

**A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF MINANGKABAUNESE VERBS
CONNECTED TO THE SEMANTIC PRIMES TOUCH: A NATURAL
SEMANTIC METALANGUAGE STUDY**

Thesis

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain

Strata One (S1) Degree



by
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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
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Connected To the Semantic Primes Touch: A
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ABSTRACT

Karina Safira Rannas. 2020. *A Semantic Analysis of Minangkabaunese Verbs Connected to the Semantic Primes Touch: A Natural Semantic Metalanguage Study*

Supervisor: Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S., M.Hum.

This study analyzed words in Minangkabaunese that share the same semantic prime: TOUCH using Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM). This research was conducted using the descriptive qualitative approach. The data that were found in this research come from the transcriptions of the interviews with 10 informants from Padang city that were recorded. The data were collected using interview guidelines, recording equipment, and writing equipment. An interactive model of data analysis was used to analyze the data. From the data that were collected and analyzed there are 13 allomorphs of the semantic prime TOUCH in Minangkabaunese. For the polysemies there are 8 sets of semantic primes that were found. Even though all 13 words share the same semantic prime they can be differentiated by 6 factors. Thus, it can be concluded that even though these words are similar they are not exactly synonymous.

Key words: *Natural Semantic Metalanguage, Minangkabaunese, Semantic Primes, TOUCH*

ABSTRAK

Karina Safira Rannas. 2020. *A Semantic Analysis of Minangkabaunese Verbs Connected to the Semantic Primes Touch: A Natural Semantic Metalanguage Study*

Supervisor: Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S., M.Hum.

Studi ini menganalisis kata-kata dalam bahasa Minangkabau yang memiliki semantic prime yang sama: TOUCH menggunakan teori Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM). Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Data yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini berasal dari transkripsi wawancara dengan 10 informan dari kota Padang yang direkam. Data dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan pedoman wawancara, peralatan rekaman, dan peralatan menulis. Model analisis data interaktif digunakan untuk menganalisis data. Dari data yang dikumpulkan dan dianalisis ada 13 allolexies dari semantic prime TOUCH di bahasa Minangkabau. Untuk polysemies ada 8 pasangan semantic prime yang ditemukan. Meskipun semua 13 kata memiliki semantic prime yang sama, mereka tidak persis sama.

Kata kunci: *Natural Semantic Metalanguge, Minangkabaunese, Semantic Primes, TOUCH*

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Padang, July 2020

DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to my parents, father Almarhum Muhammad Ridallah and mother Fitriyanti for their unconditional love and for raising me to be who I am today. Next is to both of my sisters Almarhumah Celine and Keyla , for always be there for me. I also want to express my gratitude to my friends: Dwira, Alvie, Mayang, Ezi, Yuki, Ratih, and Dilla, for the wonderful times we spent together. For my classmates NK1-2016 and NK-Ling'16 who have been with me through this journey.

The Researcher

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research Problem

All languages in this world share a similarity. They share the same concept of semantic meaning, which is the literal meaning of words. One of the approaches that can be used to find out the semantic meanings of words is Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) theory, which is a theory that was created by Anna Wierzbicka in her book *Semantic Primitives* in 1972 from the concept developed by Polish professor Andrzej Bogusławski. NSM is a theory used to give an explanation on semantically complex words in any language in the world, (Goddard & Peeters, 2008, p.13). It is a theory that tries to find the semantic concepts of words that are innately understood but cannot be expressed in simpler terms or what is called semantic primes. NSM theory proves that there are no words in this world that are exactly synonymous. Even though there are many synonyms in one language, NSM can be used to show the differences in their core concepts.

Minangkabaunese is the native language of people located in Padang city, Indonesia. It is a language that is rich with vocabularies and meanings, which means that there are many allollexy and polysemy that can be found. Rosa (2018) explained that there are many words in Minangkabaunese that share the same concept of meaning with the word *mancaliak*. Similarly, this research tries to

analyze Minangkabaunese language using Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach.

This research focuses more on the sensory words: TOUCH. This is because semantic prime TOUCH can be found in many words in Minangkabaunese language. For example: the words *mamacik*, *maambiak*, *marabuik*, *maresek*, *maawai*, *manggaduah*, etc have TOUCH as one of their core meanings. TOUCH as a concept means the action of coming into contact with something or someone using tactile sense (Merriam-Webster, 2015). This research focuses on touching by using the inside or the palm of the hands. This means that all words in Minangkabaunese that have the concept of touching using the palms are analyzed.

Below is the example of misconception in using words with polysemy TOUCH/WANT/MOVE:

1 (a) *Inyo ambiak dompet di lamari*

He took the wallet from the wardrobe

(b) *Inyo ambiak dompet dari tangan den*

He took the wallet from my hand

While the used of the word *ambiak* in (1a) is acceptable among the native speaker of Minangkabaunese, the sentence in (1b) is quite peculiar. Because of the forceful nature of the sentence in the (1b) the correct choice of the word would be *rabuik*. Even though both *maambiak* and *marabuik* can be translated “took” in English, in Minangkabaunese they are not exactly synonymous.

NSM studies were conducted by previous researchers with different focuses. There are studies that focus on finding the differences between words with the same semantic prime (Effendi & Chafidh, 2018; Rosa, 2018; Parwati, 2018), the differences between two words from two different languages (Suryawardhani, 2018; Farese, 2015; Sianturi et al., 2020; Fitriyanti & Mulyadi, 2013), the differences between words with the same affix (Asano, Cavanagh, & Farese, 2020; Goddard, 2003), the differences between the name marker pairs in one language (Waga 2014), whether the meaning of a text that was translated is still maintained or not (Dewi, Nengah, & Sukarini, 2019; Sudipa, 2019),

Unlike those previous studies, this research is quite different. This research focuses on analyzing the words that are connected to the semantic prime TOUCH in Minangkabau language. This research tries to find the allolexies of semantic prime TOUCH and their polysemies. This research also tries to find the differences between these words. In conclusion, this research, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, filled the gap in NSM study that focuses on semantic prime TOUCH in Minangkabau language.

In conclusion, because many words share the same semantic primes, there is a high change of ambiguities or mishaps in choosing the correct word. It is very easy for people who speak Minangkabau to make mishaps and use the wrong words to express themselves. To diminish ambiguities and mishaps this study analyzed each word connected to the semantic prime TOUCH. This research is important because shedding light on the different meanings of

Minangkabaunese verbs connected to the semantic primes TOUCH reduced the number of mishaps in choosing the correct word to express their meanings.

1.2 Identification of the Research Problem

The semantic meaning of words, which is the literal meaning of words, can be analyzed by using a different linguistic point of view. First is by using lexical semantics. Using lexical-semantic means that the words will be analyzed by deconstructing them one by one within a line of text to understand the meaning within a context.

The second is by using conceptual semantics. This point of view means analyzing the words without the context. This would mean analyzing the words based on conceptual meaning alone. Lastly is by using Natural Semantic Metalanguage. This means using semantic primes, allollexy and polysemy of the words to find out the primitive and core meaning of the words and explaining the meaning by using paraphrase to illustrate how the word would play out in context.

1.3 Limitation of the Research Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the problem was limited to the words connected to the semantic prime TOUCH in Minangkabau language that was analyzed by using Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based from the limitation of the research, the formulation of the problem is formulated into the following question: What are the verbs connected to the semantic prime TOUCH using Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach in Minangkabau language?

The problem is elaborated into the following research questions:

1. What are the allolexy, the polysemy, and the explanations that capture the meaning of each verb connected to the semantic prime of Minangkabaunese word TOUCH using Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach?
2. What are the differences between each verb connected to the semantic prime of Minangkabaunese word TOUCH using Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach?

1.5 Purposes of the Research

Based on the research questions, the purposes of this research are:

1. To find out the allolexy, the polysemy and the explanations that capture the meaning of each verb connected to the semantic prime of Minangkabaunese word TOUCH using Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach.
2. To find out the differences between each verb connected to the semantic prime of Minangkabaunese word TOUCH using Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach.

1.6 Significance of the Research

There are two reasons why this research is significant. Theoretically, the result of this research will help the increase of understanding of the NSM theory and its application in analyzing words or a language. Practically this research made it easier for a person who speaks Minangkabaunese to choose the correct words to express themselves. This is because there are many words in Minangkabaunese that have the semantic prime TOUCH in their polysemy. This makes it difficult for the speakers of this language to choose the correct words to express themselves. This research helped shed light on the correct dictions regarding the verbs connected to the semantic prime TOUCH.

1.7 Definition of the Key Terms

Below is the term that is necessary to be explained in order to not create misinterpretations:

1. Natural Semantic Metalanguage is a theory that is used to analyze the core meaning of a word.
2. Allollexy is a term used to show one semantic prime can express more than one word.
3. Polysemy is a term used to show one word is used to express more than one semantic prime.
4. Paraphrase is an explication that expresses the conceptual meaning of words using words that can no longer be decipher.

5. Semantic Primes are unit meanings of words that can no longer be decipher.
6. TOUCH is one of the semantic primes in Minangkabaunese that is sensory in nature.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

From the analysis above, it can be concluded Minangkabaunese is a language that is rich with vocabularies and word meanings. This can be seen by the amount of allolexies of semantic prime TOUCH that was found, which are: *Maawai, Manggauah, Manggosok, Mauruik, Marameh, Mamicik, Manampa, Maraba, Manapuak, Maambiak, Marabuik, Mamacik, and Maresek*. This can also be seen from the eight sets of semantic primes: TOUCH/MOVE, TOUCH/SAY, TOUCH/FEEL, TOUCH/WANT/KNOW, TOUCH/WANT, TOUCH/MOVE/FEEL, TOUCH/MOVE/SAY and TOUCH/WANT/MOVE that was found.

It also can be concluded that there are several factors that can be used to differentiate each words that share semantic prime TOUCH. These factors are: (1)The intentions of doing the act. (2)The recipients of those intents. (3)The part of the body used to perform the act. (4) The part of the recipient body is acted on. (5) The other acts that are done while doing the action. (6)The message that was conveyed in the act.

Another thing that can be concluded is that *Mamacik* is the closest word that can be used to literally convey the meaning of the word touch in English. This is due to the simplicity of the core meanings of the word, the lack of good o bad intentions in doing the act, and the lack of other acts done while doing this

action. Lastly, there are more data and deeper understanding on research that focuses on one language then a research that focuses on more than one language.

5.2 Suggestion

This research focuses on the semantic prime TOUCH of words in the Minangkabau language. From the research, it can be said that Minangabaunese is a language rich with synonymous words that can be used as data to analyze using NSM theory. Therefore it is suggested for future researchers to analyze the other Minangkabaunese words using NSM because of its richness in meanings. Because there are already researches focused on TOUCH and SEE, it is suggested that the next research will focus more on other sensory words. This also shines a light on the true meaning of words within the language used in everyday life.

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