



Jurnal Pendidikan dan Sastra Inggris

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DIALECT VARIETIES OF ALAS, GAYO AND KARO

VARIETAS DIALEKTIKA ALAS, GAYO DAN KARO

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ABSTRACT

This study was aimed to describe the factors of varieties of Alas, Gayo, and Karo dialects in Southeast Aceh province. The focus was on the verb usage in those three dialects. This study was designed qualitatively. The collected data was from the individual interviewee who is the speaker of Gayo, Alas, and Karo. The data consisted of the phonemes/accents and vocabularies from those three languages. On the basis of the research findings, the varieties of Alas and Gayo dialect cause by the distance and geographical factor. Whereas the influenced factor that make Alas and Karo dialects are varied is the historical factor where these two languages had been mixed since hundred years ago. Also, the close relationship in those three dialects becomes the factor that triggers the varieties of dialects. In conclusion, the factor of dialect varieties of Alas, Gayo, and Karo are caused by some factors, namely geographical factor, historical factor, and the close relationship among the languages.

Keywords: Varieties, dialects, Karo, Alas, Gayo

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan faktor ragam dialek Alas, Gayo, dan Karo di Provinsi Aceh Tenggara. Fokusnya adalah pada penggunaan kata kerja dalam ketiga dialek tersebut. Penelitian ini dirancang secara kualitatif. Data yang dikumpulkan adalah dari individu narasumber yang merupakan pembicara Gayo, Alas, dan Karo. Data terdiri dari fonem/aksen dan kosa kata dari ketiga bahasa tersebut. Berdasarkan temuan penelitian, keragaman dialek Alas dan Gayo disebabkan oleh faktor jarak dan geografis. Sedangkan faktor yang mempengaruhi perbedaan dialek Alas dan Karo adalah faktor sejarah dimana kedua bahasa ini bercampur sejak ratusan tahun yang lalu. Keeratan hubungan ketiga dialek tersebut juga menjadi faktor pemicu keragaman dialek. Kesimpulannya, faktor ragam dialek Alas, Gayo, dan Karo disebabkan oleh beberapa faktor, yaitu faktor geografis, faktor sejarah, dan kedekatan hubungan antarbahasa.

Received Juli 27, 2022; Revised Agustus 12, 2022; Accepted September 26, 2022

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Kata kunci: *Varietas, dialek, Karo, Alas, Gayo*

INTRODUCTION

The concept of language varieties are the features which make each language sounds and uses differently based on the area of the language speakers live or where they come from. The variety of language can refer to the various forms of language triggered by ethnicity, geography, social status, age and gender, and history. The language may change from region to region, from one class to another, from individual to individual, and from situation to situation. This actual changes result in the varieties of language. In the light of language varieties, the term of “dialect” is appeared. Dialect is spoken by a speech of community, which is characterized by systematic features such as phonological, lexical; grammatical those distinguish it from other varieties of that same language.

This also makes the language shows the identity of its speakers. In Southeast Aceh province, the active languages used are Alas, Karo, and Gayo. As language we speak commonly have variations, the language varieties between Alas, Karo, and Gayo can be shown in their phoneme and some vocabularies used. In the light of these dialects, the researcher was interested to study about factors that cause the variation between those three active dialects used in Southeast Aceh. Therefore, the research questions of this mini research were proposed; What are the factors of language variety in Alas and Gayo dialect?

What are the factors of language variety in Alas and Karo dialect?

The aim of this study was to analyze the varieties of dialect used in Alas and Gayo in Southeast Aceh in terms of verb usage focuses on its phoneme and vocabulary. Also, Similarities among dialect used in Alas in Southeast Aceh with Karo in the Province of North Sumatera was investigated.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In the Southeast Aceh, the languages spoken are variant since the Southeast Aceh regency is also settled by people from GayoLues regency which cause the existence of ethnic groups in this region. Regarding to its geographical and administration, the district of Southeast Aceh and GayoLues are already separated but the varieties of language spoken are still considered boundless among the regions. The regency of Southeast Aceh has specific language features. According to Asyik (1978), in Southeast Aceh area, there are three other language groups live: the Gayonese (the Gayo people), the Alas (the Alas people), and the Kluet people. The Gayonese live mainly in the regency of Central Aceh (Capital: Takengon) and some in the regency of Southeast Aceh; the Alas people live in the regency of Southeast Aceh (Capital: Kutacane); and the Kluet people live in the mountain area of South Aceh.

Underlying to the note of Education and Culture Department in the Gayo literature, Gayo ethnic or known as “*urangGayo*” means “Gayo people” are the ethnic which lives in the region of Blangkejeren (GayoLues regency), Takengon (Central Aceh regency), and Serbejadi (East Aceh regency). The older generation usually names GayoLues for Blangkejeren region, GayoLut (Laut) for Takengon region, and GayoSerbejadi for Serbejadi region. Safriandi also adds that Gayo has three different dialects in different regency namely GayoLut (divided into two subdialects; Bukit and Cit) in Central Aceh, GayoLues in Southeast Aceh, and GayoSerbejadi in East Aceh.

Another language used in Southeast Aceh is alas. This language has a close influence with Batak language since there is a mixture of both ethnics. According to Batara (2014), the descendant of Siraja Batak spreads since hundred years ago from Samosir to Tanah Batak. Those descendants are Gayo, Alas, Karo, and Simalungun people. Here, Alas and Gayo ethnic are indeed different as Batak ethnic. Nevertheless, it is found that the investigation about clan

name system, custom of law, and language have many similarities among those ethnics, especially Alas and Batak Karo ethnic.

As stated by Soravia (1984), the Alas language has been considered from time to time either as a dialect of Karo or Gayo, without apparently feeling the need of studying the language by itself. Asyik (1987) also adds that the language of Alas has a very close similarity with the language of Karo, a neighboring language in the Province of North Sumatera. During his research on the morphology of Alas in 1978, the informants told him that the Alas could understand most of the conversation in Karo, and so could understand the Karo people most of the conversation in Alas. The two languages share many similar words.

METHOD

This mini research was designed qualitatively. The collected data was from the individual interviewee who is the speaker of Gayo, Alas, and Karo. The data consisted of the phoneme/accents and regional dialect from the three languages. An interview is used as the instrument of mini research.

RESULT

Alas and Gayo are the languages used in Southeast Aceh. However, since the entry of Gayo language to Southeast Aceh, the root of Alas language is influenced by Gayo which makes Alas and Gayo languages have similarities and differences. We find out there are some words in terms of verb usage which have the same meaning, but the phonemes of the two languages have a difference. As shown in the table:

Table 1 Similar and Different Phoneme between Gayo and Alas Language

No	Word	Phoneme		Meaning
		Gayo	Alas	
1	Menangis	Perak / P ₃ ræk /	Pekhak/ p ₃ hæk /	Cry
2	Menampar	Tampar / Tampar /	Tampagh / Tampah /	Punch
3	Belajar	Belejer / B ₃ l ₃ j ₃ r /	Belajagh / B ₃ l ₃ j ₃ h /	Study
4	Belanja	Belenye / B ₃ l ₃ ny ₃ /	Belanje / B ₃ lanj ₃ /	Shop
5	Membayar	Beyer / B ₃ y ₃ r /	Bayagh / B ₃ y ₃ h /	Pay
6	Membaca	Baca / B ₃ ca /	Bace / B ₃ ca /	Read
7	Menampung	Tampung / tæmpung /	Tampung / tæmpung /	Accomodate
8	Menambah	Tambah/tambah/	Tambah/tambah/	Add
9	Mengatur	Atur/ætur/	Atugh/ætur/	Manage
10	Menangkap	Tangkap/tængkap/	Tangkap/tængkap/	Catch
11	Menarik	Tari' /tæri/	Naghik/næghik/	Pull
12	Percaya	Caya/cæyæ/	Caye/cay ₃ /	Believe
13	Membungkuk	Bungkuk/buŋkuk/	Bungkuk/buŋkuk/	Bow
14	Mendorong	Tula' /tula'/	Tulak/tulak/	Push
15	Mengejar	Kejar/k ₃ j ₃ r /	Kejagh/k ₃ j ₃ h /	Chase
16	Mengobrol	Cerite/c ₃ rit ₃ /	Ceghite/ceyit ₃ /	Chat
17	Turun	Turun/turun/	Tukhun/tukhun/	Go down
18	Menemukan	Depet /dap ₃ t/	Dapat/dapat/	Find
19	Menyeberang	Sebrang/s ₃ br ₃ ŋ /	Nyebrang/ny ₃ br ₃ ŋ /	Cross
20	Mencuci	Nyesah/ny ₃ sah/	Nyesah /ny ₃ sah/	Wash
21	Memeriksa	Perikse /p ₃ riks ₃ /	Peghikse /p ₃ yiks ₃ /	Check

Alas and Gayo also have language variations in some vocabularies that have same meaning but have different words.

Table 2 Varieties of Dialect in Gayo and Alas Language

No	Word	Dialect		Meaning
		Gayo	Alas	
1	Berlari	Sangka / Sangkæ /	L ₃ tun / Letun /	Run
2	Pergi	Beluh / B ₃ Luh /	Laus / Læus /	Go
3	Tidur	Neme / N ₃ m ₃ /	Medem / M ₃ d ₃ m /	Sleep
4	Menikah	Kerje / K ₃ rj ₃ /	Kawin / Kæwi:n /	Marry
5	Datang	Enggeh / Ènggèh /	Khoh / Hoh /	Come
6	Memijak	Lenget / L ₃ ngæt /	Dedoh / D ₃ doh /	Trample
7	Melempar	Nagur / Nægur /	Gebogh / G ₃ boh /	Throw
8	Membawa	Wah / Wæh /	Babe / Bæb ₃ /	Bring
9	Membeli	Beli / B ₃ li: /	Tukogh / Tukoh /	Buy
10	Berjalan	Ralan / Rælan /	Dalan / Dælan /	Walk
11	Berhenti	Teduh / T ₃ duh /	Tadi / Tædi: /	Stop
12	Menakuti	Terih / T ₃ rih /	Biagh / Biyæh /	Scare
13	Tertawa	Kedik / K ₃ dik /	Tawe / Tæw ₃ /	Laugh
14	Kerja	Buet / Bu ₃ t /	Bahan / Bahain /	Work
15	Berdiri	Sesuk / S ₃ suk /	Cindogh / Cindoh /	Stand
16	Duduk	Kunul / Kunul /	Tando' / Tændo' /	Sit
17	Mencari	Kenal / K ₃ næl /	Gaghom / Gægom /	Search
18	Berbaring	Malang / Mælanġ /	Galang / Gælanġ /	Lay
19	Memegang	Amat / æmat /	Gelem / G ₃ l ₃ m /	Hold
20	Teriak	Ensari' / Ensari' /	Dempik / D ₃ mpi:k /	Scream
21	Memberi	Usah/usah/	Re /r ₃ /	Give
22	Mendekati	Dekat/d ₃ kat/	Donoh/donoh/	Approach
23	Meminta	Tiro/tiro/	Pido/pido/	Request
24	Berkelahi	Pelolo/p ₃ lolo/	Rubat/rubat/	Fight
25	Melarang	Enti ₃ nti/	Ulang/ulanġ/	Forbid
26	Menggigit	Ket/k ₃ t/	Karat /kARAt/	Bite
27	Menyembunyikan	Tunin/tunin/	Cunik/cunġk/	Hide
28	Memperbaiki	Jerohi/j ₃ rohi/	Jilei/jilei/	Fix
29	Menghilang	Mosop/mosop/	Bene /b ₃ n ₃ /	Disappear
30	Menukar	Tuker/tuk ₃ r/	Sambagh/sAMBAY/	Exchange
31	Menemani	Pongi /ponġi/	Mbangi /mbANġi/	Accompany
32	Mengambil	Ete ₃ t ₃ /	Buet /buwet/	Take
33	Memberikan	Usah/usAH/	Ghe/ġ ₃ /	Give
34	Menyediakan	Bun /bun/	Bahan/bAHAN/	Provide
35	Mendekati	Dekati/d ₃ kati/	Donohi/donohi/	Approach
36	Menunggu	Nampin/nAMPIN/	Timai/timay/	Wait
37	Mendorong	Tulak/tulAK/	Duruk/duruk/	Push
38	Mengizinkan	Usah/usAH/	Ghe/ġ ₃ /	Allow
39	Menggigit	Ket/k ₃ t/	Keghat/k ₃ ġAt/	Bite
40	Memanggil	Talu /tAlu/	Tenggo/t ₃ ŋgo/	Call
41	Menembak	Timak /timAK/	Tembak /t ₃ mbAK/	Shoot

After seeing the results of the analysis of Alas and Gayo language variations, the variations that show similarities are presented only in phonemes. After reviewing, it was precisely that Alas languages have similarities with Karo languages. The Karo language is one of the languages of Batak ethnic. Alas and Karo ethnic are different, but based on research, Alas language has similarities in its dialect and phoneme with Batak Karo language. As in the following table:

Table 3 Alas Language has Similarities in its Dialect and Phoneme with Batak Karo Language (Dialect)

No	Word	Dialect		Meaning
		Alas	Karo	
1	Pergi	Laus / Læus /	Lawes / Læw _s /	Go
2	Tidur	Medem / M _o d _o m /	Medem / M _o d _o m/	Sleep
3	Datang	Khoh / Hoh /	Reh / R _o h /	Come
4	Memijak	Dedoh / D _o doh /	Dedeh / D _o d _o h /	Trample
5	Membawa	Babe / Bæb _o /	Baba / Bæba /	Bring
6	Membeli	Tukogh / Tukoh /	Tukur / Tukur /	Buy
7	Berjalan	Dalan / Dælan /	Dalen / Dæln /	Walk
8	Menakuti	Biagh / Biyæh /	Mbiar / mbiyar /	Scare
9	Tertawa	Tawe / Tæw _o /	Tawa / Tæwa /	Laugh
10	Mencari	Gaghom / Gægom /	Daram / Daræm/	Search
11	Memegang	Gelem / G _o l _o m /	Gelem / G _o l _o m /	Hold

Table 4 Alas Language has Similarities in its Dialect and Phoneme with Batak Karo Language (Phoneme)

No	Word	Phoneme		Meaning
		Karo	Alas	
1	Minum	Minem/min _o m/	Minum/minum/	Drink
2	Malas	Kisat/kisat/	Kisat/kisat/	Lazy
3	Jatuh	Ndabuh/ndabuh/	Ndabuh /ndabuh/	Fall
4	Jalan	Dalan/dalan/	Dalan/dalan/	Walk
5	Pegang	Tagang/tagang/	Tagang/tagang/	Hold
6	Ganti	Ganci/ganci/	Gancih/gancih/	Change
7	Terbang	Kabang/kabang/	Kabang/kabang/	Fly
8	Masak	Tasak /tasak/	Tasa' /tasak/	Cook
9	Makan	Man /man/	Mangan/mangyan/	Eat
10	Gigit	Karat /karat/	Kaghat/kaghat/	Bite
11	Meludah	Cidur/cidur/	Cidugh /ciduy/	Spit
12	Mendengar	Begi/b _o gi/	Bege/b _o g _o /	Listen
13	Bernapas	Erkesah / _o rk _o sah/	Engkesah / _o ηk _o sah/	Breathe
14	Melihat	Ngidah/ηidah/	Ngidah/ηidah/	See
15	Berkelahi	Rubat/rubat/	Ghubat/yubat/	Fight
16	Memukul	Mekpek/m _o kp _o k/	Pekpek/p _o kp _o k/	Hit
17	Memotong	Sayat/sayat/	Sayat/sayat/	Cut
18	Berdiri	Cinder /cinder/	Cindegh/cind _o y/	Stand up
19	Mengikat	Iket/iket/	Iket/iket/	Bound
20	Membunuh	Munuh/munuh/	Mbunuh/mbunuh/	Kill
21	Naik	Jinto/jinto/	Cinto/cinto/	Rise
22	Menanam	Suan/suan/	Suan/suan/	Plant

23	Menunjuk	Tuduh/tuduh/	Tuduh/tuduh/	Point out
24	Mencuri	Nangko/nan̄ko/	Nangko/nan̄ko/	Steal
25	Menerima	Alo/alo/	Alo/alo/	Accept

DISCUSSION

To answer the first and second research question, the researcher would like to address several factors that make the dialects between Alas and Gayo, and Alas and Karo are varied to each other. The influenced factors could be derived from some aspects include historical view, distance and environmental among the regions, and the close relation of kinship in those three dialects.

Historical Factor

The similarities between Alas and Gayo dialects could be explained with its historical view. Here, the influence of Karo ethnic cannot be separated from Alas and Batak since those three ethnics had been united. It can be seen from the interplay between Alas and Batak languages has been intertwined hundreds of years ago. Harahap (1958: 36) writes that according to Siraja Batak descent, from Samosir scattered Batak people to remote Batak land, namely: Gayo, Alas, and Karo people to the north of the lake. According to Batara (2014), the descendant of Siraja Batak spreads since hundred years ago from Samosir to Tanah Batak. Those descendants are Gayo, Alas, Karo, and Simalungun people. From this historical journey, it could be identified that Gayo, Alas and Karo have a close language relation that actively used in Southeast Aceh.

Distance and Geographical Factor

Alas language is a local language that is still well maintained by Alas residents who in Southeast Aceh district. Gayo language is also a language used as a daily language by the Gayonese in Southeast Aceh regency which is a supporting element and a regional culture developer there. In the Southeast Aceh, the languages spoken are variant since the Southeast Aceh regency is also settled by people from Gayo Lues regency which cause the existence of ethnic groups in this region. Regarding to its geographical and administration, the district of Southeast Aceh and Gayo Lues are already separated but the varieties of language spoken are still considered boundless among the regions.

Whereas Karo language is a language used by the Karo people who inhabit the Karo Plateau (Karo District) in the Province of North Sumatera. The distance between Southeast Aceh district and North Sumatera is close. Therefore the language of Karo known as the neighbor language in Southeast Aceh. This factor makes Alas and Karo dialects are varied since the existence of these two ethnics are near in term of the geographical distance.

The Close Relationship Factor

Based on the result analysis, it can be found that there is a slightly difference between Alas and Karo language which indicated that these dialects have more similarities than Alas and Gayo dialect. This could be interpreted that Alas and Karo have a close relationship and share many similar words in term of phoneme and vocabulary. While Alas and Gayo only share some similar words to each other.

From the existing literature, this could be identified by finding the lexicostatistic between Alas, Gayo, and Karo dialects. Refer to the source of some journal articles, a cognate study between these dialects from Dardanila (2015) had found that the similarity of three dominant languages spoken in Southeast area namely Alas, Gayo, and Karo has its quantitative

measurement. The percentage of relationship level between Karo and Alas is 65%, Gayo and Alas is 47%, whereas Gayo and Karo is 37%.

This measurement also indicates that Alas and Karo have a close relationship and share many similar words in term of phoneme and vocabulary. While Alas- Gayo and Gayo-Karo only share some similar words. In the relationship of Alas and Gayo language, a comparative study from Sari (2012) in Aceh, Alas, and Gayo language regarding to their lexicostatistic adds that the percentage of Alas and Gayorelationship level is 62%, means that Alas and Gayo is a *family* language and is still under the same language used respectively in Southeast Aceh.

CONCLUSION

It is worth noting that Alas, Gayo and Karo are the active languages used in Southeast Aceh province. Since the languages used are varied, it makes the phoneme and vocabulary used are varied either. The factors that make three languages have the similarities and differences could be viewed from three main factors. From the view of history, Alas and Gayo was under the same descendants as Karo. Move to the geographical factor, the distance between Alas and Gayo district is near which makes these languages are used respectively in Southeast Aceh province. Another language used is Karo. Studies revealed that Karo and Alas share many similar words either in its phoneme and vocabulary while Alas and Gayo only share a few similarities in its phoneme and vocabulary. This mini research was also to contribute positively to the academic discussion in order to let people from different cultural backgrounds to be properly informed about the varieties of Southeast Aceh ethnics and dialects.

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