

Lexical Interference of the Minangkabau Language  
toward the Indonesian Language as Found in Harian  
Singgalang Newspaper

Thesis

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## ABSTRACT

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Bahasa Indonesia merupakan bahasa resmi dalam berkomunikasi di Indonesia. Namun, bahasa Indonesia yang digunakan dalam berkomunikasi di Sumatra barat dipengaruhi oleh Bahasa Minangkabau sebagai bahasa pertama penutur Minang. Oleh sebab itu, timbullah berbagai penyimpangan yang dapat dilihat dalam penggunaan bahasa Indonesia dalam berkomunikasi. Selain dalam komunikasi sehari-hari, penyimpangan ini dapat dilihat pada media komunikasi seperti koran. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menganalisa penyimpangan kata-kata yang mengalami interferensi dari bahasa Minangkabau terhadap bahasa Indonesia yang terdapat pada koran Singgalang yang juga merupakan satu-satunya sumber data dalam penelitian ini. Penyimpangan yang dilakukan penulis berita dan kolom opini melalui beberapa cara, diantaranya: 1) memindahkan morfem suku kata pertama kepada bahasa kedua, (2) mengganti imbuhan dari bahasa pertama ke bahasa kedua, (3) mengganti fonem bahasa pertama ke bahasa kedua, (4) mengganti diftong bahasa pertama ke bahasa kedua, (5) menghilangkan fonem bahasa pertama, (6) mengindonesiakan bahasa pertama

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan/mendeskripsikan kata-kata yang mengalami interferensi dari bahasa Minangkabau terhadap bahasa Indonesia. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini dirancang dengan menggunakan penelitian deskriptif dengan metode dokumen analisis. Kecenderungan menggunakan kata-kata yang mengalami interferensi merupakan gambaran dari lemahnya penguasaan penulis berita dalam menguasai bahasa keduanya, serta kuatnya pengaruh bahasa pertama penulis tersebut.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa baik penulis berita maupun penulis kolom opini menggunakan kata-kata yang mengalami interferensi dari bahasa Minangkabau terhadap bahasa Indonesia. Interferensi leksikal ini merupakan sebuah gambaran dari kurangnya keseimbangan penulis koran dalam menguasai kedua bahasa dalam menulis artikel atau kolom sebagai media informasi formal. Kesalahan penggunaan kosakata tersebut juga merupakan dampak dari kuatnya pengaruh bahasa Minangkabau dalam kehidupan sehari-hari penulis berita maupun penulis kolom opini harian Singgalang.

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The writer honestly admits that this thesis is far from perfect; hence any constructive critics, suggestions ad advices from reader are highly appreciated for the improvement of this thesis. The writer also admits that any mistakes found in this thesis remain of the writer.

Padang, April 2008

The writer

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# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1. 1 Background of the Problem**

In Minangkabau community, people use many languages in communicating each other. The languages used by the people right now have been contaminated by other languages that they got from other provinces and also the changes on language itself. Schendl (2001:55) says that all physical aspects in the world and all the aspects of human life are subjects to change and so do languages they use. Language changes with no exception. Every language changes as long as those speech communities still speak and use it and have its native speaker, even though most of speakers do not realize about language changes.

Naturally, language is a tool for communication. Crane et.al (1981:3) define communication as a process in which information is transmitted from a source – the sender to a goal – the receiver. This means that there is an interaction between speaker and hearer included in a community. Communication is a process by which information is exchanged between or among individuals through a common system of symbols, signs and behavior (Wikipedia, 2007). As a process, communication has synonyms such as expressing feelings, conversing, speaking, corresponding, writing, reading and exchanging.

Basically, regional language (the Minangkabau language) and the Indonesian language are both used at the same time for communication in Padang. Most of native speakers in Padang are bilingual speakers. The speakers' ability in

using two languages or more causes imbalance in the use of one of those languages. Sometimes, they mix those two languages in an utterance even in a word known as language interference. It also appears in mass media such as television, magazine and newspaper. The use of both languages in an utterance, sentence and a word causes interference that can disturb the essence of languages themselves. Moreover, lexical interference is also applied by the journalists and the columnists in the newspaper as a media for getting information. As a source of information, the presence of newspaper has a very important role in delivering the news toward the readers. By reading newspaper, the readers can enrich their knowledge; know the development of politics, economic, social and cultural lives and other events happened in every single part of the world. Newspaper also gives the newest and factual information that can be trusted its validity.

The use of lexical interference items by the journalists and the columnists causes the deviation in using the Indonesian language formally and also causes misunderstanding toward the readers who do not have background knowledge about the lexical interference found in the newspaper they read. It also reduces the purpose of information in an article of newspaper that is caused by the lack of knowledge about language interference of the readers who are not Minangkabau people. The tendencies to replace or to change the lexical items from one language becomes another language done by the journalists and the coloumnists are caused by: (1) the language that belongs to the journalists and the coloumnists' habit in their environment, (2) the critical condition that makes the journalists' and the coloumnists' transfer his L1 (the Minangkabau language) such as ["acok

bana”] becomes his L2 (the Indonesian language) [‘sering kali’] becomes *acap kali*. Those will influence the goal of communication and reduce the real function of the Indonesian language which is used by the journalists and the coloumnists in the newspaper. Beside that, this phenomenon will also damage the Minangkabau people youth language if they often read the lexical interference written in any newspaper around them.

Lexical interference of the Minangkabau language toward the Indonesian language written unconsciously by the journalists or coloumnists in writing article as in the case that I found: *melanyau* (interference item) is regarded to be “malanyau” (the Minangkabau language) or ‘melanda’ (the Indonesian language) considered more common and based on the readers’ daily language. Therefore, from such phenomenon, the researcher thinks that the research about the lexical interference items of the Minangkabau language toward the Indonesian language that occurs in Harian Singgalang is needed and necessary to do; because not all of people have a good interpretation in analyzing the deviation of language occurred in the newspaper. The way to understand the lexical interference is by analyzing the types and factors based on the contexts of this newspaper as one of local newspaper in West Sumatra. The researcher thinks that this kind of research will give more contributions to the theoretical point of view, especially sociolinguistics studies.

## **1. 2 Identification of the Problem**

In communication, it is a fact that a person’s first language (mother tongue) influences his/her second language acquisition. Skiba (2006) says that

interference may be viewed as the process of transferring one language to another at various levels including phonology (stress, rhyme, becomes nation and speech sound), morphology and lexis from the first language influencing the second. It has shown from the way he/she speaks or writes down a second language. The first language often causes negative effect on someone's second language acquisition. Meanwhile, the first language interferes the second language acquisition.

The main problem of this study is lexical interference of the Minangkabau language toward the Indonesian language found in Harian Singgalang. The analysis of lexical interference items may give effect on any aspects of language, such as grammar, lexis, spelling and pronunciation. This effect causes errors or negative transfer as in the case that I found: the changing parts, structure or morpheme of lexical item of 'orang dewasa' (the Indonesian language) becoming *orang besar*, which is interfered from "urang gadang" (the Minangkabau language). In this research, the researcher wants to study about the use of lexical interference of the Minangkabau language toward the Indonesian language found in Harian Singgalang.

### **1. 3 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, this study is limited on the forms, types and factors of the lexical interference item used by the journalists and the coloumnists found in several rubrics: Info Utama, Opini, Padang Kota Tercinta and Seputar Pasa Raya dan Pondok of Harian Singgalang. In doing this

study, the researcher uses Harian Singgalang as the only source of data since there are many lexical interference items found in it.

The researcher limits the problem on determining the forms, types and factors of lexical interference items that are found in rubrics mentioned in Harian Singgalang which have great tendency of employing lexical interference in their presentation to the public that published from 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2008, because there were so many events happened in West Sumatra especially in Padang during the time and it contained many lexical interference. In addition, the limited problem could give specific and controlled scope of study in order to come to valid and reliable findings and conclusions.

#### **1. 4 Formulation of the Problem**

The problem was formulated as follows: “What are the forms, types and factors of lexical interference items of the Minangkabau language toward the Indonesian language found in Harian Singgalang?”

#### **1. 5 Research Questions**

The research problem above is formulated specifically in the following research questions:

1. What are the lexical interference items found in Harian Singgalang?
2. What are types of lexical interference of the Minangkabau language toward the Indonesian language found in Harian Singgalang?
3. What factors cause lexical interference found in Harian Singgalang?

## **1.6 Purposes of the Study**

This study aims at describing:

1. the lexical interference items used by the journalists and coloumnists of Harian Singgalang as a result of negative transfer from L1 become L2.
2. the types of lexical interference of the Minangkabau language toward the Indonesian language used by journalists and coloumnists of Harian Singgalang.
3. the factors that caused lexical interference used by journalists and coloumnists of Harian Singgalang.

## **1.7 Significance of the Study**

The findings of this research are expected to be useful for the linguistics students of UNP in order to display the knowledge about the lexical interference especially the Minangkabau language toward the Indonesian language. It is hoped that the linguistics students of UNP can see this deviation as the people weaknesses and the imbalance in using or mastering languages.

It is hoped for another student who wants to analyze language interference, especially the students who are majoring in linguistics in UNP who still have lack of knowledge and low understanding of negative transfer as the input to study more about language interference. Furthermore, this research is also expected can develop the knowledge of the readers and writer about lexical interference. In general, the researcher hopes that the result of this research will give a figuration to the Minangkabau people in order to see and realize the abuse or failure of

bilingualism, especially in using the Indonesian language or L2 and give more contribution to the linguistics field, particularly sociolinguistics.

### **1. 8 Definition of the Key Terms**

The following is the definition of related terms which are used in this study.

- Lexical Interference : the error in transferring and changing syllable of morpheme, affix, phonemes and diphthong of the lexical item of the Minangkabau language into the Indonesian language.
- Harian Singgalang Newspaper : printed publication, issued daily with news, advertisement and vacancy as one local newspaper in West Sumatra.
- Minangkabau language : language used by Minangkabau society as their mother tongue.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusions

Lexical interference is a deviation toward a language which is done by bilingual speakers who do not have the balance in mastering language to the language that she/he involved unconsciously. After collecting the lexical interference items from the several rubrics of *Harian Singgalang* and analyzing the data, it can be concluded that there are 105 lexical interference items of the Minangkabau language (L1) toward the Indonesian language (L2) found. From the six types of lexical interference of the Minangkabau language toward the Indonesian language, the changing of the prefix has a great amount than the others.

The lexical interference of the Minangkabau language toward the Indonesian language mostly exists in the articles and columns by the journalists and the coloumnists of *Harian Singgalang* as the figuration of their ability as the bilingual people. Based on data findings and the analysis of this research that has been done by researcher about the use of lexical interference item by the journalists and the coloumnists of *Harian Singgalang*, she found some types and factors that influenced the existence of those deviation, such as replacing, changing, transferring even deleting the syllable of the morpheme, phoneme and the diphtong from the first language into the second language. Between the L1, L2 and the lexical interference items, the differences in phoneme, diphtong and the way of pronouncing those lexical items are significance, but they still have the

similarity in meaning. So, it can be said that the meaning of the lexical items L1, L2 is nearly same even though the syllable of the morpheme, the phoneme and way of pronouncing them are different.

## **5.2 Suggestions**

For the linguistics students of UNP, this thesis is a study about how a lexical deviated by the journalists and the coloumnists in a newspaper. This thesis also could be a source if the linguistics students want to do a research in the same case, but in different theme. It is hoped for the next researcher to apply more detail and more complex case about the study of language interference, because language interference took main important role in communication.

Furthermore, the researcher hopes that the journalists and the coloumnists of Harian Singgalang reduce using the lexical interference items in writing their articles or columns. If the journalists and columnists reduce the use of this deviation in language, the function of Indonesian language will be based on the rule. The English department of the Padang State University is expected to add the collection of sociolinguistics book, especially about language interference. In this research, the researcher suggests that other researchers of language interference carry out another research on other aspects of language interference.

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