

**THE DEAD WORDS OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE
FOUND IN SUNGAI TARAB SUB-DISTRICT
IN TANAH DATAR**

THESIS



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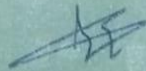
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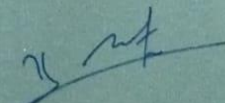
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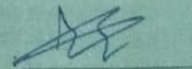
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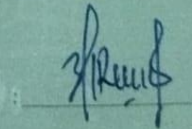
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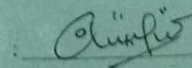
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ABSTRACT

Maysyaroh, Aisyah 2025. The Dead Words Of Traditional Medicine Found in Sungai Tarab Sub-District in Tanah Datar. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

This research explores dead words and their causative factors in Sungai Tarab Sub-district, Tanah Datar Regency. This research is qualitative research that relies on many informants to analyze the problems in the development of dead words in Sungai Tarab area. The community has forgotten or lived with many dead words. Dead words occur when terms are no longer used or seem outdated. Based on the study, researchers found 31 dead words out of 67 words studied, while 21 words were classified as shifting words. Although young informants still recognize these terms, they hesitate to use them, thus risking extinction. Next, 15 terms are considered known words because they are still recognized and used by young informants. The researcher concluded that many people in the Sungai Tarab area still know and use the words of traditional medicine in their treatment. The researcher also found several causative factors in the occurrence of dead words in Sungai Tarab Sub-district, including the dominance of the majority language, the use of bilingual or multilingual speakers, globalization, intermarriages, and the use of Indonesian as a lingua franca and school system. This research agrees that endangered languages need to be saved, so we need to be aware of the many factors that contribute to their extinction.

Keywords: dead words, minangkabau language, traditional medicine

ABSTRAK

Maysyaroh, Aisyah 2025. **Kata-kata Mati Dari Pengobatan Tradisional Ditemukan di Kecamatan Sungai Tarab Kabupaten Tanah Datar.** Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Penelitian ini membahas tentang kata-kata mati dan faktor penyebabnya di Kecamatan Sungai Tarab, Kabupaten Tanah Datar. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif yang mengandalkan banyak informan untuk menganalisis masalah dalam perkembangan kata mati di daerah Sungai Tarab. Masyarakat telah melupakan atau hidup dengan banyak kata mati. Kata-kata mati terjadi ketika istilah-istilah yang tidak lagi digunakan atau terkesan ketinggalan zaman. Berdasarkan penelitian, peneliti menemukan 31 kata mati dari 67 kata yang diteliti, sedangkan 21 kata diklasifikasikan sebagai kata bergeser. Meskipun informan muda masih mengenali istilah-istilah ini, mereka ragu untuk menggunakannya, sehingga berisiko mengalami kepunahan. Kemudian, 15 istilah dianggap sebagai kata yang dikenal karena masih dikenali dan digunakan oleh informan muda. Peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa masyarakat di daerah Sungai Tarab masih banyak yang mengenal dan menggunakan istilah-istilah pengobatan tradisional dalam pengobatannya. Peneliti juga menemukan beberapa faktor penyebab terjadinya kata mati di Kecamatan Sungai Tarab, antara lain dominasi bahasa mayoritas, penggunaan penutur yang bilingual atau multibahasa, globalisasi, kawin campur, dan penggunaan bahasa Indonesia sebagai bahasa pergaulan dan sistem sekolah. Penelitian ini setuju bahwa bahasa-bahasa yang terancam punah perlu diselamatkan, sehingga kita perlu menyadari banyak faktor yang berkontribusi terhadap kepunahannya.

Kata kunci: kata mati, bahasa Minangkabau, pengobatan tradisional

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research Problem

Language is a crucial communication system in human culture that enables the exchange of meaning, thoughts, ideas, and feelings within a community. It plays a crucial role in social interaction, identity formation and the transmission of knowledge and values. According to Yaguello (1998), language is used to communicate information that can be shared for many reasons, such as improving relationships and relying on people's information needs, enriching knowledge, and gathering information. Languages are an integral part of human life and cannot be separated from each other.

As one of the many countries that have language diversity, the region of Indonesia has more than one language used in its daily life of its inhabitants (Rahmi, 2015). Indonesians can communicate in both their mother tongue and Bahasa Indonesia. Indonesia also has many regional languages, such as Acehnese, Balinese, Batakese, Sundanese, Javanese, and Minangkabaunese. Each of these regions has different dialect characteristics and variations that can be found in grammar, intonation, voice, and vocabulary.

Minangkabaunese is one of the local languages in Indonesia. Ayub (1993) claims that Minangkabaunese, as a regional language, is at the top of the ten regional languages. It means that the Minangkabaunese language is one of the largest languages used by society in Indonesia. Minangkabaunese is not only spoken by Minangkabau people but also by some Acehnese, Bengkulu, and some

people in North Sumatra. According to Gordon (2005), Minangkabaunese is an Austronesian language with around 7 million speakers. Most of the speakers are natives of Minangkabau people because they use the Minangkabaunese language to communicate with each other in daily life.

According to Trask (2000), every language is dynamic, with changes primarily affecting grammar and context. As a result, languages have many variations and evolve over time. Language change is the process of change that occurs in the elements of language over time (Lyons, 1981). New generation languages differ significantly from old generation languages, indicating social change. Language change that occurs over time can affect language elements and potentially lead to the death of words, which can happen to any language.

Language not only undergoes changes in society, but it also experiences some dead words. Fromkin (2007) state that dead language is a language that is no longer used in a community or society, or, in other words, the language has lost. Thus, dead language is a term that refers to a particular language that is commonly used in daily life but slowly disappears both in conversation and writing as time goes by, even though it was once active vocabulary. A dead word can completely disappear when it is no longer used by anyone or is only used by a few people; for example, it is only used by elderly people. Some of the dead words may still exist in historical texts or literary works, but they are not actively used in everyday communication.

The phenomenon of dead words occurs in many languages, with various reasons for their demise. According to Tondo (2009), there are several factors

contributing to dead words, such as bilingual or multilingual speakers, globalization, migration, natural disasters, and so on. It can also be caused by technological developments, social changes, or historical events that change the way people view and need communication. In addition, new inventions, cultural invasions, or scientific developments also affect the rise and death of words in a language. These factors lead to the death of words in various categories of vocabulary, including the name of traditional medicine.

Traditional medicine is a method of treatment that has been used for centuries to cure various health issues. Traditional medicine is provided by trusted traditional healers, who use unique terminology and vocabulary in describing diseases, medicines, and practices. According to Djlantik (1983), traditional medicine is one aspect of Indonesian culture that has been passed down orally and in writing from generation to generation. Traditional medicine treats various types of diseases, ranging from mild to severe diseases, even the disease for which no cure has been found. However, as the number of people who believe it decreases and turn to more modern treatments, the unique terminology and phrases of traditional medicines are fading away.

Dead words in traditional medicine involve the elimination of certain words and terms also expressions used in traditional medical procedures. Many words that were once commonly used are now known only to a few people and are often lost due to the lack of maintenance and dissemination of common medical knowledge. This significantly hampers knowledge of this rich and diverse

medical tradition and may contribute to the general disappearance of traditional medical methods.

One of the areas affected by the dead words in the names of traditional medicines is the Sungai Tarab area. Sungai Tarab is one of the sub-districts in Tanah Datar Regency, West Sumatra. Sungai Tarab is the only sub-district with the largest number of nagari in Tanah Datar Regency, namely 10 nagari. The livelihood of the population is farming, but there are also traders, office workers, casual laborers, and a large number of people who migrate. Almost all residents of Sungai Tarab are native Minangkabau speakers who are still quite thick with their culture. However, with the rapid development of technology, Sungai Tarab is also affected by the death of the words in the names of traditional medicines. For example, words like *daun kandidiah*, *urek mandalayan*, *daun lakuan*, and *buah kopo* are obsolete and no longer recognized by the younger generation. Therefore, when the younger generation is asked to look for these traditional medicines, they have difficulty and cannot be trusted because they do not know what medicine it is.

Research on dead words, especially regarding dead words of traditional medicine in West Sumatra has not been widely studied. This research is necessary as well as important to do because there are a lot of words in Minangkabau that have been disappeared over the time. As a result, the younger generation no longer speaks their mother tongue and has no idea how many traditional medicine names there are around.

In recent years, there are some studies that have been done about the dead words. The first research was "Semi-Dead Words Found in Sungayang Sub-District of Tanah Datar Regency," conducted by Wardiah (2017). It was found that lexical change, which accounts for around 89,61% of language changes in this society, is the most common form. The second study was conducted by Wulandari (2019) about "Dead Words of Minangkabaunese Used in Basa Ampek Balai Tapan, Pesisir Selatan." This study mentions a number of elements, including linguistic interaction, globalization, pride in speaking a common tongue, and the absence of objects, that affect how the language of Tapan changes through time.

The third study, conducted by Chyntia (2022), completed this work under the title "The Dead Words of Minangkabaunese Found in Pasir Talang-Solok Selatan." This study discovered that 69 dead words that occur in Pasir Talang-Solok Selatan are belongs to four lexical word groups. The extinction of regional languages is a serious issue that requires serious attention and action. According to Fishman (1980), reviving a dead language takes thousands of years, but if no written archive exists, it is difficult. Indonesian society should consider itself a multilingual society, requiring people to master three languages simultaneously: Indonesian as the language of unity, English as the international language, and their respective ethnic languages to preserve local languages and cultures. Language extinction can bury cultural values stored in a local language unless documented and transmitted. To prevent language shift and extinction, efforts

must be made by both the government and community, including maintaining loyalty to the local language, documentation, studies, and revitalization efforts.

The researcher is interested in studying dead words, particularly in traditional medicine, to encourage the younger generation to value their mother tongue more and use it more often. The research into the death of the Minangkabau language is very important because it has lost many terms over time, impacting communication among the younger generations. The number of native speakers in Sungai Tarab is decreasing, and further research is needed to maintain the colloquial language. This will help the younger generation better understand and use traditional medicine effectively, even if the elders are extinct or the knowledge no longer exists.

Additionally, it is crucial to do this research since it offers a means of preserving the Sungai Tarab community's widely spoken native language and preventing its extinction. In order for the Sungai Tarab area to preserve its local language for future generations, more research on dead words and their causes needs to be conducted. These researchers should be from the area and have sufficient knowledge of the conditions of language development in the area that is the focus of the study. As people who love culture, it is very important to preserve it so that it does not become extinct. While learning a foreign language is not prohibited, it is important to preserve what already exists. Preserving Indonesia's regional languages is an obligation, and collecting data on vocabulary, dialects, and the ins and outs of languages is essential to preventing them from disappearing.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, research problems on dead words can be addressed using various linguistic approaches. First, diachronic theories and methods can be used for historical-comparative linguistics. Second, from a semantic point of view, it concerns the word's meaning. Third, from a sociolinguistic point of view, dead languages can be analyzed through language transition, language change, and language death. Fourth, the morphological studies can be analyzed using word parts. In this study, the researcher uses the term historical comparative which means language death. However, the researcher will focus on the word death in traditional medicine.

1.3 Limitation of the problem

The scope of this research are to find what words in the names of traditional medicines have become extinct and what causative factors the word to become extinct in the Sungai Tarab area. The limitation of the problem in this research is important because dead words in traditional medicine are not only discussed in sociolinguistics, but also in semantic, diachronic, and morphological studies.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the research problem, the formulation of the problem are: "What are the dead words of traditional medicine and the causes of the dead words found in Sungai Tarab Sub-district?"

1.5 Research Questions

The main problem above is elaborated into the following research questions:

1. What are the dead words of traditional medicine found in the Sungai Tarab Sub-District?
2. What are the causative factors of the dead words found in Sungai Tarab Sub-District?

1.6 Purpose of the Research

Concerning the formulation of the research question above, the purposes of the research are:

1. To find out the dead words of traditional medicine found in Sungai Tarab Sub-District.
2. To find out the causative factors the dead words of traditional medicine found in Sungai Tarab Sub-District.

1.7 Significance of the Research

This research is expected to contribute to related research both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research provides information about what dead words and what causes are found in the names of traditional medicines. Practically, the results of this study can be easily used as a reference for further research. Finally, we anticipate that this study will increase societal awareness of the significance of native language usage.

1.8 Definition of Key Term

1. Dead word: a dead word is a word that is no longer used in a community or society and the language is lost. The words that exist in Sungai Tarab District, but now many of the word are not used and understood anymore by the young generation.
2. Minangkabaunese: One of the local languages in Indonesia that used by people of West Sumatra
3. Sungai Tarab District: One of the district areas of Tanah Datar Regency, Batusangkar City
4. Traditional Medicine: Traditional medicine is knowledge, skills, and practices based on theories, beliefs, and experiences of various cultures used in health maintenance and in the prevention, diagnosis, amelioration, or treatment of physical and mental illnesses with various herbs or ritual practices.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

This research aimed to find out which words found in Sungai Tarab Sub-district are dead words and which are the causative of them. Based on the findings and discussion, there are 67 words obtained from elderly informants. Researchers found that some elderly people in the Sungai Tarab area still know the word or name of traditional medicine. However, there is a language or word shift among young informants. Many of the young people did not recognize and use the words. There are 21 words categorized as half-dead words mentioned in the table as words shift and 31 words categorized as unknown words. Then, there are 15 words categorized as known words. Young informants know the word, but it is rarely used and almost dead.

This study found that dead words were the most common, with 31 words, but when combining known and shifted words, the total reached 36 words. This suggests that the older generation still retains and uses these traditional medicine terms, whereas the younger generation prefers *lingua franca*. This shift indicates a gradual disappearance of these words, as fewer speakers are using them.

Through interviews with elderly informants, the researcher was identified six causes contributing to the occurrence of dead words in Sungai Tarab Sub-district. These include the dominant use of a majority language, bilingual or multilingual speakers, globalization, mixed marriages, the use of Indonesian as a *lingua franca*, and the influence of the school system. These factors collectively

contribute to the decline of traditional language associated with traditional medicine, as fewer people continue to use these terms.

The comparisons were drawn with previous studies, such as one conducted by Chyntia Mayelnic (2022) on Dead Words of Minangkabaunese Found in Pasir Talang-Solok Selatan, which identified 69 dead words out of 179. Another study by Wulandari (2019) analyzed dead words of Minangkabaunese in Basa Ampek Balai Tapan, Pesisir Selatan, and highlighted factors such as language contact, globalization, and the influence of lingua franca. These studies provide a broader context for understanding the phenomenon of dead words and its implications for language preservation and evolution

5.2 Suggestion

In this study, the researcher only analyzed dead words and their causes in Sungai Tarab District. This study can be an additional reference for future writers who want to research or learn more about dead languages and dead words. For example, research that compares past and present languages or studies from a linguistic anthropology perspective. You can also analyze how ideas from a cultural and sociolinguistic perspective influence language change or the causes of language change. Many sources can be used to analyze language change, for example, old regional language films and novels.

This study is useful for those of you who want to know more about the causes of language extinction so you can recognize them. Especially for people who use their dialect to maintain their own language or dialect, because it shows their identity. The author hopes that future authors can carry out better research on

dead languages and provide additional information to readers who are interested in studying language death.

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