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Sociolinguistic Variations in the Novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari

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ABSTRACT
This study aims to describe the sociolinguistic variation in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari based on age and gender, and explain its relevance in learning Indonesian language and literature. Research was conducted on the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari as a source of research data. The research population was in the form of all the speeches of the characters in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk, while the research sample was in the form of the speech of the characters that contained sociolectic variations. The research instrument uses the researcher as the main instrument with the help of a data card. Data collection is carried out through reading techniques, tagging techniques, and recording techniques. The collected data was analyzed using a qualitative descriptive method through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. The results of the study show that in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk there are various forms of sociolinguistic variation that reflect the social conditions of the people of Dukuh Paruk. This variation is seen through the use of local vocabulary, traditional expressions, and forms of speech that show the social identity of the speaker. Based on age, it was found that there was a difference in language use between older characters and younger characters. Older characters tend to use speech that is loaded with the values of local traditions and culture, while younger characters use simpler and more direct language. Based on the type of gender, there are differences in word choice and speaking styles between male and female figures that reflect their respective social roles in society. This research has relevance in learning Indonesian language, especially in novel analysis materials and sociolinguistic studies. The research findings can be used as teaching materials to improve students' understanding of the relationship between language, society, and culture represented in literary works.

Keywords: sociolectics, variation, novel

Variasi Sosiolinguistik Novel *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk* Karya Ahmad Tohari

ABSTRAK
Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan variasi sosiolek dalam novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk karya Ahmad Tohari berdasarkan usia dan jenis gender, serta menjelaskan relevansinya dalam pembelajaran bahasa dan sastra Indonesia. Penelitian dilakukan terhadap novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk karya Ahmad Tohari sebagai sumber data penelitian. Populasi penelitian berupa seluruh tuturan tokoh dalam novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk, sedangkan sampel penelitian berupa tuturan tokoh yang mengandung variasi sosiolek. Instrumen penelitian menggunakan peneliti sebagai instrumen utama dengan bantuan kartu data. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui teknik baca, teknik penandaan, dan teknik pencatatan. Data yang terkumpul dianalisis menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif melalui tahap reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dalam novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk terdapat berbagai bentuk variasi sosiolek yang mencerminkan kondisi sosial masyarakat Dukuh Paruk. Variasi tersebut tampak melalui penggunaan kosakata lokal, ungkapan tradisional, serta bentuk tuturan yang menunjukkan identitas sosial penutur. Berdasarkan usia, ditemukan perbedaan penggunaan bahasa antara tokoh yang berusia tua dan tokoh yang berusia muda. Tokoh yang lebih tua cenderung menggunakan tuturan yang sarat dengan nilai tradisi dan budaya lokal, sedangkan tokoh yang lebih muda menggunakan bahasa yang lebih sederhana dan langsung. Berdasarkan jenis gender, terdapat perbedaan pilihan kata dan gaya bertutur antara tokoh laki-laki dan perempuan yang mencerminkan peran sosial masing-masing dalam masyarakat. Penelitian ini memiliki relevansi dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Indonesia, khususnya pada materi analisis novel dan kajian sosiolinguistik. Temuan penelitian dapat dimanfaatkan sebagai bahan ajar untuk meningkatkan pemahaman peserta didik mengenai hubungan antara bahasa, masyarakat, dan budaya yang direpresentasikan dalam karya sastra.

Kata kunci: variasi, sosiolinguistik, novel

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INTRODUCTION

Language has the main function as a means of communication between individuals, as well as a means to convey ideas and arguments to others, thus playing an important social role in social life (Laely and Kusnawati, 2023). In sociolinguistic studies, language variations that appear in society with uniform professional backgrounds are referred to as sociolectics. Mailani et al. (2022) explained that sociolect is a form of linguistic diversity that is influenced by work factors, education level, and social status of the speaker, while Kalsum and Akhir (2022) refer to language variation based on the similarity of the profession as a professional dialect. In practice, members of a field of work tend to use special vocabulary that is closely related to their work activities, so it is often difficult for people outside the profession to understand. Furthermore, Mailani et al. (2022) classify sociolects into eight categories, namely acrolec, basilek, vulgar, slang, colloquial, jargon, argot, and ken, each of which reflects linguistic variations based on a specific social context.
Sociolects in literature are variations of language used by characters in literary works that reflect their social standing, age, gender, occupation, education level, and cultural background. The author deliberately presents these language differences so that the characters he creates appear alive and in accordance with the social conditions of the society depicted. In literary works, language not only functions as a means of communication, but also as a marker of the social identity of the character. The way a character speaks can show who he is, which social group he comes from, what his level of education is, and even how he relates to other characters. Therefore, each character can have different language characteristics.

According to Afriana (2024), a novel is a fictional story in the form of prose that is quite long in which the characters and behavior are a reflection of real life and are depicted in a fairly complex plot. One of the Indonesian literary works that is rich in representations of social life is the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari. This novel depicts the people of Paruk Hamlet who are still strong in defending local customs and culture. The depiction of social life is reflected through a variety of language uses that suit the character's background, including age, social status, occupation, education, and the environment in which they are located, (Tazakka et al. (2025).

In addition to depicting the lives of rural communities, the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk also shows the existence of social stratification, power relations, customs, and cultural values that affect the way the characters communicate. The diversity of language use in the novel shows that there are sociolinguistic variations that are interesting to research. An analysis of the sociolinguistic variations in this novel can provide an overview of the relationship between language and the social conditions represented by the author. The selection of the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari as the object of study was based on several important reasons. First, this work has a wealth of cultural and social value in the treasures of Indonesian literature. Second, the dialogue between the characters displays a diversity of languages that allows for the emergence of various sociolectic variations. Third, the study of sociolinguistic variation in the novel is still limited, so this research is expected to contribute to sociolinguistic development, especially the study of language in literature. Therefore, it is important to analyze the sociolinguistic variation in this novel.

This research uses the sociolinguistic theory of William Labov. Labov emphasized that language variation is closely related to the social structure of society. According to Labov, language variations can be analyzed based on social indicators which include social class levels, age ranges, gender categories, and the context of the situation when communication takes place. This theory is relevant to study the sociolinguistic variation in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari because it can illustrate the relationship between the patterns of language use and the social background of the speakers.

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In addition, the differences in age, gender, social status, and background of the characters in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari also influence the use of language displayed in the dialogue between the characters. These differences can be seen from the choice of words, speech styles, and forms of socio-linguistic variation used by the characters in the story. This phenomenon is interesting to study because the language in the novel not only functions as a means of communication, but also reflects the social, cultural, and life conditions of the people of Paruk Hamlet. On the other hand, this novel has a strong relevance to language learning and sociolinguistic studies because it depicts the various forms of language variation that appear in the lives of rural communities. Therefore, this research is important to examine the sociolinguistic variations in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari and its relevance to Indonesian language learning. Based on the context of the above research, the formulation of the problem in this study is how the sociolectic variation in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari is based on age, how the sociolectic variation in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari is based on gender type, and how is the relevance of sociolectic variation to Indonesian language learning. This study aims to describe the sociolectic variation in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari based on age, describe the sociolect variation in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari based on gender type, and describe the relevance of sociolect variation to Indonesian language learning.

This research is expected to be able to provide benefits for researchers, readers, and future researchers, both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is expected to contribute to the development of linguistics and enrich the use of theories of sociolinguistic variation in literary works. Practically, this research is expected to expand the researcher's knowledge, especially in the field of Indonesian language and literature, especially the analysis of sociolectic variation in novels. With the knowledge and understanding obtained, researchers can apply the theory of socio-linguistic variation in literary works, especially novels. For readers, this research can be used as a guideline and add insight to literary works. For future researchers, this research can be used as a source of reference for similar research and add to the treasure of Indonesian literary research.Language variation basically includes all varieties of language used by speakers when interacting with opponents who are influenced by the situation and conditions around them. Thus, the choice of a language variety is highly dependent on the social, situational, and cultural factors of the occurrence of a speech. Sociolect or social dialect is interpreted as a variety of languages related to a certain social group that is influenced by social class, age, gender, education level, and occupation. Novels are literary works in the form of prose that describe human life through certain characters, plots, and settings.

Research on sociolinguistic variation in literary works has been conducted by several researchers before. Research conducted by Rizki and Hartati (2023) entitled Language Variation in the Novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk By Ahmad Tohari: A Sociolinguistic Study shows that the use of language in the novel is influenced by the social factors of the speakers, such as age, social status, and the cultural environment of the people of Dukuh Paruk. Another study conducted by Fitri (2025), regarding language variations in literary works, shows that differences in the social background of characters affect the choice of words and speech styles used in dialogue between characters. In addition, research by Herawati (2025), on sociolectic studies in Indonesian novels found that the variety of language used by the characters can reflect social identity, gender, education level, and social position in society. The three studies have relevance to this research because they both examine the relationship between language and the social conditions of speakers in literary works. However, this research is more focused on sociolectic variation based on

age and gender type in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari and its relevance to Indonesian language learning.

METHOD

This study applies a qualitative descriptive approach. Hasan et al. (2025), emphasized that qualitative research is centered on understanding socio-cultural contexts in order to explore subjective experiences and the way individuals interpret their existence. The data of this research is in the form of text excerpts from the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk which contains a variety of sociolects. In other words, the material analyzed is a language unit in the form of clauses that show and reinforce the characteristics of linguistic social variation in the literary work. The source of data in this study is the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari with a thickness of 123 pages published in the class of 1982. The novel is the main source of data in this study.
Obtaining data is an essential stage in a research.

The data collection procedure then becomes a reference for the preparation of the instrument. Data collection was carried out through reading techniques, namely listening carefully to the text of the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk to find elements of sociolinguistic variation. Next, a marking technique is used by marking clauses that are relevant to the research topic. The next technique is the recording technique which functions to record the data of the findings after the reading process. The findings are in the form of sociolinguistic variations in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari.

Data analysis is carried out through three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. Data reduction involves the process of summarizing, encoding, finding themes, and creating groups and selecting, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming raw data from written records. This stage is done to reduce the amount of information available to make it easier to understand and use. The presentation of data is carried out by compiling information so as to allow conclusions to be drawn. Qualitative data can be presented in the form of structured narrative texts that make it easier for researchers to see the entire research process. The last stage is the drawing of conclusions based on the results of data analysis. The conclusions are prepared in accordance with the formulation of the problem and the purpose of the research so that it can provide an overview of the sociolinguistic variations in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari.

This research method includes research procedures, research design, data sources, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques. Because this research is qualitatively descriptive, data analysis is carried out through the interpretation of the data found in the novel so that an understanding of the forms of sociolinguistic variation used by the characters in the story and their relevance to Indonesian language learning is obtained.

RESULTS

1. Results of Research-1: Sociolek Variation in the Novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Age and Gender

It shows that the speech of child characters in novels tends to be simple, spontaneous, and innocent.

a. This can be seen in the dialogues of Rasus, Srintil, Warta, and Darsun which use direct language without complex structures.
b. The use of local vocabulary such as *badongan* and *bacang leaves* reflects the influence of the rural environment from an early age.
c. Children's speech is influenced by the limitations of linguistic experience according to age factors.

It shows that the speech of female characters in novels tends to be more expressive, polite, and full of expressions of affection.

a. This can be seen from the dialogue of women who talk about Srintil with admiration and attention.

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b. Women's speech shows a tendency to be emotional and persuasive.
c. Gender differences affect the communication patterns between characters in social interactions.

2. Sociolectic Variation in the Novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk based on Social Class

It shows that the use of the basilek language reflects the social background of the rural lower class.

a. This can be seen in the use of local vocabulary such as *badongan* which is not a standard language.
b. The speeches of Srintil and Rasus depict the simple life of the community.
c. The language reflects the closeness to the local culture of Paruk Hamlet.

Shows that vulgar variations are used to describe the emotional expression and low level of education of the characters.

a. This can be seen in the use of harsh words such as *stupid*, *bastard*, and *pee*.
b. Speech appears in emotional situations and informal conversations.
c. This variation strengthens the character of the less educated characters.

Shows that colloquial variations are used in everyday communication that is informal.

a. This can be seen in the use of *Grandma*'s greeting as a form of shortening from *grandma*.
b. Dialogue reflects natural communication in a family environment.
c. Shortening of words indicates non-standard speech habits.

Showing that variations of jargon are used by communities that understand the term ronggeng culture.

a. This can be seen in the use of the term *berayub* in traditional arts.
b. The term is only understood by people who know the ronggeng culture.
c. Language shows attachment to the local cultural system.

3. Relevance of Sociolectic Variation to Indonesian Language Learning

Showing that sociolect variation has an important relevance in learning Bahasa Indonesia.

a. Sociolinguistic variation helps learners understand the relationship between language and age, gender, and social status.
b. Learning improves communication skills according to social contexts.
c. Novel analysis helps to understand the characters' characters and cultural backgrounds.
d. Sociolinguistic variation fosters tolerance towards linguistic diversity in society.

DISCUSSION

This discussion is based on research findings that answer three focus problems, namely sociolinguistic variation in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari based on age, by gender, and its relevance to learning Indonesian language. Language has an important role in social life because it is the main tool in communicating and conveying ideas. Language is also dynamic and has variations that arise due to the heterogeneous social background of speakers and the variety of interaction activities in society (Eva et al., 2026). One form of variation is variation based on age which shows differences in speech between children, adolescents, and adults, as stated by Listiyani et al. (2024) that age is a social factor that differentiates communication patterns. This variation does not only appear in daily life, but also in literary works such as novels that function to emphasize the character and social background of the characters through differences in language style, level of politeness, and diction choices according to the character's age.

In the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk, language variations based on age are seen in the dialogue between characters that depict the simple life of the people of Dukuh Paruk who still hold traditions. Srintil as the main character is depicted in various interactions that show differences in speech based on age, such as the use of interjections, greetings, and pronouns that reflect the social relationships

between the characters. The use of this variation reinforces the character of the characters and shows the identities of different ages, so that the reader can understand the social structure in the story. However, the use of language variations based on age still needs to be controlled so as not to be excessive, because differences in vocabulary that are too extreme can make it difficult for readers to understand. Therefore, the writer needs to package the language variations appropriately so that they remain communicative and easy to understand without losing the authenticity of the character's character.

Furthermore, sociolinguistic variation based on gender is also evident in this novel. Sociolinguistics as a science that studies the relationship between language and society explains that gender differences also affect the variety of languages used by speakers. Men and women have different social roles resulting in differences in speech styles in communication. In the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk, this difference is seen through the use of more straightforward and firm language in male characters, as well as more subtle and expressive language in female characters. This can be seen in the use of verbs, greetings, and nouns that reflect the social role of each character. This variation serves to emphasize the character and social relationships between the characters in the story, while providing a realistic feel to the life of the rural community depicted.

In addition, in this novel there are also other sociolectic variations in the form of basilek, vulgar, colloquial, jargon, and ken. Basilek is used to describe the speech of a community group with a low educational background and is non-standard, thus strengthening the realism of the characters in the novel. Vulgar variations appear in the form of coarse language used to express emotions or conflicts between characters, although their use needs to be limited so as not to disturb the comfort of the reader. Colloquial is characterized by informal forms of conversation and shortening of words that make dialogue feel more natural. Jargon is used in certain groups such as art, culture, and the military so as to reinforce the social background of the character, while ken is used in melancholy speech that reflects certain social conditions. These five variations show that the language in the novel is strongly influenced by the social context and the group of speakers, thus strengthening the character and realism of the story. The relevance of sociolinguistic variation in the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk to learning Indonesian is very strong because it can be used as a teaching material to understand the relationship between language and society. Language learning emphasizes not only the structural aspect, but also the social aspect that influences the use of language. The sociolinguistic variations in this novel can help students understand that language is influenced by age, gender, and social status. In addition, this novel can also improve reading skills, literary appreciation, and students' critical thinking skills in analyzing the use of character language. Students can also understand the diversity of Indonesian languages and cultures so as to foster an attitude of tolerance and appreciation for social differences. However, there are limitations in this study, namely the analysis is still limited to novel text data without comparing it with real speech data in society, so the results of the analysis do not fully represent the use of language directly in daily life. However, this study has the advantage of being able to study sociolinguistic variations quite completely from the aspects of age, gender, and social dialects, so that it can be used as a contextual learning reference in sociolinguistic studies and literary appreciation.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion, it can be concluded that the novel Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari has a variety of languages in terms of speakers influenced by the inhomogeneity of the characters and the variety of social interaction activities. The sociolect variations found included variations based on age and gender, as well as sociolectic variations in the form of basilek, vulgar, colloquial, jargon, and ken (cant). Variations based on age and gender appear in the form of the use of nouns, verbs, greetings, question words, and interjections

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that reflect differences in social background, age, and role of characters. Meanwhile, variations of basilek, vulgar, colloquial, jargon, and ken appear in various forms of language use according to the social context of the characters, such as everyday vocabulary, coarse language, forms of shortening words, certain group terms, to melancholy speech, all of which strengthen the character and social reality in the novel.

In addition, the sociolinguistic variations in this novel have a strong relevance to learning Indonesian because they can be used as a means to understand the relationship between language and social factors. Through this study, students can understand that the use of language is influenced by the age, gender, social status, and cultural background of the speaker, as well as help in understanding the character of the characters, social background, and cultural values in literary works. Thus, learning Indonesian language not only focuses on linguistic aspects, but is also able to develop sociolinguistic competence, critical thinking skills, communication skills, and an attitude of respect for linguistic and cultural diversity in community life.

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