Dialect Geography of Batak Toba Language Variation

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ABSTRACT: *The main objectives of this research are to explore some dialectal variations of Batak Toba language which is administratively located in Tanah Batak. The empirical parts of this research were carried out in six regencies and the subjects were all native speakers who were chosen randomly as samples. Interviews were recorded on video-tape. In conclusion, this study argues that the BTL restrictions in the six regencies are very difficult to determine because of migration patterns and of speakers' mobilization. All these bring impacts on the rare boundaries among BTL dialects or it can be said that there were very small quantity of variations available. Of six regencies of BTL variations, two big dialect variations are noted, for instance, Samosir and Central Tapanuli.*
Keywords: Batak Toba language, Variations, Dialects.

I. INTRODUCTION

Batak Toba language (BTL) is one of local languages in North Sumatra Province and it is used by its native speakers as a communication tool in daily life and in traditional ceremonies. Geographically, BTL has six dialects: 1) Silindung dialect covering Tarutung, Sipoholon, PahaeJulu, Pahae Jae, Sipahutar, Garoga, and Adiankoting subdistricts, 2) Humbang Hasundutan dialect (Siborong-borong, Dolok Sanggul, Lintong ni huta, Muara, Parmonangan, and Onan Ganjang, and Parlilitan), 3) Toba Samosir dialect (Laguboti, Porsea, Lumban Julu, Silaen, Lumban Siantar, and Parsoburan), 4) Samosir dialect (Simanindo, Pangururan, Palipi, Onan Runggu, Nainggolan, and Harian), 5) Central Tapanuli dialect (Sibolga City, South Sibolga, North Sibolga, Sorkam, Pinang Sori, Pandan, and Manduamas), 6) Dairi dialect (Sumbul, Tiga Lingga, Empat Nempu, Lima Pungga-Pungga, Salak, Gunung Stember, and Silalahi). The questions raised are: how are the kinship variation and dialect patterns of BTL?

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Local languages in Indonesia as well as Batak Toba language have played their roles in influencing the Indonesian formation and development and they spread over the country and save many nation's cultural treasures. About dialect Gillieron and Edmont (1902) quoted Weijnen at.al. as stating that it is a linguistic system that is used by the society to distinguish one another and a set of different from local speech, which has common characteristics, and each is more similar to each other than to any other form of the same language speech[1] or it does not have to take all language speech forms (Meillet 1967: 69).[2] In their development, some dialects have equal position but one of them is gradually accepted as the standard language in the entire regency. This acceptance is caused by some factors. The main factors that determine a dialect crowning into standard language are politics, culture, and economics (Meillet, 1967:72).

Chaurand (1972:149) quoted Claude Fauchet's statement that dialect is *mots de leur terroir* meaning dialect is a word over its land and denotes to a language decent area used in the local literature concerned**.**[3] In case of dialect and dialectology Mahsun (1995:15) argued that dialectology always rests on the concepts of linguistics, such as, phonemes, allophones, generative phonology, morphemes, allomorphics, morphophonemics among others.[4]

Seguy (1973) suggested an idea that combination the use of econometrics and sociometry are acceptable to see the differences exist among dialects of BTL**.**[5] Therefore, his idea was aplied to divide the areas into local language dialects, subdialect, or pronunciation as Guiter and Revier (1973) had argued.[6] By

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using a certain formula, it is counted that the vocabulary range between OA reached 800 glosses. Furthermore, the OA is determined as an Observation Reference Point (ORP) to determine language variation within the observation areas, which were then combined into determinants of BTL variations. The OA determination as ORP wass based on the consideration of the geographical location which was farthest from another OA.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Type of Research

The descriptive quantitative method was applied in the present study. Some approaches such as dialectology, geography, and sociolinguistics were used. The dialectology approach studied phonological form and lexicon in the context of BTL speakers, and the sociolinguistics one was applied to know the discernible difference of users in BTL dialects. Exploration was done to the individuals who became the representatives of each regency. This research receives any flexibility; thus, this research was conducted to have a comparative study formally with other different areas. This comparative study was formally made by collecting some informants' intuitions. This study also compared the similarities of forms, dialects and dialectal differences through assessments on the phonological development. In using a comparative descriptive method, the researchers could show basic data retrieval in the systematic field which are factual and accurate. Thus, the research method was synchronous dialectology research. The study of language in synchronic dialectology is basically divided into three steps, namely, a) data provision, b) data analysis, and c) result presentation.

3.2 Location and time of research

The locations of research include six regencies, for example, Silindung, Humbang Hasundutan, Toba Samosir, Samosir, Central Tapanuli, and Dairi. The research was held in August 2014 to September 2015.

3.3 Research procedures and data source

Research procedures followed Spradley (in Sugiyono 2010:254) who offered 12 stages.[7] The research used the primary source or data which were collected from the first parties (Sedarmayanti and Hidayat, 2011:73).[8]

3.4 Data collection

Data collection was carried out through three techniques, i.e., participant observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The first technique was implemented for three weeks while the second one was mainly held for some months. In-depth interviews used the snowball technique. The third technique (see Arikunto, 2002:206; Bell, 1987:88-89) was completed by audio recording.[9],[10]

3.5 Research instruments

The notebooks, tape-recorder, camera, camcorder as well as the researchers themselves became the research instruments. The population in this research was homogenous. The research sample is non-purposive involving all parties of different regencies. The technique of sampling was random and relations with respondents were familiar (or empathy) in that researchers got insight for a long duration.

3.6 Data analysis

Having been collected the data was analyzed using the dialectometry pattern which was proposed by Séguy-Guiter as indicated in S/n X 100 % = d in which the S means the distinction number of other observations area, the n relates to the number of maps which were compared, and the d refers to the distance of vocabulary in percentage (%).

3.7 Reliability and data validity

There were four reliability procedures as proposed by Gibbs (2007) which was found in Creswell (2009:190) and the validity strategies followed Creswell (ibid:191-192).[11]

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Dialectal Variation of BTL in Samosir Regency

This regency had four observation areas, such as, Siruma Hombar, Pardomuan, Simarmata, and Huta Bolon.which were respectively coded as 1, 2, 3, and 4. Table 1 shows OA1 and OA2 as well as OA3 and OA4 remain a sub-dialectal variation. Whereas, variations among OA2, OA3, and OA4 are proved to be different and then variations between OA3 and OA4 show no different variations. Thus, in Samosir regency, the ORP is Siruma Hombar although this regency has four dialects.

Table 1. Dialectal variations in Samosir regency

No.	Codes	Level of Differences	Percentage (%)	Kinship Relation
1.	1 & 2	274	34,25	Sub dialectal difference
2.	1 & 3	293	36,63	Sub dialectal difference
3.	1 & 4	280	35,00	Sub dialectal difference
4.	2 & 3	62	7,25	Not different
5.	2 & 4	15	1,87	Not different
6.	3 & 4	71	8,88	Not different

3.2 Dialectal Variation of BTL in Toba Samosir Regency

This regency had also four observation areas, for instance, Nasampulu, Amborgang, Lumban Pinasa, and Naga Timbul which were coded as 5, 6, 7, and 8. Table 2 proves that OA5 and OA6 are classified as a sub dialectal variation, as well as the OA5 with OA7 and the OA5 with OA8. Whereas, the variations among OA6, OA7, and OA8 are categorized as sub dialectal variations. The variations among OA7 and OA8 are not different. As a result, the OA7 is determined as the ORP.

Table 2. Dialectal variations in Toba Samosir regency

No.	Codes	Level of Differences	Percentage (%)	Kinship Relation
1.	5 & 6	289	36,13	Sub dialectal difference
2.	5 & 7	242	30,25	Sub dialectal difference
3.	5 & 8	248	31,00	Sub dialectal difference
4.	6 & 8	278	34,75	Sub dialectal difference
5.	6 & 8	280	35,00	Sub dialectal difference
6.	7 / 8	24	3, 00	Not different

3.3 Dialectal Variation of BTL in Humbang Hasundutan Regency

This regency also consisted of four observation areas, for example, Huta Bagasan, Nagasaribu, Baringin, and Sitanduk which were coded as 9, 10, 11, and 12. The OA9 and OA10 are determined to be sub-dialectal variations, the OA9 and OA11 had different pronunciation, and the OA9 and OA12 had no different pronunciation. Thus, the OA10, OA11, and OA12 are classified as sub-dialectal difference, and the OA11 and OA12 had pronunciation variations. Therefore, it is concluded that OA12 is determined as ORP which became the representative of OA.

Table 3. Dialectal variations in Humbang Hasundutan regency

No.	Codes	Level of Differences	Percentage (%)	Kinship Relation
1.	9 & 10	265	33,13	Sub dialectal difference
2.	9 & 11	198	24,75	Different pronunciation
3.	9 & 11	38	4,75	Not different
4.	10 & 11	277	34,63	Sub dialectal difference
5.	10 & 12	280	35,00	Sub dialectal difference
6.	11 & 12	183	22,80	Different pronunciation

3.4 Dialectal Variation of BTL in North Tapanuli Regency

Four observation areas, for instance Huta Toruan, Pakpahan, Pardomuan Nauli, and Sarulla, belonged to this North Tapanuli regency and these areas were given codes as 13, 14, 15, and 16 each. Table 4 illustrated how dialectometry proved that the OA13 and OA14 had pronunciation variation, that the OA13 and OA15 is classified as different sub-dialect, and that the OA13 and OA16 did not have differences. There were not different variations between the OA14 and OA15, but the OA14 and OA16 had different pronunciation. Whereas, the OA15 and OA16 had sub-dialectal variations. Furthermore, the OA14 was determined as ORP which became the representatives OA in BTL.

Table 4. Dialectal variations of BTL in North Tapanuli regency

No.	Codes	Level of Differences	Percentage (%)	Kinship Relation
1.	13 & 14	222	27,75	Different pronunciation
2.	13 & 15	252	31,50	Sub dialectal difference
3.	13 & 16	12	1,50	Not different
4.	14 & 15	149	18,63	Not different
5.	14 & 16	224	28,0	Different pronunciation
6.	15 & 16	253	31,63	Sub dialectal difference

3.5 Dialectal Variation of BTL in Central Tapanuli Regency

The Central Tapanuli regency had four observation areas: Aek Dakka, Sigirng-giring, Alohan, and Pagaran Nauli whhich were given codes as 17, 18, 19, and 20 respectively. Table 5 showed that the OA17 and OA18 consisted of pronunciation variation, the OA17 and OA19 are classified as different sub-dialect, and the OA17 and OA20 are not different. There were no different variations between the OA18 and OA19, however, the OA18 and OA20 was recorded to have different pronunciation. While, the OA19 and OA20 is determined to have sub-dialectal variation. As a result, Aek Dakka (OA18) is determined as the ORP and the Sigiringgiring became its sub-dialect.

Table 5. Dialectal variations of BTL in Central Tapanuli regency

No.	Codes	Level of Differences	Percentage (%)	Kinship Relation
1.	17 & 18	292	36,50	Different pronunciation
2.	17 & 19	292	36,50	Sub dialectal difference
3.	17 & 20	313	39,13	Not difference
4.	18 & 19	106	13,25	Not difference
5.	18 & 20	108	13,50	Different pronunciation
6.	19 & 20	75	9,38	Sub dialectal difference

3.6 Dialectal Variation of BTL in Dairi Regency

There were four observation areas in Dairi regency, for instance, Lau Bagot, Paropo, Parbuluan, and Pargambiran which were coded as 21, 22, 23, and 24. Based on the dialectometry analysis which was illustrated in Table 6, it was proved that the OA21, OA22, OA23 and OA24 were all classified in the category of one sub-dialect. The variations among the OA22, OA 23, and OA24 existed and they were different sub-dialect. The variations between the OA23 and OA24 showed no difference. Furthermore, in Dairi regency, the area code OA 23 (Parbuluan) is determined as the ORP.

Table 6. Dialectal variations of BTL in Central Tapanuli regency

No.	Codes	Level of Differences	Percentage (%)	Kinship Relation
1.	21 & 22	333	41,63	Sub dialectal difference
2.	21 & 23	358	44,75	Sub dialectal difference
3.	21 & 24	359	44,88	Sub dialectal difference
4.	22 & 23	302	37,75	Sub dialectal difference
5.	22 & 24	304	38,00	Sub dialectal difference
6.	23 & 24	10	1,25	Not different

3.7 Comparative Data of Six Regencies

Of six regencies, the comparative data is meant to include each representative of each regency so there were six representative areas. Table 7 showed that comparative data was achieved by using the dialectometry analysis.

Table 7. Comparative data of six representative areas

No.	Area Codes	Level of Differences	Percentage (%)	Kinship Relation
1.	1 & 7	396	49,5	Sub dialectal difference
2.	1 & 12	333	41,63	Sub dialectal difference
3.	1 &14	373	46,63	Sub dialectal difference
4.	1 & 18	448	56,00	Sub dialectal difference
5.	1 & 23	330	41,25	Sub dialectal difference
6.	7 & 12	388	48,50	Sub dialectal difference
7.	7 & 14	317	39,63	Sub dialectal difference
8.	7 & 18	461	57,63	Dialectal difference
9.	7 & 23	380	47,50	Sub dialectal difference
10.	12 & 14	355	44,38	Sub dialectal difference
11.	12 & 18	425	53,13	Dialectal difference
12.	12 & 23	60	7,50	Not different
13	14 & 18	416	52,0	Dialectal difference
14.	14 & 23	357	44,63	Sub dialectal difference
15.	18 & 23	427	53,38	Dialectal difference

3.8 Map Variation of BTL

The map variations of dialects in BTL were based on the phonemic and lexicon maps. In the phonemic map, the number of maps were adjusted to the number of variations existing in each regency. The total number of lexicon map was also based on the number of variations found during this research. Table 8 presented the

number of data which showed the phonemic and lexicon maps that could be used as the sources of variation map of BTL dialects in the six regencies.

Table 8. Phonemic and Lexicon Map Variation

No.	Regencies	Phonemic Map Variation	Lexicon Map Variation
1.	Samosir	82	517
2.	Toba Samosir	127	617
3.	Humbang Hasundutan	79	626
4.	North Tapanuli	73	494
5.	Central Tapanuli	153	518
6.	Dairi	138	774
7.	All Regencies	293	1266

V. CONCLUSION

The use of econometrics and sociometry proves to be effective to see the variation differences among BTL dialects. Of 800 glosses in OA, they can be determined in the Observation Reference Point (ORP) to know language variations within the observation areas although those areas are geographically distant each other. By using phonemic and lexicon analysis the phonemic patterns of BTL are undergoing change of their variation patterns in each vocabulary. The BTL variations in the six regencies consist of two dialects, namely: (1) Samosir dialect covering areas of Toba Samosir, Humbang Hasundutan, North Tapanuli, and Dairi, and (2) Central Tapanuli dialect.including areas of Samosir, Toba Samosir, Humbang Hasundutan, North Tapanuli, and Dairi. Dairi itself consists of four subdialects namely (1) Samosir sub-dialect, (2) Toba Samosir sub-dialect, (3) Humbang Hasundutan and Dairi sub-dialect, and (4) North Tapanuli sub-dialect. BTL in Samosir has four sub-dialects, namely Siruma Hombar, Huta Bolon, Pardomuan, and Simarmata. Other sub-dialects in Samosir are Lumban Pinasa, Nasampulu, Amborgang, and Naga Timbul. BTL subdialects in Humbang Hasundutan refer to Huta Bagasan, Nagasaribu, Baringin, and Sitanduk. BTL in Dairi is devided into Lau Bagot, Paropo, Parbuluan, and Pargambiran. Aek Dakka, Sigiringgiring, Aloban, and Pagaran Nauli become the sub-dialects of Central Tapanuli.

ACKNOWLEGEMENT

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