

# The Lexical and Phonetical Features of the Tengger Dialect of Javanese

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## Abstract

Probolinggo, East Java is an area of Pandalungan. Culturally, the Pandalungan areas mix the culture of Javanese and Madurese, so as the local languages that are used by the society. Most of Probolinggo people use Javanese as well as Madurese language. Besides, there is one more dialect developing in Probolinggo, that is Tengger dialect. It is used by the Tengger society in Tengger Mountainous region around Mount Bromo. The Javanese that is used by the Tengger society is different from the Javanese of Probolinggo or even the standard Javanese. The significant difference is in the pronunciation of the vowel. It tends to have the features of the Old Javanese. By doing Comparative Historical Linguistics study, the features of Tengger dialect compared to the Modern and Old Javanese. It is a qualitative descriptive study. The study uses an observation method to collect the data. Then, they are analyzed by the distributional and identity methods. It indicates that the distribution and development of Javanese as a part of Austronesian language family is not merely innovatively. It can be relix likewise. Lexically and phonetically, the Tengger dialect tends to be similar to the Old Javanese feature. It is not influenced by the Modern ones as the innovative Javanese.

**Keywords:** *Tengger dialect, lexical feature, phonetical feature, Comparative Historical Linguistics*

## Introduction

Probolinggo is one of the northern coastal areas of East Java. Culturally, the society of Probolinggo includes the Pandalungan cultural area. It is a mix between

Javanese and Madurese cultures (Sutarto, 2004, p.15). This mixing culture is also reflected into the local languages used by the Probolinggo society. The people speak at least two local languages, Javanese and Madurese, beside Indonesian as the national language. However, they do not speak the standard Javanese and Madurese, like Solo-Yogya Javanese and Pamekasan-Sumenep Madurese. So, the phenomena of diglossia, code mixing, code switching, and pidgin commonly occur in their daily communication. The people mix the use of both languages, even the form of the vocabulary of Javanese and Madurese as the pidgin.

Actually, the Javanese that is spoken in the province of East Java has four dialects, those are (1) Eastern Javanese dialect, (2) Osing dialect, (3) Tengger dialect, and (4) Solo-Yogya dialect (Pusat Bahasa, 2008, p.38). The Javanese that is used by the Probolinggo society includes the dialect of Eastern Javanese. While most of Probolinggo people are using the Eastern Javanese, there is a society that uses a different Javanese dialect as the Probolinggo society use commonly.

The society inhabits Tengger Mountainous regions around Mount Bromo. It is the Tengger society. The Tengger society uses a Javanese that tends to be different from the Probolinggo Javanese. They can speak Javanese as the Probolinggo people do, either in the *Ngoko* or *Krama* speech level. However, they maintain their own dialect likewise. It is Tengger dialect. It is the other dialect of Javanese developing in East Java. They use the language in their internal society. In this case, they use the Eastern Javanese as usual with the Javanese outside their society, so as the use of *Ngoko* and *Krama* speech levels. They use *Ngoko* Javanese if they know well with whom they speak, but they use *Krama* Javanese if they talk to the foreigner Javanese people.

The Tengger dialect is different from the Eastern Javanese used by the Probolinggo people commonly, as well as the standard Javanese. The differences are especially in terms of the pronunciation and the use of some vocabulary. The significant difference of the pronunciation is especially at the words that consist of vowels [a] and [ɔ] in the ultima syllables.

Based on the background of the study, the Comparative Historical Linguistics study is done. It is to describe the significant lexical and phonetical features of the Tengger dialect, how it is similar and different either from the Modern Javanese

or the Old Javanese; what speech level the dialect has; and how the Tengger people maintain their language.

### **Review of the related literature**

Comparative Historical Linguistics is a study concerning with the change of the language through time. It studies how and why the language of a speech community develops in respect of its pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar (Bynon, 2004). The language that the society use nowadays is not a language that emerges suddenly. It is a language inherited from generation to generation periodically. It changes following the change of time and the development of the society culture.

Periodically, the division of Javanese consists of the Old Javanese, Middle Javanese, New Javanese, and Modern Javanese (see. Mardiarsito and Kridalaksana, 1984). The periods that are distinguished clearly, especially in their phonological and lexical features, are between the Old Javanese and the Modern one. The Old Javanese is considered as the origin of the Modern Javanese and the Sundanese. It includes the Formosa language family (Paiwanik) from Austronesian languages. In East Java, the Old Javanese is the Javanese that was used just before the establishment of Singhasari Kingdom and develops to be Modern one. The Eastern Javanese that is used at present is a part of Modern Javanese.

In terms of the lexical feature, the vocabulary of the Eastern Javanese at present is a part of Modern Javanese. While, the Tengger dialect is part of the Eastern Javanese dialect (Pusat Bahasa, 2008, p.38). Tengger ethnic group lives in the mountainous region of Tengger, around Mount Bromo. It is popular by the name of Bromo Tourism Area. Administratively, Tengger area is located in the border area of four district areas of East Java Province. They are Kabupaten Probolinggo, Kabupaten Pasuruan, Kabupaten Malang, and Kabupaten Lumajang. The people of Tengger live in 34 villages. Most of the villages are in Kabupaten Probolinggo, those are 14 villages. There are 8 other villages in Kabupaten Pasuruan, 1 village in Kabupaten Malang, and 1 more in Kabupaten Lumajang (Suyitno and Sapari, 2000:14-15).

In terms of the pronunciation, the study concerns with the phonetical feature of the Tengger dialect vocabulary, especially in the pronunciation of the vowels [a] and [ɔ] that occur in the ultima syllables. In Modern Javanese, the phone [a] occurs in closed ultima syllable only, such as *paran* [paran] ‘visit’, *tekan* [təkan] ‘arrive’, *tandang* [tandaŋ] ‘work’. While, the phone [ɔ] occurs in either opened or closed ultima syllables, such as *para* [pəɔ] ‘the’, *teka* [təkɔ] ‘come’, *tandha* [təndɔ] ‘sign’, *lontong* [ləntɔŋ] ‘rice cake’, *bolong* [bəlɔŋ] ‘hollowed out’ (see. Wedhawati, 2001, Sasangka, 2011).

On the other hand, in Old Javanese, the phones [a] can be pronounced both in opened and closed ultima syllables, such as *aba* [aba] ‘sound’, *cora* [cora] ‘thief’, *dewa* [dewa] ‘dewa’, *paran* [paran], *sah* [sah] ‘separated’, *mihat* [mihat] ‘looking at’. While, the phone [ɔ] occurs only in closed ultima syllable, such as *kokoh* [kəkɔh] ‘rustic rice’, *rondon* [rəndɔŋ] ‘leaf’, *cor* [cɔr] ‘oath’ (Marsono, 1999).

## Method

It is a qualitative descriptive study. The study describes the significant phonetical and lexical features of the Tengger dialect qualitatively. Phonetically, it describes the feature of the vowels used in the Tengger dialect vocabulary. Lexically, it analyzes the feature of some vocabulary that are different from the Modern Javanese.

The data is the words of the Tengger Javanese. They are collected by using observation method. The research is done by observing the use of the Tengger dialect directly. In this case, the study focuses on the pronunciation of the words used by the people of Tengger. The recording technique that is continued by transcribing one is used to collect the data. It uses phonetical transcribing by using IPA symbols. It is done to get the real and exact phonetical feature from the pronunciation of the words. Besides, the inventory of the Tengger vocabulary is done to analyze the lexical feature of the vocabulary.

After collecting the data, they are analyzed by using the distributional and identity method. The distributional method is to analyze a language system or all rules that sets a language based on the linguistic behavior and characteristic of the particular language units (Sudaryanto, 2001). In analyzing the data, the

constituents of the words are segmented to separate the consonants and the vowels. It is to get the phonetical feature of the Tengger dialect significant vowels,

The translational identity method (see. Sudaryanto, 2001) is used to analyze the lexical feature of the data. It analyzes the data by comparing and contrasting them to the Javanese based on the different periods, which are the Modern and Old ones. The words of Tengger dialect are compared to the words of the Modern Eastern Javanese and Old Javanese, which is Kawi language.

### **Findings and discussion**

In terms of areal, the four areas of Tengger rarely visit one another. It is because the structure of the mountains is difficult to have relationship for the people of those four areas. They are easier to have relationship with the other areas in their own district than with the other areas of Tengger. The Probolinggo Tengger is easier to go to the other areas of Probolinggo, Pasuruan Tengger to the other areas of Pasuruan, so as Malang and Lumajang Tengger. They usually meet in the religious event that they have to do together, such as Kasada. It is a religious ceremony of Hinduism that they celebrate on the crater of Bromo.

In terms of language, the Tengger society use Javanese to communicate to the people outside the Tengger areas, either in *Ngoko* or *Krama* level of speech. It is more similar to the Javanese that the Probolinggo society usually use. It is the Eastern Javanese. However, the Tengger society have their own dialect to communicate in their internal society. It is different from the dialect of their Javanese. The Tengger dialect tends to be similar in four areas of Tengger. This particular dialect is used to communicate with the Tengger people only, either Probolinggo, Pasuruan, Malang, and Lumajang Tengger society. Although they rarely get in touch each other, they maintain their own dialect. It is the Tengger dialect of Javanese. Below is the example of the conversation of the Tengger people:

A: *Paran sing rika tandangi, Kang?* [paran sIn rika tandanꞑ kan] ‘What do you do, Sir?’

B: *Esun ora bisa ngapa-ngapa* [esUn ora bisa ŋapa ŋapa] ‘I can do nothing.’

A: *Lah ngapa?* [la ŋapa] ‘Why?’

B: *Nana picise* [nana picise] ‘No money.’

From the conversation above, It can be stated that some words are similar to the common Javanese, such as *sing*, *rika*, *tandangi*, *kang*, *ora*, *bisa*, *ngapa*, and *lah*. Some other words have never been used by the Javanese, such as *paran*, *esun*, *nana*, and *picis*. Those words, *paran*, *esun* (it can be from *ingsun*), *nana*, *picis* are found in the vocabulary of Kawi or Old Javanese dictionary. (<http://www.sastra.org/bahasa-dan-budaya/38-kamus-dan-leksikon/226-kawi-jarwa-dirjasupraba-1931-1263>). To make it clear, it is illustrated in Table 1 below.

Table 1. The Example Tengger Vocabulary

NO	GLOS	MODERN JAVANESE	OLD JAVANESE
1	PARAN		√
2	SING	√	
3	RIKA	√	
4	TANDANGI	√	
5	KANG	√	
6	ESUN		√
7	ORA	√	
8	BISA	√	
9	NGAPA-NGAPA	√	
10	LAH	√	
11	NANA		√
12	PICISE		√

Table 1 shows that some vocabulary of Tengger dialect still use the vocabulary of Old Javanese that are not used anymore in the Modern Javanese. They are *paran*, *esun*, *nana*, *picis*. However, some are still used in Modern one. They are *sing*, *rika*, *tandangi*, *kang*, *ora*, *bias*, *ngapa-ngapa*, *lah*.

In terms of vocabulary, most of the Javanese people understand the meaning of the conversation. Most of them are usually used in the Modern Javanese, as well as in the Eastern Javanese. However, the pronunciation of the vocabulary is different from the pronunciation of today's Javanese, either the Eastern or even the standard Javanese. The words that are written in alphabeth 'a' should be pronounced [ɔ] if they occur in opened ultima syllable, such as *rika* [rikɔ], *bisa* [bisɔ], *ngapa* [ŋɔpɔ]. They should be pronounced [a] if they occur in closed ultima syllable, such as *paran* [paran], *kang* [kaŋ], *tandang* [tandaŋ].

However, they do not occur in the case of Tengger Javanese. Whenever the words are written in alphabeth 'a', they remain to be pronounced [a]. No matter, they are occur in the opened or closed ultima syllables. In other words that the pronunciation of the phone [a] can be done either in opened or closed ultima syllables. While, in the Modern standard Javanese rule, vowel [a] is only pronounced in the closed ultima syllable. At the opened ultima syllable, it has to be pronounced [ɔ]. They have to be pronounced *bisa* [bisɔ], *ngapa* [ŋɔpɔ], as stated in the table 2 below.

Table 2. The Pronunciation of Vowel [a] in the Words

NO	GLOS	EASTERN JAVANESE	TENGGER JAVANESE	MEANING
1	PARAN	[paran]	[paran]	what
2	RIKA	[rikɔ]	[rika]	you
3	TANDANG	[tandaŋ]	[tandaŋ]	work
4	KANG	[kaŋ]	[kaŋ]	older brother
5	ORA	[ora]*	[ora]	no
6	BISA	[bisɔ]	[bisa]	be able

7	NGAPA	[ŋəpə]	[ŋapa]	why
8	LAH	[lah]	[lah]	a particle
9	NANA	[nənə]	[nana]	none

\*Exclusion in the pronunciation of the Modern Javanese

Table 2 shows that the pronunciation of Tengger dialect is similar to the pronunciation of Old Javanese rather than Modern Javanese that the Javanese people know well at this time, either in the Eastern or standard Javanese. It is not influenced by the rule of the Modern Javanese pronunciation. The Tengger people maintain their pronunciation of their words as they usually do, as their last generation did.

On the other hand, for the pronunciation of phone [ɔ], the words of the Tengger dialect can be pronounced only in closed ultima syllables. The words are listed at the table 3 below.

Table 3. The Pronunciation of Vowel [ɔ] in the Words

NO	GLOS	EASTERN JAVANESE	TENGGER JAVANESE	MEANING
1	LONTONG	[lɔntɔŋ]	[lɔntɔŋ]	rice cake
2	GOTONG ROYONG	[gɔtɔŋ rɔjɔŋ]	[gɔtɔŋ rɔjɔŋ]	cooperation
3	GODHONG	[gɔdɔŋ]	[gɔdɔŋ]	leaf
4	ADOH	[adɔh]	[adɔh]	far
5	KALONG	[kalɔŋ]	[kalɔŋ]	bat
6	KOMBONG	[kɔmbɔŋ]	[kɔmbɔŋ]	chicken coop
7	BOTOL	[bɔtɔl]	[bɔtɔl]	bottle

Table 3 shows that the vowel [ɔ] in Tengger dialect occurs only at the words that have closed ultima syllable. They are *lontong*, *gotong royong*, *godhong*, *adoh*,



*kalong, kombong, botol*. The vowel [ɔ] in the words is written with alphabet 'o'. The vowel [ɔ] never occurs in the opened ultima syllable. It is different from the Modern Javanese words. Beside there many words that can be pronounced by the vowel [ɔ] in the closed ultima syllable, the vowel [ɔ] is emerged also in the opened ultima syllable.

Based on the observation, the Tengger dialect does not have the division on speech level. It has no variation of speech level. The people use the same level of language in communicating one another. The younger people use such dialect in communication with the older ones. In other case, the Modern Javanese divides the dialect to be two even more speech levels. At least, the Eastern Javanese has *Ngoko* and *Krama* levels, more levels that are used in the standard Javanese. In communicating with the outsider of Tengger society, they can also use the level of speech of *Ngoko* and *Krama* of the Eastern Javanese. They are able to communicate by using the Eastern Javanese, the dialect that is different from their own dialect. They do such communication because of their relationship with the Javanese people outside their area. Their profession as farmers and traders make them easily having relationship with the people surroundings. Moreover, Mount Bromo is an international tourism destination. It makes them easy communicating with the people not only around Indonesia but also around the world. It often occurs that the people of Tengger can communicate in Madurese, even in English likewise, like the Probolinggo people do. The Madurese can influence their Eastern Javanese, but it cannot influence their Tengger dialect. Although they have limited vocabulary, they maintain it. It is shown in the use of the Tengger dialect by the young and old people. They use the same variation of the language. It is not changed.

From the cases above, it can be stated that Tengger society is not an isolated area. The people make relationship with the others around them. They speak the language of the surrounding society. However, they maintain their own language. Their language is not influenced by the development around them. It is not influenced also by Madurese language. It is different from the Javanese spoken by the Probolinggo people who are influenced much by the Madurese.

Moreover, the Tengger society maintain the use of *hanacaraka* symbols in their daily life. They know well the Latin-styled Indonesian Standard Writing, because it is compulsory to use in the terms of formal education at school. However, the people still read the Hinduism religious scriptures, they still write the *hanacaraka* symbols as the Javanese Writing Standard on the *lontar* (palm) leaves as a part of religious ceremonies offerings, at the boards of street and temple names. Besides, the people must also use the written symbols to write the name of people who have passed away on their gravestone as their identity. It is easily recognized by the families if they want to visit the tomb. While, the common Javanese people rarely use such symbol anymore without government interference, such as in the term of formal education and the culture preservation.

The Tengger society lives in modern way of life but they maintain their cultural life. They speak the language of modern Javanese but they maintain their ancient language at least in their internal social communication. It proves that the distribution of the Javanese as a family of Paiwanik Formosa from Austronesian languages is not only inovative but also relix. It does not only develop following the world development but also maintain the native culture, does not change from the original one. The Tengger dialect tends to be a retention dialect, that is from Old Javanese.

### **Conclusion and suggestion**

The Tengger dialect is different from the Eastern Javanese. The Eastern one includes the Modern Javanese. However, the Tengger Javanese tends to be similar with the Kawi or Old Javanese. The features they use are more similar with the features of Old Javanese rather than the Modern one. One of the similarities is in the terms of the phonetical feature, that is in the vowel [a] pronunciation. The words written in alphabet 'a' remain to read in [a] pronunciation although in the words having opened ultima syllable. They do not obey the rule of the Modern Javanese pronunciation. At the lexical feature, there are words of Tengger dialect which belong to the Old Javanese vocabulary. Some of them are not used anymore in Modern Javanese, but some are still used in Modern one.

The Tengger people do not have the level of speech in communicating with their internal society. They only have a variation of Tengger Javanese. They maintain their native dialect in spoken and written variety until nowadays, although they are not an isolated society. They use such variety in their daily life and their religious ceremonies. It means the distribution and the development of the Javanese language as a part of Paiwanik Formosa Language Family from the Austronesian Languages is not merely innovatively. It can be relax likewise. The Tengger dialect is a retention language.

This study which is about the Tengger Javanese dialect is not a wide and deep research. There are many opportunities for other researchers to explore such research. There are many aspects that have not been studied yet in the dialect. It is an effort to maintain and preserve the local languages in Indonesia. So, it will not be extinct, as it occurs to many other local languages in Indonesia.

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