

DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF PHONEME IN SAVUNESE LANGUAGE

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Abstract

Savunese language later shortened (SI) is a regional language used by East Nusa Tenggara people particularly Sabu and Raijua. The area of using Savunese language can be found in Ipi/Ende regency, Aimere/Ngada regency, Melolo/East Sumba regency, Kupang city, Kupang regency, Soe regency, Kefa regency and Belu regency; the function of Savunese language as introductory language for Savunese people in the overseas still functions properly because of traditional lifestyle of the group based on the origin and interest which is still very dominant. In this paper I attempt to appoint the mystery of the distinctive feature of phoneme in Savunese language, is a concern to bring back the uniqueness of Savunese language which has undergone a lot of developments. The determination of consonant features according Optimization Theory based on the following criteria: (1) classification based on place of articulation , (2) classification based on the sound , (3) classification based on nasality , and (4) classification based on continuity (continuation). While the determination of vowel in Savunese language. Structural or transformational-generative idiology uses high, mid, low, front, back, round, and non round in classifying vowel. Unlike the Structural ideology, Generative ideology describes vowel by using distinctive features [high], [back.], [round.], and [low].

Keywords: feature, consonant, vowel

1. INTRODUCTION

Savunese language later shortened (SI) is a regional language used by East Nusa Tenggara people particularly Savunese and Raijua. The area of its use is quite extensive and not restricted to the island of Savu and Raijua, but spread throughout the East Nusa Tenggara province. This extensive spread is caused by the number of Savunese people who immigrated to other areas such as; Timor island, Flores, and Sumba which lasted since Dutch colonial era. This displacement does not cause them to forget their native culture. We can find them in Ipi/Ende regency, Aimere/Ngada regency, Melolo/East Sumba Regency, Kupang city, Kupang Regency, Soe Regency, Kefamenanu Regency and Belu Regency; The function of Savunese language as introductory language for Savunese people in a foreign region still functions properly because of traditional lifestyle of the groups based on the origin and interest, which is still very dominant, thus in these areas can be found many places' name which called "*Kampung Sabu*" or Savunese Village (Padje, Daud., Padje, G. R. H., and Akiko Kagiya, 2007; Dictionary of Sabu – Indonesia – Inggris).

Despite the efforts to keep the tradition is going well, but in its development, the influence of Indonesian and local languages has led to the emergence of cultural transformation, which results in the emergence of Savunese language with local dialect. Therefore, I attempt to uncover the mystery of the distinctive feature of phoneme in Savunese language, which is a concern to bring back the uniqueness of Savunese language that has undergone many developments.

In determining the features of consonants according Optimization Theory is based on the following criteria: (1) classification based on place of articulation, (2) classification based on the sound, (3) classification based on nasality, and (4) classification based on continuity (continuation) (Pulleyblank , 1997:60-61) .

Meanwhile, the determination of vowel in Savunese language structural ideology or transformational-generative uses high, mid, low, front, back, round, and non round parameter in classifying vowel. Unlike the Structural ideology, Generative ideology describes vowel by using distinctive features [ting], [bell.], [Bul.], and [rend]. Optimality Theory ideology describes the distinctive features (term used by Transformative Generative) in describing vowel.

1. DISTINCTIVE FEATURE THEORY

Distinctive feature is the smallest element of language sounds that distinguishes it from other sounds. (cf. Schane, 1992:26-27; Carr, 1993:53-77: Kridalaksana, 2001:37, and Pastika 2004 : 88 , 2005a : 7 , 2005b : 13).

Basically language sounds are composed from smaller element called features (Pulleyblank , in Archangeli , 1997:60). The feature is component or part of element used as a basis to describe the arranged pattern (Joseph, 1998:144).

2. THE DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF CONSONANT IN SAVUNESE LANGUAGE

The determination of consonants features according to Optimization Theory (OT) is based on the following criteria: (1) classification based on place of articulation, (2) classification based on the sound, (3) classification based on nasality, and (4) classification based on continuity (Pulleyblank , 1997:60-61) .

Based on place of articulation, the sound is divided in labial, coronal, and dorsal. These sounds that are articulated with the lower lip such as; [p, b, f, v, m ...]; Coronal is sound articulated by lifting the tip of the tongue or the tongue to the alveolar ridge. The sounds are [t, d, s, z, n,]. Dorsal or velar sound is generated by lifting the stem of the tongue towards the soft palate or also called velum; the sounds are [k and g].

Consonant feature based on the second criterion is classified based on the voicing that produce voiced consonant sounds such as [b , d , v , m , n , g , z] which produced with vibrated vocal cords. In addition, the voiceless consonants [p , f , t , s , k] are produced by the non-vibrated vocal cords or open glottis.

Consonant feature based on third criterion is classified based on nasality that produces nasal and oral groups. Nasal group is produced by the airflow through the nasal cavity. The sounds are [p, b, f, t, d, s, z, k, g ...]. Finally, based on forth criterion is produced blocked sounds group that generated by blowing air out of the lungs in full then released as sounds [p , b , m , t , d , n , k , g ...] and fricative sounds, by narrowing the exhaled airflow path, so the air flow is blocked and came out with a sifted. Sounds such as [f , v , s , z] and glottal fricative sound [h] is not laryngeals fricative (Pulleyblank in Archangeli , 1997:60-61).

Based on consonant criteria proposed by Archangeli above, in general the realisation of phonetic consonant of savunese language can be classified into the place of articulation and manner of articulation. The classification is presented as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Consonant of S1

(PULMONIC)	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	f11(vl) s11(v)1	‡11(vl)1 u11(v)1		(vl) x (v)	@(vl)1
Nasal	1~ (v)	€ (v)			
Trill		... (v)	/ny/1 1n1(v)1	/ng/1 _n1(v)1	
Tap or Flap					
Fricative					y1(vl)1
Lat. Fricative					
Approximant			{ (v)		
Lat. Approx.		} (v)			

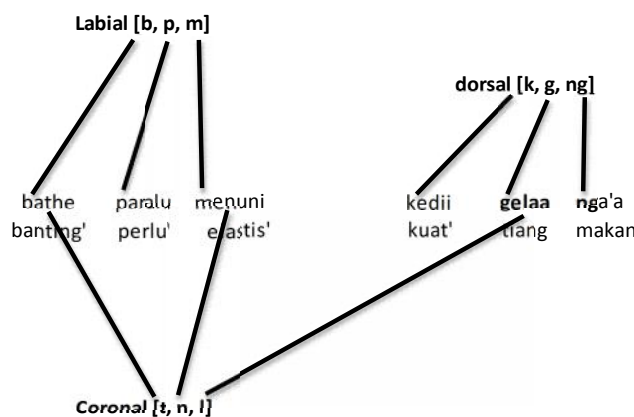
Description:

v : Voiced
 vl : Voiceless

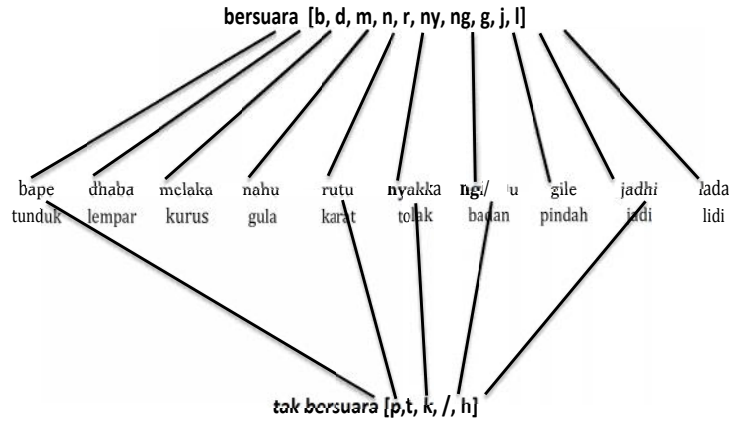
There are four classification of consonant according to Pulleyblank (1997: 60-61). They are (1) classification based on place of articulation, (2) classification based on the sound, (3) classification based on nasality, and (4) classification based on continuity (Pulleyblank, 1997:60-61). Based on the classification above, consonant in Savunese language can be grouped as follows;

First, based on place of articulation, consonant of Savunese language can be distinguished as bilabial; the sound articulated with the meeting of the the lower lip to the upper lip such as [p, b, m, f]. Coronal is the sound which is articulated with lifting the tip of tounge or palate to the alveolar ridge, such as [t, s, n]; dorsal or velar is the sound produced by raising tounge to the soft palate or velum.

The sounds are [p, b, m]

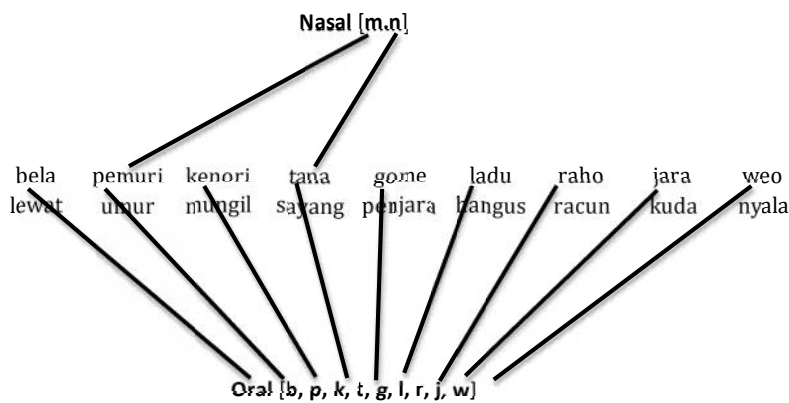


Second, based on voicing, Savunese language consonant can be divided into two namely voiced consonant and voiceless consonant. Voiced consonant is consonant articulated by vibrated vocal cords. The voiceless consonant is a consonant that is produced by open glottis. There are seven voiced consonants in Savunese language namely: /φ, η, κ, π, σ, τ, and // whereas, there are four voiceless consonants: / β, λ, μ, and v/.



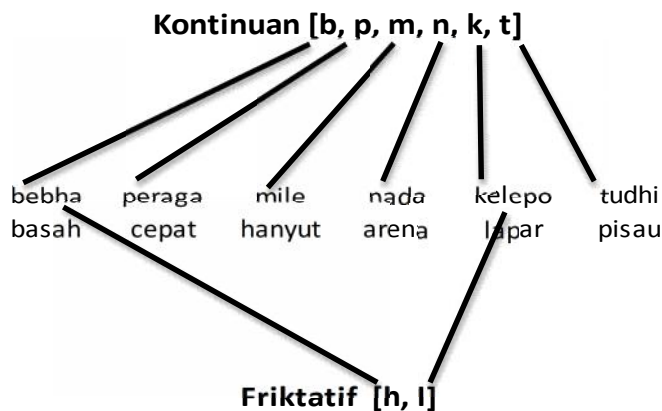
Third, based on nasality, consonant of Savunese language can be divided into two group namely nasal group and oral group. The nasal group generated by airflow through the nasal cavity, whereas the oral group generated by the flow of air out of the oral cavity. The consonant sounds which are included in nasal sounds ie [m , n , , /], whereas the group of oral sound is the sounds that produced with airflow through oral cavity.

The sounds are [p, b, t, k, ?, g, j, r, l, w]



Fourth, based on continuity, the consonants of Savunese language can be divided into two namely; stop consonant and fricative consonant. The stop consonant is a consonant that produced by blocking the flow of air from lungs completely, then released. Fricative consonant is a consonant produced by narrowing the exhaled airflow stream, resulting in a shift. Stop consonants in SI are / p / , / b / , / t / , / μ / , / v / . The example of fricative consonants are /η/, /l/.

The classification based on continuity is shown in the chart below:



3. DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF VOWEL IN SAVUNESE LANGUAGE

The structural or transformational-generative ideology uses high, mid, low, front, back, round, and non round parameter in classifying vowel. The parameters related to the front- back, round – non round are pairs (Schane, 1973:30). Unlike the Structural ideology, Generative ideology describes vowel by using distinctive features [high], [back.], [round], and [low]. The Optimality Theory ideology illustrates the distinctive features (the term used by the Generative transformation) in describing vowel. Despite Optimality Theory ideology still uses distinctive feature, it applies the distinctive features in constraints. The evident can be seen from the examples shown by Archangeli D. and DT Langendoen (1997:201 - 202) in American English.

Binary system is used in describing the the distinctive features. The binary system is denoted by a plus sign (+) and minus (-) (Robin , 1992: 172-174). The usefulness of these both signs is for the features that indicate the opposite characteristics, to show whether the feature is exist or not. Only one single feature is applied for two separated names, such as; *lax*. Thus, tense sound defined as [+ teg .] And lax sound defined as [- teg.].

The Binary system (plus and minus) is useful to show explicitly how the members of the pair are interconnected. Such as voiced - voiceless or nasal - oral related to each other, whereas other members are unrelated.

In realltion to the distinctive feature, simanjuntak (1989:13-14) reveals that the distinctive feature is very important in Generative Phonology (in this context as well as in Optimality Theory) because

1. Distinctive features are the physical realization of psychological reality in phonetic;
2. Distinctive features in phonology are the property of phonemes that distinguish it from other phonemes; and
3. Distinctive features in phonology belong to smallest phonemes which are used to differentiate meaning. Schane (1992:27) proposes three ideal distinctive functions, namely (1) is able to describe the systematic phonetic that is called phonetic function, (2) at a more abstract level, the features are useful to distinguish lexical elements that is called phonemic function, and (3) the features that are useful to establish reasonable classes; that is, the segments which belong to one group experiences the same phonological processes.

The application of a binary system to distinguish two levels of tense and lax sounds (no tension), need to be integrated two features, that specifies the value of the two features, if both vowel height levels are taken which are very different, tense and lax are organized as free feature. The following table displays the different levels of vocal height within the framework of the binary system parameters to distinguish *high* and *low* vocals.

	High Vowel	Middle Vowel	Low Vowel
High	+	-	-
Low	-	-	+

(Schane, 1992:32-33)

Based on the characteristics of the stem of the tongue, the distinctive features of the input of Savunese language can be distinguished on the high vowel, medium vowel, low vowel, front vowel, back vowel. The distinction can be simplified. The simplification is adapted to the binary system that used in Generative Theory of Transformation. In this context, the feature [medium] and feature [middle] is eliminated to meet the demands of the binary system. In other words, based on the characteristics of stem of the tongue, Savunese language vowels are featured to [high], [low], [front] and [back]. .

The application feature of the stem of tongue in describing input in Savunese vowel is first, high vowel is / ɪ / and / ʊ / have a common feature [+ high] , [+ front] for the vowel / i /, and [front] for the vowel / u / ; second , the feature is considered has been sufficient enough in describing the high vowel in Savunese language because it does not have high mid vowel third,

medium vowel /ε/ and /o/, /E/ and /↔/ shared common features [high] and [- low], and its particular feature is [+ front] for vowel /ε/, [front] , [- back] for the under vowel /α/. The rest, vowel / a / has a low feature ([+ low]) . Vowel-back vowel are /a/, /u/, /o/ and /□/.

The application of lips shape feature in Savunese language vowels are (1) [+ round] for the vowel /u/ and /o/, as well and (2) [- round] for vowel /ɪ , ε , E , α /. Characteristic shape of the lips can be used if the vowels have not been completely described. The use of these features still considers the excess feature of a phoneme.

In addition to two features above, there is one more feature that can be used, which is the additional feature. This feature can be used to give output feature sof Savunese language vowels that experiencing laxing. The distinctive feature used is [tense]. That is why, all of the input in Savunese language vowels has a feature [+ tense] and there is a number of outputs that have features [- tense], namely [I]. The table below shows the distinctive features of the input and output vowels in Savunese language.

Table 2. Distinctive Feature of Input Vowel-vowel SI

Feature	z	v	Å	V	§	r	^	,
High	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Low	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Back	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+
Round	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+

Table 3. Distinctive Feature of Output Vowel-vowel SI

Feature	z	l	v	V	Å	r	^	f	,	§
High	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Low	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Front	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Back	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Round	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Lax	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-

Various distinctive features of vowels in Savunese language, both input or output as shown above is really needed to analyze the phonological process, particularly related to vowel changes, vowel laxness, and diftongnisation.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the theories, methods and techniques that is used, it can be generated the following research.

Savunese language vowel segment includes the /i/, /u/, /e/, / /, /o/, and /a/, each using the letter /i/, /e/, /e/, /a/, /u/, and /o/. Meanwhile, for the consonant segment : /p, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /j/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /r/, /l/, /ng/, w, bh, dh, dj, gh, ny each using letters /π, /β/, /τ/, /δ/, /κ/, /γ/, /φ/, /η/, /μ/, /ν/, /ρ/, /λ/, /N/, /ω/, /≡/, /φ/, /♥/, and /)/.

The distinctive features of consonants in Savunese language is classified based on the place of articulation bilabial. The distinctive features of vowels in Savunese language is classified based on (1) characteristics of stem of the tongue, vowel /i/ featured [+ high, + front] vowel /u/ featured [+ high, - front] , Vowel /ε/ featured [- high, - low , + front] vowel /o/ featured [- high, - low, + back] , vowel /a/ featured [+ rend .] ; /↔/ featured [- high, - low], (2) characteristic of the lip shape, vowel /u/ and /o/ , characterized by [+ rounded] , whereas the vowel /i/, /e/, /↔/, and /a/, featured [- rounded] , and (3) additional features, vowel /i/, /u/, /e/, /↔/, /o/ and /a/ , characterized by [teg.] , while the vowels [I], [E], [Y], dan [□], characterized [ked.]

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