

# The Shift of Proper Names Among Javanese Society A Sociolinguistic Study

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## ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine and discuss the extent to which the shift in proper names occurred and the new proper names emerge among Javanese society, including the factors that influence the shift. The research locus was in Magelang district, Central Java, Indonesia. Since this research used a descriptive qualitative method, the data were obtained from oral and written sources. In order to analyse the data, this research employed the Gardiner' (1953) theory of proper names. The data analysis was conducted by describing linguistic aspect in proper naming based on the similarities or generalization characters and language user. The results show that proper names in Javanese society can reflect the origin of the giver or the owner of the name, whether from village or town. Proper name characteristics that are almost extinct in men are using the marker *sri*, *sugeng*; first syllable *su-*, *nga-*; and last syllable *-djo*, *-man*, *-min*, *-yo*. Whereas the women proper names that are endangered are the ones using the marker *sri*, on the first word; marker *wati* or *yati* at the last syllable; first syllable *su-*, *nga-*; last syllable/ultima *-nah*, *-nem*, *-sih*, *-yah*, *-yem*. The endangered of proper name is influenced by such prestige reasons, like technology development and easiness of information access, and the increase of social knowledge. The endangered of proper name is followed by the appearance of western proper names and followed by the rapid development of proper name using Arabic vocabularies.

**Keywords:** *Arabic, endangered, Javanese, proper name, sociolinguistic*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The development of science and technology and culture seems to have influenced to the language use, either Indonesian or local language. Indonesian language is national language that is more preferred to use by people than local language. Indonesian, which is a national language, seems to be increasingly in demand by the community compared to regional languages. About two or three decades ago, local languages, especially Javanese, were still relatively widely used as daily communication tools in Javanese families or Javanese communities. However, now this has changed. There are relatively many Javanese people who use Indonesian as a daily communication tool. In fact, there are relatively many children in Javanese who cannot speak Javanese. The shift in language use due to cultural influences was also followed by a shift in naming by parents to their children. The name is a person's identity to make it easier to distinguish from others. Giving names to children is usually through certain considerations. These considerations include for example hopes or prayers, reminders of birth times, and historical events. Names

given by consideration usually have meaning. However, there are also names that do not contain meaning. Names that do not contain meaning are usually given simply as a sign or self-identity or imitate the name of an idol, without considering anything, except considerations based on gender. Names based on sex have certain markers to refer to men and women genders. These markers will also be discussed in this paper. Javanese people have specific proper names.

On the other hand, the names are getting left behind. Before 1970s, Javanese parents gave names to their children according to Javanese nuances. While in 1970s to 1990s parents gave names to their children with modern nuance. After the era of 1990s, most parents gave names to their children using vocabularies of Arabic although before 1970s there were names given to children using Arabic language. Until now, the giving of Arabic names is increasingly being used by Indonesian people, including Javanese people. The naming can show the characteristics in the range of years the owner of the name was born and the social status of his parents. Names of old Javanese people usually consisting of one or two

words with deep meaning. The names of nowadays Javanese people are usually consisting of two or more words. Changing of giving names by parents to their children is interesting to analyze. This research will be dig up and reviewed names of Javanese people in the past (before 1970s) and after 1970s.

This research discusses proper names that are endangered and new names used by Javanese people. Those names are analysed using a sociolinguistic perspective. Besides that, this research also reveals factors that influence giving those names. Some related previous studies that have been conducted are such as the one conducted by Widodo, Yussof, Dzakiria (2010), entitled "*Nama Orang Jawa: Kepelbagaian Unsur dan Maknanya*". According to them, name is a social product, and it is originated from norms, social conventions, group spirits, myths, and cultural selections of the bearer and the maker of the names. Thus, there is a "close connection between a person's given name and their feeling of identity and self" (Windt-Val, 2012, p. 273). Next research is from Zunairoh (2014) which describes lexical and semantic meaning of personal names in the research location. (Zunairoh, 2014). "Language has profound influence on an individual's self-image" (Asemota, 2015, p. 14). "It explains how language is not only a cognitive process, but also has something to do with social background of the learners" (Khan & Qadir, 2018, p. 94). "A proper name in a literary context goes beyond the scope of being only a proper name as it enters into a dialogue with several layers within as well as outside the text" (Bertills, 2003, p. 232). Papazoglou state that: "As culture relates to different forms of human life, it confers identity, meaning, worth, aspirations and a sense of place" (Papazoglou, 2019, p. 2625).

## 2. METHOD

The method used in this study includes a research approach, data and data sources, data collection technique, data analysis technique. This problem is discussed with reference to the theory which states that "The thesis that proper names referring to pluralities refer to them globally and for that reason may be considered individual names becomes untenable when proper names are of plural form and have nevertheless singulars of their own" (Gardiner, 1953, p. 24).

This research used a descriptive qualitative approach since it aims to describe proper names that are endangered and new name used by Javanese people in Indonesia. The data in this study were proper names of some Javanese people which were taken from oral and written texts. Verbal data were obtained in oral conversations in the Central Java region. Written data came from a list of names of residents in the author's environment. The environment here is in the area of Magelang Regency, Central Java Province, Indonesia. Data collection techniques derived from oral and written

sources were done by collecting Javanese names and taking notes. The data that have been collected were then classified based on the similarity of the characteristics of endangered names and new names that appear on the Javanese. Next, the data analysis was performed. The analysis was done by searching and describing the linguistic aspects in the naming.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Research related to this research, among others, entitled "*Konstruksi Nama Orang Jawa: Studi Kasus Nama-Nama Modern di Surakarta*". The research states that name can consist of element in single and multiple component (Widodo, 2013). This research is limited to discussing the construction of modern names in Surakarta, whereas in this study the proper names that are almost extinct and the new names that appear and the factors that cause them. Furthermore, research entitled "Trends in Naming System on Javanese Society: A Shift from Javanese to Arabic". The results are "a huge number of Arab intergenerational name. Modern parents tend to name their children using Arabic words" (Aribowo & Herawati, 2016, p. 117). The findings in this study are in accordance with the theory which states that "It is of importance for the theory of personal names that these accompany their owners, as a rule, from the cradle to the grave, and consequently identify these owners at every conceivable stage and in every situation" (Gardiner, 1953, p. 47).

Proper name is the name of someone's identity. In this section, the classification of data based on the data collected and its explanation and the factors influencing the selection or naming are explained. Based on the data collected, the author classifies the data into two: namely names that are almost extinct and new names that appear in Javanese society. These endangered names include names on men and women. Likewise, the new names that appear include names for men and women.

### 3.1. The Endangered Proper Names in Javanese Society

The proper name below is rarely used by parents in naming their children. Instead, new names emerge from Arabic to name children born in the next generation. To discuss more deeply, here are some examples.

#### 3.1.1. The Endangered Proper Names of Men

The proper name that is almost extinct in Javanese society consists of one, two or three words. Some examples of names that are almost extinct in men in Javanese society are characterized as follows. The name itself uses the marker *sri* or *sugeng* in the first word; initial tribe *su-*, *nga-*; and the final tribe/ultima *-djo*, *-man*, *-min*, *-yo*. The names themselves with these characteristics are usually given by parents to children

born before 1970. The following are some examples and explanations.

Proper name using marker *sri*, *sugeng* in the first word. A proper name *sri* can be used for men or women. In naming men, the word *sri* means 'appropriate'. As for naming women, the word *sri* means 'beautiful' or 'appropriate'. Proper name in men for example *Sri Gati*. The word *gati* means 'to pay attention'. Parents hope that by giving the name of Sri Gati to their children, their children will become people who can pay attention to things that deserve attention. Next, the name *Sugeng Riyadi*. The word *Sugeng* means 'save'. The word *riyadi* means 'Idul Fitri day'. The word *riyadi* is used as part of the name to remember the day of birth, which is during the Eid al-Fitr. By naming their children *Sugeng*, parents hope that their children will always be safe.

Proper name using first syllable *su-*, *nga-*. Proper name in past time relatively used first syllable *soe-* or *su-*. Both syllables have the same pronunciation, that it [su]. The difference is in writing, the first syllables *soe-* and *su-* is according to spelling rule at that time. Before *Ejaan Bahasa Indonesia yang Disempurnakan* (EYD, 2000), it was known voice [oe] and [dj]. After EYD applied, the voice [oe] had changed its writing into [u] and voice [dj] changed into [j]. In Sanskrit, first syllable *su-* means 'good', 'superior', 'more', or 'excellent'.

Javanese people in the past were often gave names to their children using first syllable *soe-* or *su-* hoping them to be good children. Proper name *Subroto* occurred from the first syllable *su-* + *broto*. The word *broto* means 'attitude for self-control'. Parents give the name *Subroto* to their children in the hope that their children can become people who can control themselves well. Proper name using first syllable *nga-*, either for men and women can show that the owner of the name was born in village and usually the social status of the parents is low. For example, proper names as *Ngatimin*, *Ngatidjo* belong to those who were born before 1970s in villages. In its development the naming using the initial syllable *su-* and *-nga* began to be abandoned. Parents assume that the naming using first syllable *su-* does not bring prestige to the owner.

Proper name using ultima *-djo*, *-man*, *-min*, *-yo*. Proper name using ultima *-djo*, for example *Bedjo* and *Darmodjo*. The word *Bedjo* means 'lucky' or 'get lucky'. Parents gave name *Bedjo* to their son in hope that he will be always lucky. Proper name *Darmodjo* occurred from the word *darmo* or *darma* that means 'duty' and ultima *-djo*. By proper name *Darmodjo*, parents hope his son to be good in carry on his duties. Proper name with ultima *-man* like *Daliman*, *Paiman* or ultima *-min*. For example, *Parmin*, *Lasimin* are rarely used by parents to name their children. Those proper name do not have special meaning. Proper name, *Daliman*, *Paiman*, *Parmin*, and *Lasimin* are used in consideration to be easy to pronounce by Javanese people. Therefore, parents give proper name

with just one word. Proper name using ultima *-to* like *Sugiharto*, *Udi Sasmito*. The proper name *Sugiharto* occurred from the word *sugih* means 'rich' and *arta* or *arto* means 'money'. By naming *Sugiharto*, parents hope his son will become rich person or having much money. Then, the proper name *Udi Sasmita*. Word *udi* means 'learn' or 'learning' and *sasmito* means 'sign' or 'symbol'. In the name of *Udi Sasmito* there is hope of parents so that their children can learn signs or signs that can be useful for their lives.

### 3.1.2. The Endangered Proper Names of Women

The endangered proper name for women in Javanese society has characteristic as follows. The proper name using marker *sri* on the first word; marker *-wati* or *-yati* on the last syllable; first syllable *-su-*, *-nga-*; last syllable *-nah*, *-nem*, *-sih*, *-yah*, *-yem*. Here are some examples and explanations.

Using marker *sri* on the first word. As stated above, proper name *Sri* can be used for men or women. The proper name that uses the word *sri* for women is like *Sri Lestari*. The word *sri* means 'beautiful' or 'suitable'. By naming proper name *Sri Lestari*, parents hope that their children have beautiful face and attitude.

Using marker *wati* or *yati* in the last word. Proper names using marker *wati* or *yati* nowadays are less interesting. Proper name using the marker *wati* or *yati* relatively used by parents in giving name to their children before 1970s. The word *wati* or *yati* means 'woman'. Proper name with marker *wati* such as *Susilowati*. Proper name *Susilowati* occurred from the word *susilo* and *wati*. The word *susilo* means 'polite'. Parents named *Susilowati* to their children in the hope that their daughter would behave politely. Proper names *Haryati*, *Kundayati* do not have special meaning, except meaning of word *yati* 'woman'.

Using first syllable *su-*, *nga-*. Proper name using first syllable *su-*, besides it is used for naming to son, it is used to name for daughter. As stated above, syllable *su-* means 'good' or 'superior'. The proper name of women that use first syllable *su-* such as *Sutiyah*, *Suratmi*. Parents give their children names *Sutiyah*, *Suratmi* in hope that they will be good or superior persons. Nevertheless, in this modern era parents among Javanese society tend to avoid using first syllable *su-* in naming their children because this name is considered not modern anymore. Proper name using first syllable *nga-* has been rarely found, like the proper names *Ngatmi*, *Ngatirah*. The proper name is only found in the village. Those proper names do not have special meaning. When the owner of the name has grown up then moved and settled in the city, she does not want to be called by the name that suggests that he is from the village. For example, the name *Ngatirah*, the owner prefers to be called *Ira* or *Atir*. *Ira* or *Atir*'s nickname will impress the owner as a city person or a modern person.

Using last syllable *-nah*, *-nem*, *-sih*, *-yah*, *-yem*. Proper naming using last syllable *-nah* has been rarely chosen by parents nowadays. Proper name like *Darminah*, *Kasinah* at the time was relatively used in village. From the meaning, those names do not have special meaning. When they get a higher education than the education of their parents and then they work and have a wider association, they have different thoughts from their parents in naming themselves to their children. In naming their children, they chose names that gave the impression that they were modern.

The notion of being a modern person can be read through the name she bears. Therefore, the proper name which uses the last syllable *-nah* has just been abandoned. Name that uses last syllable *-nem* usually given by parents who live in village to their daughters. That name also shows that the name owner comes from lower social status. Besides that, the name is also characterized as the name of household servant, like *Leginem*, *Waginem*. Proper name *Leginem* is formed from the word *legi* and *-nem*. Word *Legi* is for reminding that the daughter was born on *pasar* day *Legi*. The word *legi* is *pasar* name in Javanese society. In Javanese society it is known *pasar* name or name of the day within a week for five days, those are *Paing*, *Pon*, *Wage*, *Kliwon*, and *Legi*. It so happened with the proper name *Waginem*. Name *Waginem* is actually occurred from the name of *pasar* day *wage* and *-nem*. The name was chosen to memorize that the daughter was born on *pasar* *Wage* day.

Name *Naningsih*, *Kadarsih* use last syllable *-sih*. Name *Naningsih* is formed from the word *naning* and *-sih*. *Sih* in Javanese language means 'love' or 'loving'. Parents hope that their daughter will be loved and loving person. Proper name using last syllable *-yah* are also relatively common in Javanese women born before the 1970s, for example *Sapariyah*. The proper name *Sapariyah* is used to remember the month of birth, namely the month of *Sapar* (the name of the second month in Javanese dating). The name *Sapariyah* is formed from the words *Sapar* and *-yah*. Subsequently, the word obtained the additional sound (anaptyxis) [i] becoming *sapariyah*. Proper names that use last syllable *-yem* can show that they come from village with lower social status, like *Tukiyem*, *Poniyem*. They usually work as labor or household servant. Proper name *Tukiyem* does not have special meaning. While proper name *Poniyem* is formed from the *pasar* name *Pon* and *-yem*. The word *pon* and *-yem* get additional sound [i] to *poniyem*.

### **3.2. New Proper Names Emerging in Javanese Society**

In its development in approximately 1970-1990, the names that indicated the owner came from the village began to no longer attractive to some Javanese people. Proper name with the above characteristics is considered not able to cause prestige for the owner because by

bearing the name can be identified that the owner is from the village. Parents in the village began to switch to choosing a name that is considered modern to name their children. They are more interested in using names that tend to have last syllable [-a], no more using [-o]. Names for men that ended with syllable [-a] is considered more modern, like *Dipta Saputra*, *Aditya Perkasa*. Word *dipta* means 'sparkling'. Word *dipta* comes from Sanskrit language. Word *putra* means 'son'. So, by giving their son's name *Dipta Saputra*, the parents hope their son becomes sparkling person. Proper name *Eka Perkasa* consist of two words, *eka* and *perkasa*. The word *eka* comes from Sanskrit language, means 'one', whereas *perkasa* means 'strong' and 'brawny'. Proper name *eka* is given because their son is the first child.

Proper names for women appear as *Ratna Pamungkasari*, *Sherly Ananda*. The word *ratna* means 'precious stone' atau 'diamond'. The word *pamungkasari* is formed from word *pamungkas* + *sari*. The word *pamungkas* in Javanese language means 'the last' and *sari* means 'core'. Thus, name *Ratna Pamungkasari* means the last daughter in a family or the youngest. Proper name *Sherly Ananda* consists of two words, *sherly* + *ananda*. The word *sherly* seems to be western style while *Ananda* means 'child'.

Besides proper name in western style that is considered modern, Javanese society had also known proper name in Islamic nuance even before Indonesian independence. The Indonesian independence was in 1945. For example, the names *Muhammad* were widely used by Javanese people from before Indonesian independence until now. The name *Muhammad* means 'the honored'. Proper name *Muhammad* was chosen because it is the name of the prophet. It was hoped that the owner of the name inherited the virtue of *Rasulullah*. In the beginning of 1990s until now the proper naming in Islamic nuance has developed rapidly.

Here are examples of some proper names using Arabic language for men and women in Javanese society. It is necessary to note that the proper name from Arabic language were taken from internet media by stating their sources.

Based on the data collected, it is found that proper names for men are *As'ad Fuadi*, *Fawwas Abdurrohman*, *Muhammad Hafizd*. *As'ad* means 'happy people'. *Fuadi* means 'heart' or 'heart feeling'. By naming *As'ad Fuadi*, parents expect their children to be happy and have feelings or sensitivity. *Fawwas* means 'he who always wins'. In naming *Fawwas Abdurrohman* there is the hope of parents that their children become generous servants of Allah and always win. The word *hafizd* means "memorizer of the Qur'an". Naming *Muhammad Hafizd* contains hope that he will become a child who has good character and memorized the Qur'an.

In Javanese society, proper naming of women by using Arabic also developed quite rapidly. The names themselves include *Saira Brilliant*, *Salma Salsabila*, *Qonita Jamilah*, *Saira* means 'happy'. *Salma* means 'safe'. *Salsabila* is the name of a spring in heaven. *Qonita* means 'obedient'. *Jamilah* means 'beautiful'. The word brilliant comes from English. The name *Karima* is used by parents to name their children in the hope that their children can become useful people. Proper naming *Saira Brilliant* contains the hopes of parents so that their children can live happily or happily and smartly. The name *Saira Brilliant* is a combination of words from Arabic, namely *Salma* and English, which is brilliant. *Salma Salsabila's* proper name contains a load of parents' hopes for their children, that is, their children are always safe and will be able to enjoy the spring of heaven. The name *Qonita Jamilah* is given by parents in the hope that their children will become obedient and beautiful women.

### **3.3. Factors that Influence the Emergence of a New Proper Name in Javanese Society**

Due to development era and technology, people knowledge is enriched. People obtain knowledge easily through internet. The development has changed their way of thinking, including to the value of feeling about proper name. Naming which is considered more modern is inseparable from the influence of mass media, especially electronic media. Often people are treated and watching soap operas with idols or artists who have influenced parents in giving names to their children such as the names of the characters or artists. Parents make the names of the idols as a reference in naming their children who will be born even though sometimes the name has no meaning or just self-identity. Names that are almost extinct in children are inseparable from the knowledge held by parents and the influence of the mass media.

Giving a proper name by parents to their children is also related to the increasing knowledge of Islam on parents. The rapid development of Islam in Javanese society in Indonesia has opened the horizons of parents in applying their knowledge, among others by using words derived from Arabic in giving their children's names.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

In Javanese society, a name does not only express the meaning of something, but also can describe factors outside the language, namely where someone comes from, whether from the village or city and social status. Javanese proper names consist of one, two or three words. Based on the number of words, the endangered proper names tend to consist of one word. Before the 1970s, parents in Javanese society usually gave their children proper names by considering culture, hope or prayer, historical events, or the time of their birth. By the

development of science and technology and the ease with which people obtain information has led to cultural shifts, including in giving proper name to their children. This shift has forced part of their names so that some of their names in Javanese society are almost extinct. The name used for men is different from the name used for women.

The proper name that is almost extinct can indicate that the giver and/or owner of the name comes from the village. Most people prefer to be considered urban or modern. Therefore, parents began to turn to give names to their children with names that are considered modern. Parents prefer to name their children with names ending in vowels [-a]. The name that ends with the vowel [-a] gives the impression that the owner of the name is a modern person. The proper naming which ended with the vowel [-a] was relatively widely used in the era of 1970 until now. In addition, naming themselves using vocabulary derived from Arabic also developed quite rapidly around 1990 until now. Before Indonesia's independence in 1945, there were already Javanese people who used their names from Arabic.

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