

## THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE USED IN INDONESIAN LOCAL NEWS: POJOK KAMPUNG JTV

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### Abstrak

Pojok Kampung adalah program berita yang berada di kota Surabaya, Jawa Timur. Tidak seperti program berita lainnya di Indonesia, Pojok Kampung menggunakan dialek Jawa-Surabaya, bukan bahasa Indonesia, yang mendapat banyak kontroversi. Artikel ini menyajikan beberapa masalah yang berkaitan dengan: Dialek Jawa-Surabaya dan kata-kata yang dipilih yang digunakan dalam program Pojok Kampung, kata-kata yang tidak pantas dalam program, dan apa pendapat orang Indonesia khususnya warga Surabaya tentang Pojok Kampung. Metode campuran antara metode kualitatif dan kuantitatif pada tingkat analisis deskriptif dilakukan. Pengamatan terhadap siaran Pojok Kampung dan wawancara dengan beberapa mahasiswa Jurusan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Negeri Surabaya telah dilakukan, serta kuesioner kepada warga Surabaya dan luar Surabaya didistribusikan melalui Google Form. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa Pojok Kampung telah menggunakan banyak kata-kata vulgar dan tidak pantas, menurut warga. Namun, beberapa warga mengatakan bahwa Pojok Kampung telah memberikan informasi yang baru dan pengetahuan yang lebih luas untuk dialek Jawa, serta membantu melestarikan bahasa lokal. Pojok Kampung sendiri mengklaim menggunakan dialek Jawa-Surabaya yang benar, bahkan beberapa orang tidak setuju soal ini. Temuan ini mungkin menunjukkan bahwa beberapa kata yang tidak pantas dalam program Pojok Kampung bahkan tidak umum digunakan oleh warga Surabaya. Menurut mereka, dialek Pojok Kampung sama sekali tidak mewakili dialek Jawa-Surabaya

**Kata Kunci:** Pojok Kampung, dialek, kata-kata vulgar dan tidak pantas, warga Surabaya

### Abstract

Pojok Kampung is a news program based on Surabaya in East Java. Unlike any other news programs in Indonesia, Pojok Kampung uses the Javanese-Surabaya dialect, not Indonesian, to deliver its content which gains a lot of controversies. The paper presents some issues related to The Javanese-Surabaya dialect and the chosen words used in the Pojok Kampung program, the inappropriate words in the program, and what Indonesian especially the citizen of Surabaya's opinion about Pojok Kampung. To address them, a mixed-method between qualitative and quantitative at the level of descriptive analysis was applied. Observation to Pojok Kampung's broadcasting and interview to some students of the English Department of the State University of Surabaya was conducted, and questionnaires to the citizen of Surabaya and outside of Surabaya were distributed through Google Form. The result indicates that Pojok Kampung has used a lot of vulgar and inappropriate words, according to the citizen. However, some citizens said that Pojok Kampung has given whole new information and more extensive knowledge to the Javanese dialect, as well as helping a local language to preserve. Pojok Kampung itself is claimed that it uses the correct Javanese-Surabaya dialect, in fact, some people do not agree regarding this matter. The finding may indicate that some inappropriate words in the Pojok Kampung program are not even commonly used by the citizen of Surabaya. In their opinion, Pojok Kampung's dialect does not represent a proper Javanese-Surabaya dialect at all

**Keywords:** Pojok Kampung, dialect, vulgar and inappropriate words, a citizen of Surabaya.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Most people, in this modern era, have left behind their local language, or sometimes it is their mother tongue, the language they were born with. People tend to feel proud and intellectual when they use English, as an international language, and this phenomenon has brought the dearth of

local languages. The dearth of a language means that a certain language has no longer a big number of the speaker, and otherwise it only has a really small number of people who want to speak and keep it. Javanese is one of the languages which is almost left by most of its speakers. Realize it or not, the Javanese language has begun to weaken and be abandoned. This is dangerous because

Javanese is a local language that is unique and widely known by Indonesian. One of the television stations in Indonesia has brought out a program called Pojok Kampung, to preserve Javanese as one of the local languages in Indonesia.

Pojok Kampung is a news based on the second-largest city in Indonesia, named Surabaya, East Java. It is a television news program under PT. Jawa Pos Media Televisi (JTV). This program was announced in July 2003. Unlike any other news program in Indonesia, Pojok Kampung uses Javanese, not Indonesian, as its language to deliver its content and it shares the most updated news from every corner of East Java. It focuses on using the Surabaya accent and dialect, it is also claimed that Pojok Kampung uses the correct Surabaya dialect. As the only local television station that presents the Javanese-Surabaya dialect, JTV seems wanting to create something different and unique.

Since Pojok Kampung is a local news program based in Surabaya, it uses, specifically, the Javanese-Surabaya accent, and this topic is chosen because in Indonesia, Surabaya is well known for having pretty rough words and it is rougher than other regions in East Java. For example, Surabaya has a lot of swear words, and many people who come to Surabaya from all other places in Indonesia end up affected using a lot of swear words as well. That is why, Pojok Kampung is marked, by the public, as one of a television program which uses a lot of rough and inappropriate words. This program itself has gained a lot of critics for the past few years.

The following studies investigated Pojok Kampung and its dialect. Yuyun W. I. Surya (2006) states that Pojok Kampung (means the corner of Kampung) is a news program that is considered as the replication of the mainstream national television news program, except for the language that the anchors use to deliver the news. And unlike other programs, this program gains the most controversy, particularly for the distinct feature of the program: the use of the Surabaya dialect. The controversy which was gained by Pojok Kampung here is because of the dialect it uses to deliver its content to the viewers. A lot of people think that Javanese-Surabaya dialect should not be used in the television as it is considered as a rough and inappropriate.

From Airlangga University, this time Bea Anggraini and two other researchers, through their paper research, after the questionnaire they spread to know people's opinions regarding this matter, they found out those who do not agree with Pojok Kampung dialect are mostly woman. (Anggraini, Sartini, & Santoso, 2004) Javanese-Surabaya dialect still exists for them, but it is only used as a daily social language, not as a formal language for reading news. Santoso (2007) states that, at the end of

January 2005, the head of The Regional Independent Broadcasting Commission (KPID) of East Java, Sirikit Syah, called the person in charge of Pojok Kampung program. According to Sirikit, Pojok Kampung is going way too far because it uses too many vulgar words like *mbadog* (eat), *matek* (dead), and *ndoboli* (give birth) on its broadcasting.

Kristiani as quoted on Pahlafi (2014), according to Arif Affandi as the news director of JTV, in 2005, JTV has received a lot of complaints from the citizen regarding the use of Javanese-Surabaya dialect. A lot of viewers think that Pojok Kampung uses so many vulgar and inappropriate words, for example, *matek* (dead), *pistol gombyok* (male's genital), *empal brewok* (female's genital), *mbadog* (eat), *cangkem* (mouth), and another inappropriate vocabulary. The studies above show how some native Surabaya themselves hardly agree on having Pojok Kampung using the Javanese-Surabaya dialect since its dialect is considered as too vulgar and less appropriate or even very inappropriate to be used as a formal language to deliver the news. As a television program which gives a lot of useful information, it needs to give something more educational, both through the content and the language. Indonesian is still considered as a more appropriate language for the formal occasion than Javanese as it is a national language, here, in Indonesia.

Javanese is classified as a language with a large number of speakers. In 2001 Javanese speakers were estimated to be 75.5 million. Javanese speakers are spread in East Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta, Banten, transmigration areas, including some countries abroad, such as Suriname, Netherland, New Caledonia, West Coast of Johor. The language spreading that reached overseas, in general, was related to Dutch political policy in the colonial era. As a language with a large number of speakers and extensive spreading, the Javanese language shows the variation of uses commonly called dialects. In general, dialects can be divided into geographic dialect which based on the regions and social dialect which exists because of the differences in the social group of the speakers. (Wedhawati, Nurlina, Setiyanto, & Sukesti, 2006)

The example of geographic dialect is reflected in the differences in the use of Javanese in Yogya-Solo with Banyumas or other regions, such as Surabaya. While social dialect happens in speech levels. The dialect which Pojok Kampung uses to deliver its content to the public is included as the example of geographic dialect, it is the Javanese-Surabaya dialect. The existence of dialects in Javanese is a natural phenomenon, including the use of Javanese in some regions in Java. Generally speaking, variations in the use of Javanese in Java can be grouped into several dialects and many sub-dialects.

### Standard Javanese Dialect

Standard Javanese dialect covers the Yogya and Solo areas. Therefore, it is often called the Yogya-Solo dialect. This dialect is also used in some districts around Yogyakarta, such as Purworejo, Magelang, Temanggung, and several other districts. Standard Javanese also exists in some districts in East Java, such as Pacitan, Madiun, and Magelang.

### East Java Dialect

In East Java, the Javanese language is divided into two dialects, named the Osing dialect and the East Java dialect or Non-Osing.

Osing dialect is a Javanese dialect used by some districts in Banyuwangi, including Gini and Glagah. The example of Osing dialect is *kunci* (key) is pronounced as [koncai] while it is pronounced as [kunci] in standard dialect, and *putih* (white) is pronounced as [putɛh] while it is pronounced as [putlh] in standard dialect. There is another addition for Osing dialect, such as this is the dialect that least recognizes speech manners, or Javanese call it as *krama*, and this dialect is much influenced by the Balinese language.

East Java dialect or Non-Osing is the Javanese dialect used by almost all residents in the entire East Java province except Banyuwangi. The example of East Java dialect is *kalungmu* (your necklace) is pronounced as [kalɔŋem] while it is pronounced as [kalungmu] in standard dialect, and also *wutuh* (complete) is pronounced as [utuh] instead of [wutuh] just like standard dialect. Since Pojok Kampung is a news based on East Java, specifically Surabaya, this dialect is the most likely type of dialect which should be used by Pojok Kampung. However, most words used in Surabaya do not hundred percent match the East Java dialect written here.

Pojok Kampung with all its controversies has gained pro and contra from the public since the first time this program aired on the television. Pojok Kampung is an interesting program that uses a local language that makes it different from any other news programs in Indonesia. Some people think that by using a Javanese-Surabaya dialect, it can give a unique identity for the program, while the rest of them have a different opinion. They think that a rough, vulgar, and inappropriate words should have never been used on the television because it indicates uneducated words. Surprisingly, JTV can handle these problems for several years and Pojok Kampung still airs until this time, but it has not yet been clarified whether people will keep tolerating the news program or not with its inappropriate language.

The paper has three related research questions: 1. How is the Javanese-Surabaya dialect used in Pojok Kampung? 2. What kind of words on Pojok Kampung is considered inappropriate and should not be used on the television? 3.

How is the public opinion toward Pojok Kampung news program?

### METHOD

The method used in this study is a mixed-method between qualitative and quantitative. According to Earl Babbie (2014) qualitative method is a scientific method of observation to gather non-numerical data and (2010) quantitative methods emphasize objective measurements and the statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data collected through polls, questionnaires, and surveys, or by manipulating pre-existing statistical data using computational techniques.

To find answers to the questions, an observation was conducted through studying some previous journals and Pojok Kampung broadcasting videos and questionnaires were distributed to the citizen of Surabaya and outside of Surabaya. The questions were kind of open questions that can reveal how exactly the public's opinion towards the Pojok Kampung news program. The questionnaires were filled by 39 respondents and the interviews were conducted on 10 students. For statistical purposes, their written comments on the questionnaires were classified into two categories, positive side, and negative side. The positive side is for answers that support Pojok Kampung, while the negative side is for answers that are against Pojok Kampung

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 1. Javanese-Surabaya dialect used in Pojok Kampung

Based on the observation that has been done by studying some previous studies and watching Pojok Kampung broadcasting *every evening for a whole week*, it was found that there are a lot of uncommonly used vocabularies which either unknown by the public or too vulgar to be used in daily conversation. To make the data more trusted, a brief interview has been conducted to know whether Javanese use those vocabularies in daily conversation or not. Table 1 below is provided to show the list of the uncommonly used vocabularies or terms found in Pojok Kampung and how often Javanese applies those vocabularies. There are seven words and terms and most of them have been widely heard by the viewers of Pojok Kampung.

Table 1: Uncommonly used words and terms

No.	Word/ Term	Bahasa	English	Usage
1	<i>matek</i>	<i>meninggal</i>	die	seldom
2	<i>dibadhog</i>	<i>dimakan</i>	to be eaten	never
3	<i>manuke</i>	<i>penis</i>	penis	seldom
4	<i>rai gedheg</i>	<i>tidak tahu malu</i>	no shame	seldom
5	<i>bedhug dobol</i>	<i>siang bolong</i>	afternoon	never
6	<i>empal brewok</i>	<i>vagina</i>	vagina	never
7	<i>penthil muter</i>	<i>puting beliung</i>	tornado	never

Based on the data on the Table 1 above, it can be concluded that the uncommonly used words and terms found in Pojok Kampung are the ones which rarely used and even most are never be used in daily conversation. When a question was provided to some Javanese “Have you ever used this word? What is the reason?” they mostly came with an answer that “It is inappropriate”, “I have never been taught to speak those words”, “Using this word is impolite”, “Maybe I use that word once in a while, I don’t even remember the last time I used it”. From seven words and terms provided, only three of them which are used by Javanese on a seldom usage, the rest of them have never been used by Javanese, more than half of the words and terms listed in the table are not used even by the Javanese themselves.

Arekan dialect or more commonly known as Suroboyoan (Surabaya dialect) is spoken in Surabaya, Malang, Gresik, Sidoarjo, Mojokerto, and other districts around Surabaya. Structurally, the dialect, the Javanese-Surabaya dialect, can be said to be the harshest dialect among other dialects in Javanese. Nevertheless, a politer level of dialect is still used by some citizens of Surabaya, as a form of respect for others. But the use of politeness in the Javanese language among the people of Surabaya is mostly not as polite as in Central Java, especially Yogyakarta and Surakarta.

Pojok Kampung claims itself to be using the correct Javanese-Surabaya dialect, however, according to some respondents, Pojok Kampung speaks a dialect that contains a lot of unknown and uncommonly used words by Javanese in Surabaya. As has been stated before, there were findings of several words and terms, which somehow, are not really used by some Javanese. That way, Pojok Kampung cannot be said that it uses the correct Javanese-Surabaya dialect. Looking back to how Pojok Kampung uses words and terms such as *matek*, *dibadhog*, *manuke*, *rai gedheg*, *bedhug dobol*, *empal brewok*, *penthil muter* which more than 50% of them have never been used by Javanese in Surabaya indicates that Pojok Kampung does not use common words and terms.

The respondents who answered that they did not understand those words and terms, and they had never used or heard that words before, are the students of English Department of the State University of Surabaya who

mainly spend their life growing up in Surabaya and Javanese has been their first language, not Indonesian. The rest of the students who do not live in Surabaya, actually live in Sidoarjo or Gresik, districts which are located right beside Surabaya and Javanese is their first language. The answers of the students can be guaranteed because they use Javanese for daily communication and they grow up with Javanese.

## 2. The inappropriate words and terms

Before classifying the compilation of the uncommonly used words and terms found in Pojok Kampung, things that need to be considered are the opinion of the respondents when they were asked “Have you ever used this word? What is the reason?”. It has been mentioned before in point 3.1 that most of their answers were the words and terms mentioned are considered impolite and inappropriate so they prefer to avoid using them, consciously. Most of the words and terms listed above are inappropriate indeed. They are *matek*, *dibadhog*, *manuke*, *empal brewok* and *penthil muter*. Inappropriate words are closely related to uneducated words, and it is surely in contrast with the purpose of a television program that practically needs to educate the viewers.

*Matek* implies that something or someone is never again alive in this world. It is a term that generally applied for clarifying the decease of non-people, for example, creatures or plants. Some Javanese agree that they often avoid using this word when they refer to the death of a human, since it is way too impolite, especially in front of the family. It can be replaced by the word *mati* that is used in standard Javanese.

*Dibadhog* is a pretty rough word that is not normally used by the people in Surabaya themselves. Although the context in which the word *dibadhog* is used, is unpleasant, the word is still considered as too inappropriate to be used on television. It will be much better if Pojok Kampung replaces with the word from standard Javanese, *dipangan*.

*Manuke* is a possessive type of *manuk* which alludes to how Javanese named men's genital. In Javanese, the winged creature is called *manuk* as well, yet Pojok Kampung uses *manuk* as a term to depict the male's genital. Pojok Kampung should have been used a more proper word to replace *manuk*, it can be *kelamine wong lanang* which translated as the male's genital in English.

*Penthil muter* is considered a quite impolite word, since *penthil* refers to *puting* in Bahasa and nipple in English, therefore this term should be avoided and it will be much better to replace it with a tornado. Even though in Bahasa it is translated as *puting beliung*, but journalists should have never been translated the Indonesian term boldly to Javanese and used this word, angin *lesus* is another option to replace *penthil muter*.

*Empal brewok* is the most standout inappropriate term amongst the list of vulgar words and terms which have ever used by Pojok Kampung. It is an indecent, impolite, and offensive term. This term implies to female's genital, yet just a couple of Javanese have ever used this term and some of them do not know what this term implies. This term has gained a lot of controversies ever since it was spoken in Pojok Kampung. Such term should have never

appeared in television and better be replaced with a better Javanese word like *kelamine wong wedok*, which translated as female's genital in English.

The findings above may imply that Pojok Kampung, a news program based on the second biggest city in Indonesia, Surabaya, which should use a formal, descent and polite words, but instead using inappropriate, vulgar and impolite words and terms in delivering its content to its viewers. Even though Pojok Kampung is targeted for the viewers who live in East Java, but using better Javanese words will be much more appreciated, since there are some basic and standard Javanese language which could have been the base of the language use.

### 3. Public opinion towards Pojok Kampung

Based on the interview, some say they are pro and some say they are contra by the way Pojok Kampung delivers its content to the public. Those who agree and have no problem with the Javanese-Surabaya dialect that is used by Pojok Kampung state that this program helps people to learn more about Javanese and Pojok Kampung is a good program to help to maintain Javanese as one of the local languages in Indonesia. As has been stated at the beginning of this journal, the local language has almost been left behind and abandoned by the speakers, because most of them, in this globalization era, choose to speak a foreign language. In order to keep the Javanese dialect saved and still spoken by the citizen in Indonesia, especially in East Java, Pojok Kampung is needed as one of the agents. Therefore, this program will also help giving more information for a native Javanese or people from another island to learn this dialect.

While the negative side who do not agree with the way Pojok Kampung deliver its content said that a television program must not use a vulgar and inappropriate word, because television is watched by all people around the regions from a very young age until a very old one. It is dangerous for the children or youngsters to watch and learn the inappropriate words given by Pojok Kampung, it can influence the way they speak. Since television has a very big impact on children's growth, how children grow up later depends on what they learn throughout their lifetime, as a kid, and as a teenager. Parents have to be more aware of what their children watch on television nowadays.

According to the data of this paper, the respondents have given two big contrast answers regarding their opinion about the Pojok Kampung news program which has been said, has gained a lot of controversies throughout this time. The individuals who agree and have no issue with the Javanese-Surabaya dialect that is applied by Pojok Kampung express that this program assists individuals with learning gradually about Javanese and Pojok Kampung is a good program to help to keep up Javanese as one of the biggest dialects in Indonesia. While the opposing side who don't agree with the way Pojok Kampung conveys its content said that a TV program must not use an impolite and improper word, by the fact that a Television is viewed by all individuals without an exceptionally young age until an extremely old one. It is unsafe for the kids or youths to watch and take the

improper words given by Pojok Kampung, it can impact the manner in which they talk.

A television program has such a big impact on its viewers, whether its content or language use. A news program, especially, must use a formal and appropriate as well as polite words and terms in presenting its contents. Note that the main purpose of television is entertaining as well as educating, having a unique identity by using a local language is fine, but giving the best language and content to help to educate the viewers is also an important thing.

## CONCLUSION

### Conclusion

This paper only gives some explanations and proves about a specific issue on the study of how the language used in Indonesian local news, named Pojok Kampung in JTV, which has been said to gain a lot of controversies because of its vulgar words. Some findings such as the unknown and uncommonly used words by Javanese, the inappropriate and vulgar words and terms found in the program, and the last is the public opinion toward the news program are presented below.

Pojok Kampung has been known for using pretty rude and impolite words following the Javanese-Surabaya dialect which has been claimed to be the base of Pojok Kampung's dialect in delivering its news or contents to the public. The fact which has been found in this paper is Pojok Kampung uses some unknown and uncommonly used words and terms by Javanese, even most of the Javanese people themselves, who live in Surabaya state that they rarely use some words in Pojok Kampung. It proves how Pojok Kampung does not actually use a proper Javanese-Surabaya dialect.

Some inappropriate and vulgar words and terms also found in the news, those which have been so sensitive and avoided by Javanese since they consider those words as improper and too vulgar for daily conversation. In this case, Pojok Kampung should have used a more formal and reliable source of words, such as standard or basic Javanese language, since the Surabaya dialect contains a lot of inappropriate terms.

Despite the fact that Pojok Kampung uses a lot of inappropriate words, some people still think that this program is such a good way to help to preserve and maintain the Javanese language from death and abandonment. Pojok Kampung also helps a lot of people who want to learn Javanese as well. This may suggest that this program has some benefits for some people and the Javanese language.

### Suggestion

Some issues and findings on this paper might need deeper investigation and more extensive exploration to be able to get a better result in the future, such as the unknown and uncommonly used words as well as the inappropriate words. Hopefully, this paper can be a useful source for related parties, even though some parts of the paper may have a lack of arguments and evidence.

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