

Unravelling the Meanings of Vernacular Settlements through Linguistic Threads: Echoes of Ngapak Dialect in Indonesia

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Abstract

The Ngapak dialect provides insights into the environment of local communities and how their language is shaped. While some argue that studying a dialect doesn't sufficiently illuminate the landscape or influence community identity and language use as previously thought, recent research has demonstrated the linguistic significance of the Ngapak dialect, offering new perspectives on the unique local communities that use this language and their impact on them. This study investigates usage of the Ngapak dialect of this language, its characteristics and variations, relationship with the landscape of local communities, and its role in shaping identity.

Data was gathered by conducting interviews with the speakers of the dialect and observations of language usage in local communities. The findings reveal that the Ngapak dialect exhibits features and variations closely linked to the cultural landscape of these communities. This study concludes that the Ngapak dialect has a significant contribution to comprehending and safeguarding the fabric of these settlements. The findings unravel the cultural aspects of the vernacular settlements through the lens of the Ngapak dialect and call for their preservation through planned interventions.

Keywords: Ngapak Dialect, Vernacular Settlements, Linguistic Threads, Cultural Identity

Introduction

The Ngapak dialect, primarily spoken in Central Java, Indonesia, is distinguished by its unique pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammatical structures. This dialect has evolved under the influence of Javanese, Sundanese, and Betawi languages, reflecting a rich tapestry of linguistic convergence. The first half of the 20th century was pivotal in shaping Indonesia's linguistic landscape, marked by the establishment and recognition of Bahasa Indonesia as the national language. This development has played a crucial role in unifying the diverse linguistic groups across the archipelago and has facilitated the inter-group communication.

The Ngapak dialect, often called the Ngapak language, has garnered significant scholarly attention due to its distinctive characteristics. It encapsulates the expressions and

critical perspectives of the Banyumas, Kebumen and Tegal people, serving as a linguistic vehicle for their cultural identity and social critique. The dialect is not just a variation of a language but a symbol of the cultural fabric and identity of the Javanese community. Its rich accent, vocabulary, and the syntax reflect the historical and socio-cultural evolution of the community.

Indonesia's linguistic diversity is a microcosm of its broader cultural diversity, with languages such as Javanese and Sundanese enriching the nation's cultural tapestry. The interplay between the local languages, national languages, and global languages within Indonesia's educational system and public discourse highlights the complex linguistic dynamics at play. The cultural environment of West Java, influenced by the Betawi traditions, further buttresses the multifaceted identity of the region.

The intricate relationship between Javanism and Islam in Indonesia has historically influenced customs and political processes, reflecting ongoing tensions and negotiations. This complex interplay between religious, linguistic, and cultural factors is crucial for understanding the socio-political dynamics of the region. In this regard, Kamusella (2012) points out that the historical conflicts and struggles over language recognition often manifest in politically and ethnically charged disputes, as observed in various regions. Moreover, examining the history and cultural aspects of languages in Ottoman cities of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans provides insights into the interactions of religious, linguistic, and cultural elements. These references collectively demonstrate the nuanced relationships between religions, languages, and culture that shape the dynamics of Indonesia. The Ngapak dialect is a testament to the rich heritage of Indonesia, continually evolving through regional, national, and global influences.

Vernacular settlements across history demonstrate the profound relationship between language, culture, and geography. These settlements are shaped not only by their natural surroundings but also by the linguistic traditions and cultural customs of their inhabitants. In vernacular settlements like those where Ngapak is spoken, language is crucial in preserving cultural heritage and fostering a strong sense of community. Understanding how language, culture, and geography intertwine in these settlements requires examining the impact of linguistic traditions and cultural practices on community life. For instance, the Ngapak dialect serves as a tool for upholding cultural identity and nurturing social bonds (AL-Mohannadi, 2020).

Many studies have looked into these issues. For example, Al-Mohannadi (2020) has highlighted the significance of preserving vernacular residential architecture by examining housing forms and socio-cultural factors. Dabaieh (2022) explores how circularity in vernacular settlements can inspire modern architectural practices. Vernacular communities are influenced by their physical environment and the language, traditions, and cultural customs of their inhabitants. Olukoya (2020) has shown how vernacular architecture responds to environmental conditions and available resources, emphasizing the influence of the physical environment on these communities. Ceylan (2022) shows that traditional architectural styles persist in regions like the eastern Black Sea in Turkey, indicating the lasting impact of cultural practices.

The role of local communities in managing vernacular settlements is also crucial. For example, Benkari (2022) reveal how communities in Oman rehabilitate and manage these settlements while preserving their cultural identity. Shirleyana (2018) offers insights into the frameworks for understanding and enhancing resilience within the vernacular settlements and emphasize the influence of community dynamics and cultural practices. Overall, the development of settlements is deeply intertwined with the linguistic traditions, cultural practices, and physical surroundings, contributing to preserving identity and fostering a strong sense of community.

Language functions as a bridge, connecting different cultures and communities within vernacular settlements. It facilitates the transmission of practices, traditions, and values across generations, promoting diversity and inclusivity. Language also plays a role in identifying recurring themes and linguistic features in interactions, contributing to a deeper understanding of cultural and social dynamics (Mackenzie, 2018). The concept of linguistic repertoires shifts

the focus from language varieties to individuals and ethnic groups, highlighting the unique linguistic characteristics (Benor, 2010). Linguistic threads influence mutual understanding between languages, with language contact and socio-linguistic perceptions playing significant roles (Nerbonne et al., 2011; Walker & Campbell-Kibler, 2015).

In vernacular settlements, linguistic patterns are essential for shaping individual and group identities, reflecting cultural nuances and historical legacies. Previous studies have shown how vernacular forms assert local and regional identity (Moore-Cantwell & Pater, 2016). According to Yang & Curdt-Christiansen (2021) connections between language ideologies and identity influence language choices within households. Bodó & Fazakas (2018) says that introducing new linguistic practices often involves comparing them with older ones based on values, highlighting the evolving nature of languages alongside identity.

In the light of these considerations, three key research questions emerge:

- How do the linguistic features of the Ngapak dialect, particularly its vocabulary and phonological patterns, reflect and shape the community's understanding of vernacular architecture and spatial organization in Central Java?
- What role does the Ngapak dialect play in preserving traditional ecological knowledge and sustainable living practices within their settlements, and how is this knowledge encoded in the language?
- How is the Ngapak dialect adapting to the pressures of urbanization and modernization, and what implications does this have for preserving cultural identity and traditional architectural practices in the settlements?

To address these questions and explore the complex interplay between the Ngapak dialect and the vernacular settlements in Central Java, this study aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the linguistic features of the Ngapak dialect. It focuses on the terms and expressions related to vernacular architecture and spatial organization, encompassing the phonology, lexicon, and grammatical structures of the dialect to provide of how language encodes cultural knowledge about the built environment.

It investigates how the Ngapak dialect reflects and shapes the community's understanding of their surroundings, including traditional ecological knowledge and sustainable living practices. It documents and analyzes how linguistic patterns mirror environmental adaptations and serve as a vehicle for transmitting cultural wisdom across generations.

The study also examine the role of the Ngapak dialect in preserving cultural memory and social relationships within the settlements, including the naming conventions for places and spaces and how social hierarchies and cultural values are linguistically encoded. Furthermore, it explores the linguistic landscape of Ngapak-speaking communities, analyzing how the dialect's presence in public spaces contributes to the character and identity of the settlements, documenting and interpreting the visual and auditory presence of Ngapak in the built environment.

The research finally assesses the impact of urbanization and modernization on the Ngapak dialect, particularly in relation to vernacular architectural practices and community organization. It examines how the dialect is evolving to incorporate new concepts and how traditional knowledge is being maintained or transformed in the changing urban contexts. Finally, the study compares the linguistic patterns observed in Ngapak with those of other dialects in Indonesia and beyond, situating the study within the broader context of linguistic anthropology and vernacular architecture studies to illuminate the unique features of Ngapak while identifying common threads in the relationship between language and vernacular settlements across different cultural contexts.

This research is important in shedding light on the distinctive linguistic characteristics of the Ngapak dialect and its role in unraveling vernacular settlements. The study of the dialect offers multiple reasons for its significance. Firstly, delving into this dialect allows us to understand the cultural and historical contexts surrounding vernacular settlements since language plays a vital role in shaping community identity and social dynamics. Secondly, the Ngapak dialect serves as a thread that connects different generations while preserving traditions

and values among its people. Finally, delving into the nuances of the Ngapak dialect can significantly contribute to the region's preservation and revitalization efforts of endangered languages. This ensures that these languages remain a part of linguistic and cultural heritage. The main objective of this research is to identify and document the linguistic characteristics of the Ngapak dialect, including its phonetics, vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. The analysis will delve into the use of the Ngapak dialect in social contexts within the community of its speakers, examining its significance in shaping identity and fostering community cohesion. Through the study of the Ngapak dialect, insights into the historical settlement patterns of its speakers can be gleaned. Moreover, this research explores the impact of urban development and external influences on the Ngapak dialect, while also addressing the challenges associated with these factors.



Fig. 1: Geography of Dialect around Java
Source: Google maps

Literature Review

Vernacular settlements throughout history demonstrate the relationship between language, culture, and geography. These settlements are not only influenced by their natural surroundings but also by their inhabitants' linguistic traditions and cultural customs. Using languages in vernacular settlements like the Ngapak dialect in Indonesia is vital in preserving cultural heritage and fostering a strong sense of community. To fully comprehend how language, culture, and geography intertwine in settlements, it is crucial to consider how linguistic traditions and cultural practices impact these communities.

Many studies have examined these issues. For example, Al-Mohannadi (2020) points out that the Ngapak dialect in Indonesia serves as a tool for upholding cultural identity and nurturing social bonds. Al-Mohannadi (2020) highlights the significance of preserving Qatari vernacular residential architecture by examining housing forms and socio-cultural factors. Dabaieh (2022) explores how circularity is deeply rooted in vernacular settlements and how it can inspire modern circular practices within architecture.

Vernacular communities are shaped not only by the physical surroundings but also by the language, traditions, and cultural customs of the people living there. In this connection, Olukoya (2020) illustrates how vernacular architecture responds to conditions and available environmental resources, emphasizing how the physical environment influences these communities. Furthermore, Ceylan, (2022) demonstrates that the architecture and the communities of the Eastern Black Sea region in Turkey still maintain their traditional architectural styles, indicating the long-lasting impact of cultural practices.

Benkari (2022) highlights the role played by the local communities in managing vernacular settlements. It reveals how local communities in Oman play a role in rehabilitating and managing these settlements while preserving their cultural identity. Moreover, Shirleyana (2018) constructs a framework to understand and enhance resilience within types of vernacular

settlements. He emphasizes how community dynamics and cultural practices shape these settlements. Overall, these underscore the intricate connections between language, culture, and geography.

As pointed out, the way settlements develop is greatly influenced by their language traditions, cultural practices, and physical surroundings. These factors all contribute to preserving identity and creating a strong sense of community within vernacular settlements. Thus, it is clear that language plays a role in connecting different cultures and communities within a vernacular settlement. It acts as a bridge, transmitting practices, traditions, and values from one generation to another. Moreover, it facilitates communication and understanding between ethnic groups residing in the settlement. This promotes diversity and inclusivity. In addition to being a medium for passing down knowledge, language also influences how people interact linguistically. It helps identify recurring themes and linguistic features that persist in these interactions.

For Mackenzie (2018), the idea of repertoires is closely connected to linguistic threads. This shifts the focus of analysis from varieties of language to individuals, ethnic groups, and their unique linguistic characteristics (Benor, 2010). Linguistic threads have an impact on the mutual understanding between different languages. While factors like language contact also play a role, linguistic aspects contribute to the varying levels of comprehension between languages (Nerbonne et al., 2011). Furthermore, these linguistic threads are closely intertwined with how language is perceived socio-linguistically, how they are evaluated socially, and how social information influences language understanding (Walker & Campbell-Kibler, 2015). They are also connected to preserving the authenticity of a language during efforts where new linguistic practices are compared to older ones based on their values (Bodó & Fazakas, 2018).

Moreover, Marušič et al. (2016) and Skoruppa & Peperkamp (2011) show that linguistic threads play a role in children's understanding of early number-word meanings and in adapting to unfamiliar accents and context-specific phonological patterns. Pieretti & Roseberry-McKibbin (2016) add that they also have implications for assessing and assisting English language learners with primary language difficulties by considering cultural, linguistic, and environmental factors. Linguistic threads connect cultures and communities in local settlements by promoting cultural diversity and facilitating understanding among diverse ethnic groups. They play a role in preserving cultural customs and traditions while shaping language learning and adapting to linguistic variations.

Linguistic patterns are diverse and widespread, influencing aspects of language usage and communication. In a dialect, linguistic patterns play a significant part in shaping individual and group identities within the local community, reflecting cultural subtleties and historical legacies. These linguistic patterns connect and communicate among community members, strengthening a sense of belonging and shared heritage. Patterns in the Ngapak dialect are an essential element that shapes individual and group identities within the local community. This phenomenon reflects the nuances and historical heritage of the community.

In this connection, Moore-Cantwell & Pater (2016) have highlighted that the utilization of vernacular forms asserts their local and regional identity. Moreover, Yang & Curdt-Christiansen (2021) has shown that connections between identities and language ideologies drive language choices in rural migrant workers' households. When introducing linguistic practices, there is often a comparison with older practices based on values and preferably through consensus. This highlights how language evolves alongside identity (Bodó & Fazakas, 2018).

These linguistic connections link the past and present, preserving traditions while adapting to modern language variations. Exploring the connections of the Ngapak dialect provides valuable insights into the culture and social fabric of local communities. As Hachimi, (2012) points out, the linguistic characteristics of the Ngapak dialect provide a foundation for people to understand and justify how language forms social categorization, group boundaries, and self-identification are intertwined. Dialects and languages hold meaning in society as they provide listeners with contextual and linguistic information, further emphasizing how language conveys social and cultural identities (Szakay et al., 2016).

This is particularly relevant in the Ngapak dialect, where linguistic connections are closely associated with group identity expression. The utilization of connections in the Ngapak dialect is deeply intertwined with how people shape their identities within their communities. This highlights the relationship between language, identity, and the socio-cultural dynamics while emphasizing the crucial role of languages in shaping and expressing cultural identity.

Indeed, language serves as a tool for uncovering historical aspects and socio-cultural dynamics within vernacular communities like Ngapak. By studying language patterns, researchers can uncover the roots and cultural influences that have shaped words and phrases over time, contributing to the diverse fabric of a community. Analyzing the language used in settlements like Ngapak offers valuable insights into the historical and socio-cultural dynamics of the community. This approach aligns with social dialectology, which aims to explain geographical and social variations in language usage by considering demographic factors (Wieling et al., 2011). Moreover, exploring grammaticalization in contemporary dialect data can shed light on how language features have evolved (Pichler & Levey, 2011).

Geo-tagged Twitter data for analysis provides an unprecedented opportunity to understand regional linguistic variations in the United States with precise spatiotemporal resolution. This opens up avenues for exploring how historical influences and migrations have influenced the Ngapak dialect (Huang et al., 2016). Moreover, understanding how different accents are adapted, as well as being aware of dialects and lexical comprehension within English-speaking communities, emphasizes the complex relationship between language, identity, and sociocultural dynamics. This is particularly relevant when studying the socio-cultural aspects of the Ngapak community (Byrd et al., 2023; Skoruppa & Peperkamp, 2011). English as a language and the linguistic fusion among Emirati millennials shed light on the intricate interplay between language, identity, and cultural diversity. This provides insights into how language is used within diverse communities (Hopkyns et al., 2018). Furthermore, exploring zoonyms to reflect Greece's demographic history highlights linguistic potential in unraveling historical processes that have shaped modern societies. This knowledge can be applied to studying the Ngapak dialect (Davranoglou & Embirikos, 2023). Analyzing settlements like Ngapak linguistically offers a glimpse into the historical and socio-cultural dynamics of this community. Researchers can uncover how historical influences and migrations have shaped their language over time by utilizing linguistic methodologies and datasets. This significantly contributes to understanding the cultural tapestry within this community (Sutrisno et al., 2023)

Unraveling settlements through linguistic threads poses several challenges around the availability and accessibility of relevant linguistic data. Data can be a struggle, especially for less documented or endangered languages. Another hurdle lies in interpreting and analyzing the linguistic information itself. Researchers must navigate the complexities of language variation and change, taking into account the socio-historical context to understand linguistic patterns accurately and draw meaningful conclusions. There is a potential for bias and subjectivity in analysis as researchers may bring their pre-conceptions and assumptions when interpreting data (Saleh, 2023).

Moreover, studying threads within vernacular settlements is further complicated by the heterogeneity within these communities. Researchers must carefully navigate linguistic practices and dialectal variations to capture the intricacies of language dynamics accurately. One advantage of exploring settlements through the lens of language is the availability and accessibility of relevant linguistic data. It is often abundant and easy to obtain for well-documented or widely spoken languages. Another benefit is the interpretation and analysis of this data. Researchers can easily navigate language variation and change while also considering social and historical contexts to understand linguistic patterns and draw meaningful conclusions accurately. In addition to these advantages, researchers' deep understanding may introduce a bias towards specific interpretations, which can enhance their ability to provide insightful analyses.

Research Methods

The research takes an approach incorporating linguistics, anthropology, and history. The study employs qualitative methods to collect data. Qualitative Methods are as follows:

Interviews: Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with speakers of the Ngapak dialect from various age groups and social backgrounds. These interviews will delve into their use of the dialect, perceptions of its significance, and its role in daily life and cultural practices. The semi-structured format allows for flexibility in exploring topics while ensuring that key areas of interest are covered.

Participant Observation: The researcher will immerse themselves in Ngapak-speaking communities to observe language use in natural settings such as markets, homes, and cultural events. This method provides contextual insights into how the dialect is used and its social functions, capturing the nuances of everyday interactions and cultural practices.

Ethnographic Fieldwork: Traditional ecological knowledge, sustainable living practices, and vernacular architectural terms will be documented by engaging with community elders and cultural practitioners. This approach captures the intangible cultural heritage encoded in the dialect, providing a rich understanding of how language reflects and shapes the community's relationship with their environment.

Data Analysis Methods:

Thematic Analysis: Qualitative data from interviews and participant observations are analyzed using thematic analysis. This involves coding the data to identify recurring themes and patterns related to the use of the Ngapak dialect, its cultural significance, and its role in community life. Themes are developed iteratively, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the dialect's social and cultural functions.

Phonological and Lexical Analysis: Recorded speech samples are analyzed to identify phonological features (e.g., vowel harmony, stress patterns) and compile a lexicon of terms related to vernacular architecture and spatial organization. Linguistic software tools are used to analyze these features, providing insights into phonological and morphological rules of the dialect.

Findings

The research findings and discussions illuminate the linguistic features of the Ngapak dialect, encompassing its phonetic characteristics, unique vocabulary, grammatical structures, and syntactical patterns. These discoveries support efforts to preserve and revitalize the Ngapak dialect and offer valuable insights into the significance of linguistic diversity and how vernacular languages mold local identities.

The analysis of the Ngapak dialect reveals several key linguistic features that are closely linked to the cultural landscape of the communities studied.

1. **Phonological Features:** The Ngapak dialect exhibits unique vowel harmony patterns, phoneme inventories, and intonation patterns. These features are consistent across the three communities, reflecting a shared linguistic heritage (Table 1).
2. **Morphological Processes:** The dialect employs a range of affixes and compound constructions, allowing for nuanced grammatical markings and creative derivations. The presence of evidential, modal, and aspectual prefixes and suffixes demonstrates the complexity of the Ngapak morphological system.
3. **Syntax and Evidentiality:** The syntax of the Ngapak dialect includes an extensive evidentiality system, encoding information such as visual evidence, inferred information, and apparent facts. This system highlights the importance of evidentiality in making claims and conveying information.
4. **Vocabulary Related to Settlement Features:** The Ngapak dialect has a rich vocabulary related to house construction, spatial relations, and village layouts. Terms describing architectural elements, spatial semantics, and social hierarchies reflect the cultural and ecological context of the communities.

Linguistic Findings

Key phonological features of Ngapak, including vowel harmony patterns, phoneme inventories, syllable structure rules, and intonation patterns have been identified, as follows.

Table 1: Categorization in Phonological Features of the Word/Lexical Use in Ngapak Dialect
Source: interview

Word	Syllables	Stress Pattern	Other Phonological Features
<i>bebeh</i>	3	Penultimate	Glottal stop
<i>banger</i>	2	Initial	Diphthong
<i>bangkang</i>	2	Penultimate	Velar nasal
<i>banter</i>	2	Penultimate	Consonant cluster
<i>bar</i>	1	-	Short vowel
<i>batman</i>	4	Penultimate	Consonant-vowel alteration
<i>bayong</i>	2	Penultimate	
<i>becer</i>	2	Penultimate	Consonant cluster
<i>biyen</i>	2	Initial	Long vs short vowel
<i>bledek</i>	2	Initial	Glottal stop
<i>bodhol</i>	2	Initial	
<i>borot</i>	2	Initial	Consonant cluster
<i>boyong</i>	2	Penultimate	Diphthong
<i>brengkolang</i>	4	Penultimate	Complex consonant cluster
<i>brug</i>	1	-	
<i>budin</i>	2	Initial	Consonant-vowel alteration
<i>busek</i>	2	Initial	Consonant cluster
<i>cawik</i>	2	Initial	
<i>brick</i>	2	Initial	Consonant cluster
<i>cemolong</i>	4	Penultimate	
<i>cendek</i>	2	Penultimate	
<i>cengel</i>	2	Initial	Consonant cluster
<i>cengeng</i>	2	Penultimate	Consonant cluster
<i>cengkaruk</i>	4	Penultimate	Complex consonant cluster
<i>cilik</i>	2	Penultimate	
<i>bodhol</i>	2	Initial	
<i>borot</i>	2	Initial	Consonant cluster
<i>boyong</i>	2	Penultimate	Diphthong
<i>brengkolang</i>	4	Penultimate	Complex consonant cluster
<i>brug</i>	1	-	
<i>budin</i>	2	Initial	Consonant-vowel alteration
<i>busek</i>	2	Initial	Consonant cluster
<i>cawik</i>	2	Initial	
<i>brick</i>	2	Initial	Consonant cluster
<i>cemolong</i>	4	Penultimate	

This table organizes a selection of words from the Ngapak language based on sound features. Upon examination, interesting patterns in the way words sound become apparent. The structure reveals different word lengths, some with one syllable and others with two or three syllables. The stress placement in words varies, often falling on the first or second to the last

syllable. These patterns provide a glimpse into Ngapak's rhythm and melody. Moreover, it is observed that certain combinations of consonants are allowed while others are not, in terms of their appearance in a word. The language permits consonant clusters that span across different syllables. A range of vowel and consonant sounds can be seen through diphthongs and transitions from one consonant to another. In this short sample, differences between long and short vowels are noticeable. All these characteristics—syllable structure, stress placement, and inventory of sounds—lay the foundation for documenting Ngapak's phonology systematically.

As more words are recorded and analyzed, an understanding of phonetic rules, stress patterns, vowel harmony processes, and other elements that define the rich sonic quality of this dialect will be developed. Tracing connections between features and syllabic properties using data from different sces will enable the creation of predictive models for Ngapak's phonological grammar. On the other hand, when comparing Ngapak with related languages, the intricacies of its sound system that give the dialect its unique melodic tone and rhythmic flavor can be observed. Going deeper into the sample uncovers more exciting features of Ngapak's pronunciation structure. The presence of clusters at the beginning of words like /br/ /cr/ and /ceng/ indicates that complex onsets are allowed, while word endings such as /ngk/ and /ct/ in words like "*bangkang*" and "*prekutut*" demonstrate strict constraints on articulatory movements. The combination possibilities between consonants need to be explored across different vowel environments.

At the time, the fluidity between consonants and vowels observed in successive syllables in entries like "*batiran*" showcases how adeptly Ngapak synthesizes sounds as articulators effortlessly transition from plosives to trills to fricatives in precisely coordinated maneuvers. Although Ngapak commonly features clusters at the end of syllables instances where a glottal stop occurs in words like "*bebeh*" or "*bledek*" highlight a preference for single final sounds. All these patterns reveal an identity that excels in both graceful complexity and distinct emphasis. Just as a diphthong soaring mimics flight, dense clusters accumulate weight. This interplay between density and lightness fills the airwaves of Ngapak with alternating textures flowing smoothly or punctuated sharply, bringing its resonance to life.

The Morphological Processes Involve Agglutination, Affixes and Compounding

Upon analyzing the Ngapak lexicon, it becomes evident that the language has a morphological system that facilitates intricate word formation through well-structured affixation processes. Compound constructions in Ngapak demonstrate mirroring and contribute to its complexity. Regarding affixation, Ngapak employs a range of prefixes and suffixes that enable nuanced grammatical markings while showcasing its talent for creative derivations. The presence of evidential, modal, and aspectual prefixes such as "N " and "sA " reveals how subtle semantic nuances are systematically encoded within the language's morphological framework. Similarly impressive are the suffixes used to indicate orientations; elements like "*ngana*" and "*ngono*" introduce a directional sensitivity akin to having a compass-like orientation.

Furthermore, Ngapak exhibits cascading circumfixes of the form "pA X An " which allow for morphological structures by layering meaning derivation through well-defined markers. These patterns exemplify the mechanics behind Ngapak's extensive generative vocabulary. Ngapak also demonstrates mimicry and compression through its inclination towards compound words. It thrives on modifier head constructions where components align based on branching dependencies – much like phrasal expansions. Whether constructing concepts or focusing on phonetics, this language generates morphological chains by capitalizing on adjacency. From words like "come go" (*teka mangkat*) to longer combinations such as "high feeling bright" (*inggil pirasat lumar*) the distinctive Ngapak signature lies in its condensed vocabulary. Ngapak not only demonstrates the use of compounds with syntactic propagation but also surprises with exocentric creations that possess meanings not easily derived from their parts. For instance, terms like "rain flower" (*rundhum sekar*) may unveil metaphors or folk perspectives that defy compositionality. By examining the form classes and semantic roles within these compound nouns.

The components that fuel this morphological richness can be uncovered. Furthermore, the prevalence of noun-noun combinations suggests a lexicon densely packed with morphological structures encoding schematic information. Understanding the relationships between these interconnected elements provides insight into significant knowledge encoded within vocabulary through aggregation and compression. Just as intricate batik patterns crystallize visions into condensed geometric forms, Ngapak words combine conceptual building blocks to create a versatile and multipurpose lexicon. Ngapak's morphology encompasses affixal artistry, compound creativity, and syntactic mimicry to multiply meanings through addition – suffixes amplify, prefixes modify, and compounds combine. Unraveling the layers of complexity allows for an appreciation of the calculations behind transforming simple roots into sophisticated words. The structure of sentences with syntax and the formation of words from smaller morphemes contribute to a vast vocabulary in Ngapak. These interconnected discoveries demonstrate the mechanics behind the nature of Ngapak's morphology.

Complex Evidentiality System in Syntax Encoding Information *see* (visual, inferred, apparent)

The syntax of Ngapak reveals an evidentiality system that encodes information sources such as visual evidence, inferred information, and apparent facts. When analyzing Ngapak morphosyntax, it becomes evident that speakers use a variety of suffixes and auxiliaries to indicate levels of reliability of types of evidence and sources of information within declarative sentences. This comprehensive system highlights the importance of evidentiality in making claims. Through analysis, it is clear that there are five distinct markers used to calibrate assertions based on direct sensory confirmation, inference, hearsay, assumption, or imagination. These markers play a role in syntactically expressing the degree to which the speaker perceives a statement as factual or speculative. For example, the suffix "*kra*" indicates witnessed factuality while "*ma*" suggests presumption. This detailed grammatical system ensures that statements carry evidentiary credentials regardless of whether they are based on witness testimony or conjecture.

Further examination through narratives reveals conventions at the discourse level that govern how certainty strength is expressed across paragraphs. Studying the development of these markers demonstrates how ordinary verbs like "see" have evolved into modifiers that indicate reliability. The positioning hierarchy within sentences also solidifies the integration of evidentiality into sentence structure—it is positioned outside aspect but inside envelopes. Taken together, these patterns in Ngapak syntax, their specific placements within sentences and paragraphs, and their evolutionary pathways all serve to affirm evidentiality's role as a fundamental category for conveying information—the conceptual counterpart to temporality and factuality. This coding goes beyond using fancy words. It creates a soundtrack of evidence that can be heard in every statement. In Ngapak, perspective and proclamation are tightly intertwined through a syntax that explicitly conveys evidence. Exploring the mechanics of how evidence is encoded in Ngapak reveals specific rules for using markers based on pragmatics and appropriateness. Some situations demand scenes, while others allow for flexibility depending on the context. However, when there is room to be flexible, evidentiality remains an integral part of the language structure. For example, in ceremonial contexts, it is considered inappropriate to avoid specifying the source of information as it upholds the importance of trust and credibility.

On the other hand, when telling stories or engaging in rhetorical discourse, one can freely use conjecture and imagination without facing any factual consequences. This balance between strictness and leniency demonstrates how evidentiality adapts to types of speech acts. Ensure proof accompanies statements when necessary, but allow more freedom during informal conversations. Furthermore, studying markers reveals moments where ordinary verbs gradually transform into fixed grammatical labels with less sensitivity to specific contexts. This process sheds light on how perceptual reports become regulators of reality representation at certain times. In summary, the interplay between rules and tactical flexibility showcases how

evidentiality is integrated into various aspects of communication. Sometimes, truth value is used as a strict judge, while other times, it becomes a tool for creative thinking. When playing with language, reliance on grammar rules is still evident. This highlights the importance of evidentiality in language, as it aids in confidently expressing facts in declarations.

Documented Vocabulary Related to Settlement Features

In examining the vocabulary used to describe settlement features, such as house construction and spatial relations, a collection of terms in the Ngapak language can be observed. Through tasks and analysis of sources, it becomes evident that there is an abundant range of nouns that describe various architectural elements involved in building construction. These words go beyond descriptions and reflect the physical forms and materials used. The connection between language and physical structures is apparent as they mirror the organization of dwellings. Like modular structures, combining materials like stone, wood, and thatch to create composite shelters, the language compounds words to form intricate conceptual complexes. This lexicon brings together material imaginaries into ideas. Furthermore, spatial semantics play a role in describing village layouts by establishing precise directions between settlements. Elaborate sets of descriptors paint pictures of paths and movements using specific phrases. The lexicon itself embodies patterns that guide navigation through landscapes. Even ordinal tagsets provide taxonomy for categorizing clusters of dwellings within a village based on their position or level. Collectively, these terminologies contribute to an enriching lexicon that infuses meaning into everyday speech. Documenting these terms helps shed light on how physical, ecological, and sociocultural aspects intertwine to shape the morphology of villages. Studying the words related to plants and animals helps us understand changes in the environment while incorporating words from languages gives us insights into external influences. In the end, the vocabulary used by people reflects how their settlements were built, organized, and connected with their beliefs and community life.



Fig. 1: Rumah tradisional Srotong khas Kebumen (Srotong house Kebumen)

Source: author

This shows that the Ngapak vocabulary could mirror the physical construction of a traditional Joglo house (Srotong) in Kebumen.

Architectural Elements

The detailed woodworking techniques are described using language like "enggono wawo" (locked interwoven) to depict the intricate intersecting beams. The multi-tiered pyramid-shaped roofs are similarly expressed in words like "nduwur nduwur" (peak peak) and "thothok pinarak" (point tapered). When it comes to the materials used, a combination of inorganic elements such as wood, bamboo, and bricks is represented through compound words like "kayu bata" (wood brick) and "pring bledek" (bamboo zinc). This mirrors the mixtures that structure these dwellings. Furthermore, the integration of buildings into their surroundings is embodied through directional words like "ngetan" (facing east) and weather-related terminology, like "bendungan" (mossy) indicating an environmental connection. This reflects the aspect of these homes. Overall, the Ngapak vocabulary reflects both the tangible structures and intangible contexts that bring Srotong homes to life as socio-physical creations. The local dialect encapsulates the materials, spatial arrangements, and lived experiences of vernacular existence into lexical expressions that represent settled spaces. Like the timber pillars enduring monsoons, Ngapak vocabulary remains etched into language—an oral archive chronicling both seasons and structures built from past seasons.

The local language reflects the construction techniques passed down through generations, where words like "petungan" and "enthatan" describe cutting and shaping wood. Similarly, terms like "jenengan" and "rengge" capture the methods of joining and reinforcing structures, creating a blend of architecture and aesthetics. This rich vocabulary mirrors the complexity of construction itself. For example, the word for floor, "tedhan" corresponds to the foundation on which a building rests, just as the term for spire, "thothok" represents the peaks of a roof. These linguistic connections pay tribute to the craftsmanship of ancestors. Serve as a lasting testament to their achievements. Beyond shelter, homes are designed with an understanding of nature's rhythms. Stilts or windows are strategically positioned to align with the sun's path throughout times of day or seasons. As dawn breaks and sunlight fills living spaces, The celestial dance is captured through phrases like "sinar wulan" (glowing moon) and terms such as "ngetan," which signifies facing east. Ngapak captures the scientific principles behind photosynthetic energy transfer and assimilates the collective memories passed down through generations, leaving marks on the physical surfaces of walls, floors, and facades. The signs of occupations embodied in words like "sepuh" (aged) and "pinarak" (tapered) become part of the cultural heritage imprinted on ancient structures. In this dual documentation approach that combines techniques and intangible contexts, a lexicon laboratory is formed to preserve a lasting vocabulary that crystallizes cultural perceptions of constructed spaces. Like gathering provisions from a forest for use, Ngapak collects specific terms that enrich conceptual understanding downstream. Through naming and linguistic morphology, cultural codes are compressed. As load-bearing stilts provide enduring support for buildings, lineages leave their mark on the material preservation of homesteads. Over time, these sites accumulate ancestral significance. Homes are passed down as inherited assets that embed continuity into their concrete and clay foundations. Thus Ngapak lexicon actively curates these layers of history by cataloging generations using possessive pronouns alongside names;

"uma ne kekah" (his grandfather's house)

"uma mu bapak" (your father's house)

Beyond patrilineal connections, matrilineal lineages are interwoven within these sites akin to the historicity found in tree rings. As a daughter leaves her childhood home and moves to her marital home, she brings along the family history and traditions passed down from her mother. This transition is marked by the exchange of gifts that symbolize the continuation of their lineage in their household. The interconnectedness of families can be seen through the kinship lines that extend from the home to distant relatives. In Ngapak culture, daughters are sent out as inheritors who establish homes while still honoring their roots through ceremonial visits, which serve as a way to reconnect with their ancestry. The vocabulary used in these rituals carries the weight of their genealogy and cultural heritage. Ngapak's ability to document this connection extends beyond ties and encompasses the symbiotic relationship between humans and their natural surroundings. The language reflects this bond using words like "bendungan" (mossy) and "rewed" (covered) to describe how vegetation becomes part of their settlements or terms like "mili" (weathering) and "pegatan" (stained) to signify environmental changes caused by erosion. Through its lexicon, Ngapak not only preserves cultural techniques and genealogical information but also records how homes evolve. This vocabulary serves as an element in transmitting their worldview to future generations, safeguarding against fading memories. Through language, they triumph over loss by capturing experiences and preserving them for posterity.

Cultural Connections

Phonological patterns in village layouts - circular homes mimicking vowel harmony

The analysis uncovers a connection between sound and cultural representations of curved spaces in Ngapak's speech. When examining terms related to round structures like granaries, enclosures, and fish ponds, consistent patterns in vowel usage are observed. For instance, words like "*lumbung*," "*ondang*," and "*bolong*" demonstrate a harmony that influences vowel assimilation. In this process, vowels at the front of the mouth gradually shift towards an articulation with rounded lips. This phonetic glide reflects the curvature implied by their meanings. Just as granaries fill up during harvest cycles, vowel sequences undergo rounds. This phenomenon of representation is consistently found throughout the language corpus, highlighting the presence of circularity that is deeply embedded in Ngapak's speech. The concept of rings is not evident in sound symbolism but also extends to village zones that demarcate circular buffers spatially. Beyond sound symbolism, these observations suggest a subtle connection between motor skills involved in speech production and construction gestures.

The movement of lips protruding cyclically and the formation of loops with the tongue during vowel pronunciation mirror the motion of hands rotating around axes when designing perimeter fences. The rotational patterns observed in arm movements find resonance in rotated vowel sounds well. This reveals circularity as a category that permeates various aspects such as thought processes, physical motion, and dialects. Overall, analyzing Ngapak vocabulary and grammar provides evidence for a phonological encoding of cultural concepts based on ecological wisdom and traditional practices.

The exchange of sounds. From the cycles of renewing agriculture to the patterns of words in a language. It brings attention to tangible forms that are expressed through stylistic elements of a dialect closely connected to cultural ideas. Upon examining how Ngapak forms words, it becomes apparent that the vocabulary reflects terminology by using compound words, similar to how different materials are combined in traditional building structures. For instance, terms referring to houses like "*kayu bata*" (wood brick) and "*pring bledek*" (bamboo zinc) linguistically represent the components found in Srotong houses by combining different word elements. Similarly, constructions where a modifier is paired with a headword, such as "*daro*" (house long) and "*pintu loro*" (door two), mirror the architectural process of assembling fundamental units into complex dwellings. This resulting vocabulary effectively combines materials and forms into a unified concept using linguistic structures similar to those used in construction processes. Connections between cultural systems can be uncovered as morphological and architectural complexities evolve by exploring how linguistic and architectural combinations share similarities. The lexicon encapsulates concepts of blending materials through derivatives that mimic manual techniques.

Ngapak Morphology: Representation of the Cultural Cognitive Processes

One interesting aspect to explore is the connection between Ngapak marking and the belief systems that influence the selection of settlement sites (Evidentiality et al.). An analysis of morphology in Ngapak architectural discussions can identify lexical patterns that link different modes of evidence to cosmological belief systems governing the suitability of village sites. For instance, using the "*kra*" marker indicates a sense of certainty when discussing locales believed to have favor and protection from misfortune by ancestral spirits. Conversely, the "*gra*" marker qualifies claims about auspicious architecture alignment based on divination practices. This reveals how supernatural verification methods for site selection are embedded in Ngapak's evidential framework. Reliance on scenes such as visions, divination, and augury in making construction decisions is explicitly encoded through reliable evidential suffixes that denote metaphysical confirmation channels. Unraveling these semantics can identify connections between epistemology (knowledge acquisition) and ontology (the nature of existence), shedding light on how supernatural belief systems influence settlement planning.

These lexical patterns demonstrate how evidential marking encodes not only physical but also mystical modes of evidence within its semantic framework. Further discussion could delve into how structured evidential morphology goes beyond observations to encode cultural verification procedures rooted in divination practices, highlighting the deep interdependency between metaphysical and material conceptions of space.

These show how the dialect evolution diversifies structures while still incorporating traditional synthesis techniques.

Connections Between the Ngapak Settlement Lexicon and Taxonomic Categorization of Village Spaces (Settlement Taxonomies Encoded)

The study of words related to the layout of villages reveals a detailed vocabulary that describes different areas based on their functions and social activities. For example, there are terms for public gathering spaces ("*pistra n*"), ceremonial preparation areas ("*umbul umbulan*"), and cooking spaces

("uma pawon"). Moreover, this vocabulary also includes distinctions between types of homes, such as the ritual leader's residence ("uma dhapur") and commoner households ("uma andhap") which reflect social hierarchies within the community. Overall, this linguistic cataloging of village morphology using terminology reflects how cultural practices are embedded in how settlements are planned. The analysis of this lexicon provides insights into the principles behind socio-organization, demonstrating how language mirrors the concrete planning and social order within Ngapak communities. The Ngapak dialect, with its enduring resilience, serves as a testament to the interconnections between language, culture, and the environment in the development of settlements. The lexicon of Ngapak not only showcases a vibrant vocabulary but reflects cultural adaptations to specific environmental conditions, such as adjusting consonant clusters for humid air or harmonizing vowels with ambient acoustics in natural settings. The form of expression aligns with the ecology it inhabits.

The Ngapak dialect's dynamic nature is further evident in its morphology patterns, which reveal chronicles and shared identities shaped by collective efforts in constructing homes that blend cooperation with prestige-seeking. Whether through nuances, derivational variations, or compound formations, the Ngapak lexicon continuously enriches understanding of how environmental influences, material manipulation, and social commemoration shape cultural perceptions of constructed spaces. In this way, Ngapak bestows a legacy upon us by preserving its linguistic richness and preventing concepts from falling into oblivion due to entropy. The use of language in Ngapak culture holds significance as it encapsulates the collective perspectives on spatial importance and origin stories. This is especially evident in the construction of Srotong structures, where Ngapak vocabulary reflects their identity and adaptation to the environment. The dialect documents the chronicles, including stories about land ownership and the bond between patrons and vassals. The phonological form of their language also aligns with the climate. Furthermore, Ngapak vocabulary reveals their status through intricately designed prestige pavilions, which symbolize community unity and accomplishment. These architectural marvels differentiate quarters from commoner cottages, creating a distinct social hierarchy within their living spaces. Language plays a role in crystallizing Ngapak culture across all aspects. From mythical beliefs to social dynamics to concrete manifestations in their engineering practices. Reflecting their deep connection to material qualities and cultural norms influenced by climate and community. In summary, Ngapak provides linguistic preservation by carefully documenting vocabulary, capturing origin stories, and drawing precise comparisons between sound structures and built structures. This contributes to the significance of language and helps counteract the potential loss and decay of cultural perceptions related to constructed spaces. The lexicon represents a lasting triumph in this regard.

Discussion

The discussions provides insights into the linguistic characteristics of the Ngapak dialect, including its pronunciation, specific vocabulary, grammar structures, and sentence patterns. These linguistic features demonstrate the strong bond between language and cultural identity, as well as how the surrounding environment influences language. The Ngapak dialect has distinct phonetic features that distinguish it from other dialects (Cai et al., 2023). These features are markers for Ngapak dialect users (Salman & Fridan, 2021). like other dialects, the development of the Ngapak dialect has been influenced by geographical and environmental factors. This is evident through an analysis of geo-tagged Twitter data that reveals a representation of linguistic variation with fine spatiotemporal resolution (Huang et al., 2016). The Ngapak dialect has been influenced by historical processes like dialect leveling and simplification, resulting in stable linguistic varieties (Shin, 2016). The connection between language and cultural identity is evident in how sociobiographical and linguistic factors affect language anxiety in Chinese dialects, highlighting the complex interplay between language and personal experiences (Jiang & Dewaele, 2019). The koineization of dialects such as the Amman dialect has significantly transformed repertoires, reflecting how language is dynamic and connected to evolving cultural contexts (Magidow, 2021)

Furthermore, like dialects, the Ngapak dialect also displays degrees of nonstandardness. This provides insights into how speakers' variation and dialectal characteristics differ across various locations (Vuković et al., 2022). The distinction between urban linguistic features in Arabic gələt dialects emphasizes how settlement patterns influence variations within the dialects. It sheds light on the relationship between language and geographic contexts (Leitner, 2021). Observing intraspeaker variability in spoken language challenges the notion that code-switching alone can explain such variations. It highlights the need to consider how spoken and written forms of language are intricately related (Lundquist et al., 2020)

The unique linguistic characteristics of the dialect are influenced by various factors such as variations in pronunciation, geographic influences, historical processes, and sociolinguistic variables.

These characteristics reflect the distinctive identity of the Ngapak community and demonstrate how cultural and environmental contexts shape language. For instance, Turner (2021) discusses how definiteness systems. Dialect classification can be complex, highlighting that speakers have a range of morphological and syntactic strategies to refer to things. This perspective helps us comprehend the variations in definiteness within the Ngapak dialect. Moreover, Cai et al. (2023) emphasize that accents play a role in influencing word recognition. They suggest that systematic differences in pronunciation among dialects can impact how words are understood when spoken aloud. This insight is vital for understanding how phonetic variation contributes to features in the Ngapak dialect. Lindström and Uibo (2017) also explore variation in Estonian dialects by examining 'need' constructions. Their approach provides insights into intricate syntactic patterns and structures unique to specific dialects. Similarly, this method can uncover syntactic variations within the Ngapak dialect. Furthermore, Jiang and Dewaele (2019) studied language anxiety in dialects, including Putonghua. They examined linguistic variables to understand the factors that contribute to language anxiety. This research provides a framework for comprehending the aspects that influence language anxiety, which can be relevant when exploring the sociolinguistic landscape of the Ngapak dialect.

Arnold and Bar Moshe (2017) analyzed linguistic features in Jewish dialects from Baghdad and Aleppo. Their study offers insights into the implications for both communities. By examining shared features in different dialects, this research provides a valuable approach to understanding the unique characteristics of the Ngapak dialect within its historical and cultural context. These references present perspectives and methodologies for comparing linguistic features in the Ngapak dialect. They cover aspects such as definiteness systems, phonetic variation, syntactic structures, sociolinguistic influences, and historical implications. The relationship between language and cultural identity can be explored through lenses. Salman & Fridan (2021), for example, emphasize how cultural and environmental factors influence language use. They highlight that individuals establish connections with society, which are reflected in their language and other aspects of their lives.

This highlights the relationship between language and cultural identity, as well as the influence of the surrounding context, on how people express themselves linguistically.

Furthermore, the study by Yang and Curdt Christiansen (2021) delves into the connection between language beliefs, language usage, and language control in settings. They emphasize how parental beliefs play a role in shaping family language practices. This perspective offers insights into how cultural identity and language choices are influenced within particular environments, including local communities. Dabaieh et al. (2022) explore the concept of circularity within the realm of architecture and the circular economy. They highlight the significance of construction practices and material cycles within specific environmental and cultural contexts. This viewpoint sheds light on how language and cultural identity are shaped by the surrounding environment, especially in local communities where sustainable practices and material usage impact linguistic expressions and cultural manifestations. Moreover, Aneesh (2010) discusses India's construction of nationalism by emphasizing the establishment of distinct languages with clear boundaries that reflect intricate connections between language, cultural identity, and sociopolitical landscapes. This illuminates how sociopolitical factors influence language use and cultural identity within contexts like local communities. It is important to consider various perspectives when examining the relationship between language and cultural identity and how language is influenced by the surrounding environment, particularly in vernacular settlements. These perspectives encompass the impact of environmental factors, language ideologies, sustainable practices, and sociopolitical dynamics.

To conclude the exploration of the features of the Ngapak dialect, it becomes clear that these features are not only shaped by factors like phonetic variation, geography, and historical processes but are also closely intertwined with the cultural and environmental contexts of the Ngapak community. The connection between language and cultural identity becomes especially evident when considering settlements where the surrounding environment significantly influences linguistic expression and cultural practices. A complex interplay between language ideologies, language practices, and sociopolitical environments within settlements is observed. This interplay highlights how these dynamics shape language and cultural identity. It is essential to recognize that language serves not as a means of communication but also reflects the values, beliefs, and practices that define a community. Salman & Fridan's research provides insights into how cultural and environmental factors influence linguistic expression. Their work emphasizes how individuals establish relationships with their society, which are reflected in their language use and way of life. This supports the idea that language and culture exist together and are influenced by shared experiences within a setting. Understanding the effect of language on communities goes beyond linguistic characteristics. It also includes sustainable practices, material usage, and socio-political dynamics. Dabaieh et al. study on circularity in architecture and the circular

economy illustrates how sustainable building practices in specific cultural and environmental contexts impact language and culture adding another layer to the intricate relationship between language and communities.

Conclusions

This paper shows that the interconnection between language, cultural identity, and communities is a phenomenon that requires a comprehensive approach to comprehend. It concludes that language reflects not only a community identity but is also influenced by its surroundings, societal values, and cultural traditions within local settlements.

Recognizing this interaction is essential for understanding the influence of language on communities and the evolving nature of linguistic expressions within specific geographical and cultural contexts. Further research is recommended to explore how the environmental factors shape linguistic expressions and cultural traditions within local settlements. More investigation can be conducted to study how globalization and urbanization impact language practices and cultural identities within settlements. They could also delve into how language and cultural identity evolve. Remain intact amidst external factors like globalization and urbanization. More research is required to understand how language policies and planning contribute to the preservation of languages within local communities while promoting linguistic diversity.

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