



Serang Javanese Speech Contest at SMK Global 2 Bandung to Preserve the Use of Serang Javanese

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Submitted :15/01/25

Accepted :23/06/25

Published:23/06/25

ABSTRACT

Language is one of the essential abilities that humans have to communicate, both between speakers and listeners, because humans are social creatures who interact with each other. In Indonesia, the use of regional languages is very diverse, with more than 700 existing regional languages, for example Banten Javanese. Banten Javanese is the result of a meeting between Demak Javanese, Cirebon Javanese, and Sundanese spoken by Banten natives when the Sultanate of Banten was formed in 1525. Over time, the Serang Javanese language began to fade. Although not yet comprehensive, in certain places, for example at SMK T 2 Global, activities have begun to be carried out that aim to preserve the Serang Javanese language. This article is presented through literature and interview methods. Bebasan Javanese language can be said to have begun to lead to extinction due to several causal factors, namely parents not teaching their children and Serang Javanese language is also considered difficult in terms of vocabulary and pronunciation.

ABSTRAK

Bahasa merupakan salah satu kemampuan esensial yang dimiliki manusia untuk berkomunikasi, baik antara penutur maupun pendengar, karena manusia adalah makhluk sosial yang saling berinteraksi. Di Indonesia, penggunaan bahasa daerah sangatlah beragam, dengan lebih dari 700 bahasa daerah yang ada contohnya bahasa jawa serang. Bahasa Jawa Banten merupakan hasil pertemuan antara bahasa Jawa Demak, Jawa Cirebon, dan bahasa Sunda yang digunakan oleh penduduk asli Banten saat Kesultanan Banten dibentuk pada tahun 1525. Seiring berjalananya waktu, Bahasa Jawa Serang mulai memudar. Meskipun belum menyeluruh, pada tempat tertentu contohnya di SMK T 2 Global telah mulai dilakukan kegiatan yang bertujuan untuk melestarikan bahasa Jawa Serang. Artikel ini disajikan melalui metode literatur dan wawancara. Bahasa Jawa Bebasan dapat dikatakan sudah mulai mengarah pada kepunahan karna beberapa faktor penyebab yaitu orang tua tidak mengajarkan kepada anak-anaknya dan bahasa Jawa serang juga dianggap sulit dari segi kosakata maupun penyebutan.

Kata Kunci : pidato, melestarikan, Jawa Serang

PENDAHULUAN

Language is an essential skill possessed by everyone for communication, both between speaker and listener, because humans are social beings who constantly communicate. Indonesian is recognized as the national formal language and serves as a

second language for Indonesian society, while regional languages remain the primary language in daily communication. This is emphasized by Shamila (2018:3), who states that the national language of this country is Indonesian, which functions as a second language for the community. Thus,

Indonesian society uses the country's formal language without disregarding the mother tongue or regional languages when interacting, whether individually or in groups.

In Indonesia, the use of regional languages is very diverse, with over 700 existing regional languages. It is recorded that Indonesia has about 746 regional languages, sixty percent of which are located in eastern Indonesia (Dharma, 2011). This shows that regional languages play an important role as one of the primary languages applied by Indonesian society.

Javanese is a language with many speakers. Javanese speakers are not only from Central Java, East Java, and West Java bordering Central Java, but are also found in the Banten region. In fact, in Banten province, Javanese is the dominant language used, especially in the Serang Regency area, which is known for its Serang dialect. The Serang dialect is divided into two types: Serang Javanese, which has certain distinctive vocabulary and is still influenced by other surrounding languages, and Bebasan Javanese, which is known to be more difficult in terms of sentences and pronunciation.

Banten Javanese is the result of a meeting between Demak Javanese, Cirebon Javanese, and Sundanese used by the native inhabitants of Banten when the Banten Sultanate was formed in 1525. For tens and even hundreds of years, the combination of these three languages gave birth to a new, complete language, with linguistic rules different from its original languages. Along with Pegon script, which is Arabic script used for Banten Javanese, this language was then recognized as an official language, both in written and oral form, in the Banten Sultanate until its collapse in 1813.

In the Banten Javanese dialect, there are two levels of language known: 1) Pergaulan language, and 2) Bebasan language. Pergaulan language, also called market language, is used to communicate with peers, although many of them also use Bebasan language. Meanwhile, Bebasan language is used when speaking with older or respected

people. Bebasan language has a softer tone, and vocabulary commonly used in disputes, curses, or threats is not found in this language.

Over time, the use of Jaseng language is fading. Many young people today rarely practice this language in daily activities, while newcomers prefer to communicate in Indonesian. Therefore, the purpose of writing this article is the preservation of the use of Serang Javanese at the school level, for example, by holding a Serang Javanese speech contest.

RESEARCH METHODS

The Serang Javanese speech contest held at SMKT Global 2 Bandung took place on the school field with four participants as representatives from each class. This article is presented through a literature method. Literature can be understood as sources or references utilized in various activities in the educational world and other activities. Furthermore, literature also serves as a guide to obtain specific information. Its forms can be books or various other types of writings; in this case, pre-existing articles were used. In addition to the literature method, information was also obtained through interviews conducted with teachers at SMKT Global 2 Bandung.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Banten is a province rich in variations of regional languages. There are two main languages that dominate this region, namely Sundanese and Serang Javanese. Sundanese can be found in Lebak Regency, Pandeglang, and Tangerang Regency, while Serang Javanese is spread across Serang City, Cilegon City, and Serang Regency. SMKT Global 2 Bandung is a private school located in the Bandung sub-district, Serang Regency, Banten province. This school was established on January 31, 2015. The school has high nationalistic values, so students and teachers predominantly use Indonesian for communication compared to the regional language, Serang Javanese. Given the importance of being able to speak Serang Javanese in the current era, SMKT Global 2

held a Serang Javanese speech contest participated in by student representatives from each class.

The preservation of Banten Javanese is considered suboptimal due to several factors. First, parents, despite being from the Banten Javanese ethnic group, do not routinely accustom their children to it. Additionally, the naturally diverse living environment encourages the use of Indonesian for easier communication. There is also a sense of shame in using Banten Javanese, as there is a perception that children who speak the language are considered to be from lower social strata. Although some still use Banten Javanese, often the rough form (ngoko) is used rather than the polite form (bebasan). Children tend not to use Banten Javanese when playing, preferring Indonesian instead. By holding the Javanese speech contest, the educational institution demonstrates its determination to preserve and maintain Banten Javanese. This activity is part of an effort to participate in various competitions that promote Banten Javanese language and culture.

In addition to organizing the Serang Javanese speech contest, SMKT Global 2 Bandung also implements several strategies to promote the use of Serang Javanese. These strategies include learning and memorizing at least four new Serang Javanese vocabulary words. However, the response from students has not been in line with the educational institution's goals, suggesting that the institution has not maximized its efforts in preserving Serang Javanese among its students.

Introducing and preserving Serang Javanese from an early age is very necessary because Serang Javanese contains life values and personal habits related to politeness and seriousness when interacting with others. To introduce Serang Javanese to children, it can first be done in the family environment, where the family plays an important role in encouraging children to use Serang Javanese.

Previous research on the preservation of Javanese in Serang has been conducted, one of which is the Guyub Tutur study in

Sumur Pecung Village. This research revealed a language shift triggered by various factors, including educational development. Suherman (2015) in his research also explained efforts to preserve Javanese in various aspects of community life and formulated factors influencing the sustainability of Javanese in Serang.

Based on research conducted by Istiimurti (2013), it is explained that efforts to maintain and revive the Banten Javanese dialect are based on the extent to which the language is preserved. The government has taken steps to revitalize the Banten Javanese dialect, both through formal and informal channels.

From these three studies, it can be concluded that the level of preservation of the Serang/Banten Javanese dialect is quite high, although there is a threat of language shift. Therefore, it is important to continue efforts to preserve Serang/Banten Javanese. However, in the educational world, Serang Javanese cannot survive well, with only 40.5% usage. Among children, especially those of elementary school age, Serang Javanese is still used with a percentage of 53%. However, among teenagers, including junior high to university age, the use of Serang Javanese has drastically decreased, reaching only 28%. Thus, in the realm of education, Serang Javanese cannot survive among teenagers.

Currently, the use of Banten Javanese in daily interactions and life is becoming increasingly rare. This phenomenon has attracted the attention of various institutions, including the local Education Office, which is striving to preserve the Javanese language that is fading over time.

Efforts to preserve Serang Javanese

Based on an interview with Mrs. Rumsanah S.Pd., a teacher at SMKT Global 2 Bandung, she stated that this Serang Javanese speech activity was conducted as one of the efforts to preserve the use of Serang Javanese. The results of this competition were very satisfying because the participants delivered their speeches very well, both in terms of theme and the dialect

used. She also hopes that with this competition, students of SMKT Global 2 Bandung can use Serang Javanese in daily life, both in the school environment and in their residential areas.

SMKT Global 2 Bandung has carried out initiatives aimed at preserving the use of Serang Javanese, namely speech contests using Serang Javanese, which are generally held during certain events, such as national holidays or Islamic holidays. In addition to speech contests using Serang Javanese, SMKT Global 2 Bandung also holds smart quiz competitions and writing competitions using Serang Javanese.

One type of Serang Javanese, namely Bebasan, is considered to be nearing extinction due to several main factors: parents rarely teach it to their children, leading to a decline in the use of Bebasan Javanese at home. Another influencing factor is that Bebasan Javanese is not used in daily interactions, and people tend to use Serang Javanese because it is considered easier in terms of both words and pronunciation. Bebasan Javanese is also generally only used for certain events, such as speaking with religious figures. The last factor considered influential is that Serang Javanese is predominantly used by the community in various interactions and events.

Bebasan Javanese is used by a minority of the community because it is considered more exclusive, meaning people only use Bebasan Javanese for certain interactions, activities, or with certain individuals. This is because people are concerned about misusing it, which significantly impacts the preservation of Javanese language in Banten province.

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pronunciation. Bebasan Javanese is also generally only used for certain events, such as speaking with religious figures.

CONCLUSION

SMKT Global 2 held a Serang Javanese speech contest with the aim of preserving Serang Javanese, which is currently endangered. The factors contributing to its endangerment include parents rarely teaching it to their children and Serang Javanese also being considered difficult in terms of vocabulary and pronunciation. With this activity, it is hoped that it can help preserve the use of Serang Javanese, as the target of this activity is the students who may still be unfamiliar with Serang Javanese.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are extended to all parties who contributed to supporting this program, especially to the principal and the teachers of SMKT Global 2 Bandung. All support from related parties greatly contributed to the success of the program.

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