



AMBIGUITY WHEN SUNDANESE HOMONYM IS USED IN INDONESIAN CONTEXT

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BACKGROUND

- Sundanese is one of 719 indigenous languages in Indonesia (Lewis, 2009) that is spoken in west Java.
- Learning and identifying homonym may become trouble not only for native speaker (Peters, & Zaidel, 1980; Mazzocco, 1989 in Bakscheider & Gelman, 1993) but also for non-naïve speaker.
- Grauberg's investigation (1971) showed that learners' first language interfere learners in producing the target language, or it is called as subtratum transfer.



BACKGROUND (CONT.)

- Natives Sundanese seem fail to use relevant meaning of Sundanese homonym words within Indonesian context.
- Ambiguity is caused by non balanced frequency of use (Rayner & Frazier, 1989 in Hu, Zhang, Zhao, Ma, Lai, & Yao, 2011)



RESEARCH PROBLEM

- How do homonyms in Sundanese language create semantic ambiguities in the use of Bahasa Indonesia?



PROCEDURES

- This research conducts naturalistic observation towards 30 natives Sundanese speakers who lives in Indonesian spoken community.
- This research analyze why the equivalent is used in inappropriate context.



FINDINGS

These are some homonym words in Sundanese that is spoken in wrong context in Bahasa Indonesia:

- Cai: n. air (water), n. kamar mandi (bathroom)

e.g.

Wrong spoken: **Dia sedang di air*

**He is in the water*

Correct spoken: *Dia sedang di kamar mandi*

He is in the bathroom



FINDINGS (CONT.)

- Potong: adj. patah (broken), v. mematahkan (break), v. mengiris (slice), v. memotong (cut)

e.g.

Wrong spoken: **Pensilnya potong*

*The pencil cut

Correct spoken: *Pensilnya patah*

The pencil is broken

Wrong spoken: **Ayo potong-potong apelnya.*

*Let's cut the apple.

Correct spoken: *Ayo iris-iris apelnya.*

Let's slice the apple.



FINDINGS (CONT.)

- Nyandak: v. membawa (bring), v. mengambil (take)

e.g.

Wrong spoken: **Aku mau membawa uang di ATM*

**I am going to bring money from
ATM*

Correct spoken: *Aku mau mengambil uang di ATM*

*I am going to take money from
ATM*



FINDINGS (CONT.)

- Ti: prep. dari (from; show a process of an action happened from a point to another point), prep. di (in, on, or at; show a process of an action happened only in a point)

e.g.

Wrong spoken: **Dia sedang membeli baju dari pasar*

**He is buying a cloth from market*

Correct spoken: *Dia sedang membeli baju di pasar*

He is buying a cloth at market



FINDINGS (CONT.)

- Nyandak: v. ikut (follow, join), v. nebeng (hitchhike; in informal context), v. numpang (particle preceding polite queries)

e.g.

Wrong spoken: **Boleh ikut mobil kamu gak?*

*the utterance is asking to join in a car

Correct spoken: *Boleh nebeng mobil kamu gak?*

The utterance is asking for
hitchhiking

Wrong spoken: **Boleh ikut ke kamar mandi?*

*The utterance is asking to join to a
bathroom

Correct spoken: *Boleh nebeng ke kamar mandi?*

the utterance is asking for using a
bathroom.



FINDINGS (CONT.)

- Punten: v. Maaf (sorry), v. Permisi (expression like “excuse me”)

e.g.

Context: a street musician came, and a participant would like to say sorry because she cannot give money.

Wrong spoken: **Permisi.*

*Excuse me.

Correct spoken: *Maaf.*

Sorry (because I cannot give money)



RESULT

Ambiguities occur because:

- Meanings of the homonym word show sense relation
- The equivalents of homonym word has the same word class
- The equivalents indicate similar function
- The more frequent equivalent may be often used.
- Lack of bilingual competence may lead second of foreign language learners to produce error translation (Hung & Pollard, 1997 in Munday 2008)

