencies and reach 9.92%, and the last was narrowing meaning that has 10 frequencies which reached only 7.09% comparing to others.

Secondly, in analyzing the research question number two, the researcher implemented the theory from Pateda (2010) regarding the factors influence the lexical semantic change. Those are linguistics factors, historical factors, psychological factors, social factors, foreign language influences, and new word needs. In accordance to the findings, those factors were found within society in Kuningan Region. From the result of analysis above, we found that this research result was consistent with the theory of Hock (1991) and Pateda

(2010) which has proposed since the very first beginning.

From all the findings above, we can conclude that because language is dynamic, this means that synchronically the meaning of the words will never change, but diachronically it changes. It may change because of the perspective of life that usually adjust with the development of culture and society. When the mindset of language users develop and change, automatically the language also change. Thus, in finding the semantic change we need current time to find the changes and one of the way is by studying the generation to generation which reveals the period of time consists of society development.

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