



# Taboo in Sasak Language Spoken in Kopang Rembiga Village

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**Abstract:** In order to avoid the extinction of Sasak Language, it is important for young generation of Sasak to maintain the existence of the language spoken in Kopang Rembiga Village. The objectives of this study are; to find out taboo words, taboo forms, and their references. The researchers were the main instruments in this study and the other additional instrument was an interview guide. The data collection technique was in-depth interview. Three types of data in the study were analyzed as follows: for taboo words were analyzed descriptively based on 3 domains in *Tri Hita Karana* concept, the forms of taboo words were analyzed using the theory of Frazer (1955) and Montagu (1973), and the references of taboo words were analyzed using the theory suggested by Laksana (2009). The results of the study are as follows: 1) there were 31 taboo words spoken in this village connecting with *Tri Hita Karana* concepts. The concepts consist to 3 domains of *Parahyangan* (living harmony with God); 1 word, *Pawongan* (living harmony with people); 22 words, and *Palemahan* (living harmony with nature); 8 words. 2) there are 23 taboo forms included in the taboo on names and words and also there are 8 taboo forms included to taboo on swearing words. 3) from the 31 words, there are 13 references of related to; *parents name, animal name, god's name, people name, people name who died, name of relatives, mentioning genitals, sexual activity, specific profession, bodily function, wisdom of ruler, nature, illness, name of spirits, personal pronouns, and specific activity*.

**Keywords:** Taboo words, Sasak Language, Sociolinguistics

## Introduction

Indonesia is a country that has a lot of cultural diversity. One of the most interesting aspects is language. Indonesia is a multilingual country with Bahasa Indonesia as a lingua franca and it is used as the official language and formal language. Also, Indonesia has 733 languages and several regions in Indonesia also have their own regional language which are used for daily communication. Each regional language has its own distinct characteristics and uniqueness that reflect the diversity of Indonesian culture.

Language is not only a means of communication, but also a strong connector in maintaining and passing on the richness of human culture. Sociolinguistics is a part of linguistic studies that focuses on language as it relates to social and cultural phenomena in a society, Yule in (Masitha, 2016). Meanwhile, Hogan Brun and O'Rourke (2018) defines ecolinguistics as a study that discusses the mutual interactions that occur between languages and also between language and the environment. Therefore, ecolinguistics and sociolinguistics theories is essential for this research. These theories are used to explore the correlation between the effect of nature or the environment on language, and how language is used by speakers to interact with the environment. This is because in essence, humans cannot ensure their survival properly without language.

Sasak language is one of the local language in Indonesia. This language is used by Sasak people as a tool of communication in Lombok Island, West of Nusa Tenggara Province. Sasak people, especially the young generation in Kopang Rembiga Village are starting to show a lack of understanding about taboo words in Sasak language. Taboo words in Sasak language will become extinct over time if there are few active speakers who know and use Sasak taboo words in communication. If this happens continuously, the taboo words will be close to the language death.

The young generation in Kopang Rembiga Village only understands the rude taboo words such as swearing and animal names because these kind of taboo are very often spoken. In other words, the term of taboo can refer to language, acts, thoughts, or beliefs that are regarded negative and hence are not tolerated in society. Basically, people must know the good and bad things to use when speaking in language, the context of which still creates a taboo effect if it is heard by some people.

Some researcher have conducted a study about taboo in Sasak language, for example; *Hakiky L (2018) conducting a research entitled "A Study Of Taboo Expressions Used Among Meno-Menedialect Speakers Of Sasak In Praya"* this research found that there are four types of taboo, which are; epithets; profanity; vulgarity and obscenity. Moreover, context and situation are affecting the possibility of taboo expressions to be appeared.

Furthermore, Anggraini (2022) have complete a research on the use of taboo language entitled *"Bentuk Dan Penggunaan Bahasa Tabu Pada Anak Di Lingkungan Bertais Kota Mataram"* found the types of taboo language include taboo words relates to the condition, taboo

words relate to the animal's name, taboo words relate to the object, taboo words relate to the part of human body, taboo relate to the supernatural beings, taboo relate to the activity, and taboo relate to the profession.

In order to avoid extinction, it is important for us as a young generation of Sasak people who live among Sasak customs, cultures, and communities to be aware and familiar with this phenomenon. It is necessary to make efforts to maintain the existence of the Sasak language, especially in Kopang Rembiga Village.

Since there are no researchers conducting a study on the use of taboo language in Kopang Rembiga Village, this study is a part of language revitalization and preservation to maintain language extinction, so that people's understanding especially in taboo language does not become extinct. This study will also be very useful for the researcher and young generation in Kopang Rembiga Village.

The object of this research is the Taboo words in Sasak Language that Spoken in Kopang Rembiga village.

## Methodology

This study aimed to found the taboo words, the forms and their references in Kopang Rembiga Village, Central Lombok regency. This study was designed in the form of a qualitative study. The objects of this study were the taboo words, based on *Tri Hita Karana* concepts according to Padet & Krishna (2018), which includes three domains: *parahyangan* (living harmony with God), *pawongan* (living harmony with people), and *palemahan* (living harmony with nature), forms of taboo words based on Frazer's (1955) and Montagu's (1973) theories, namely taboo on name or words and swearing, and also the references taboos based on the theory from Laksana's (2009) related to; parents name, animal name, god's name, people name, people name who died, name of relatives, mentioning genitals, sexual activity, specific profession, bodily function, wisdom of ruler, nature, illness, name of spirits, personal pronouns, and specific activity. The data were obtained by conducting in-depth interview. There were three native speakers of Sasak language in Kopang Rembiga involved as the informants, they were selected based on several criteria that have been determined in this study. The researchers were the main instruments in this study and the other additional instrument was an interview guide. The data were analyzed by using qualitative data analysis suggested by Miles and A. Huberman (1994) theory, which consists of four main stages; data collection, data reduction, and data display, and conclusion. The first stage is data collection process, where the data are collected from the informants by in-depth interview. Secondly, the collected data selected and simplified to get the specific result. Then, in the data display, the data presented and described in a descriptive form.

## Result and Discussion

### Result

In this study, there were 31 taboo words found spoken in Sasak language spoken by the people of Kopang Rembiga. Those words were acquired by finding the use of taboo words based on the concept of *Tri Hita Karana* which consist to three domains of *Parahyangan* (living harmony with God), *Pawongan* (living harmony with people), and *Palemahan* (living harmony with nature). There are 24 taboo forms included in the taboo on names and words and also there are 7 taboo forms included to taboo on swearing words. There are 13 references were found in this study related to; *parents name, animal name, god's name, people name, people name who died, name of relatives, mentioning genitals, sexual activity, specific profession, bodily function, wisdom of ruler, nature, illness, name of spirits, personal pronouns, and specific activity*.

The data result as follows:

#### 1. Taboo Words Used in Kopang Rembiga Village according to *Tri Hita Karana* concept

##### a. Taboo Words Related to Parahyangan (living harmony with God)

**Table 1.** Taboo Words Related to Parahyangan In Kopang Rembiga Village

No	Taboo Words	Description
1.	<i>nenek kaji</i>	<i>another name of God</i>

In Sasak language, there is another term used for God, for example, "*nenek kaji*". In Kopang Rembiga Village, this term is often expressed by people when they complain to God. The term "*nenek kaji*" becomes taboo if a person says it repeatedly. For example, "*nenek kaji sak kuse, meni laloq irup*" (oh my God, why is my life like this). This sentence is considered a taboo because it is a complaint to God. In Kopang Rembiga village it is believed to be impolite to complain about life.

##### b. Taboo Words Related to Pawongan (Living Harmony with People)

**Table 2.** Taboo words Related to Pawongan In Kopang Rembiga Village

No	Taboo Words	Description
1.	<i>mamiq</i>	another name of "dad"
2.	<i>jro wayah</i>	another name of "elderly people" for noble families
3.	<i>uak</i>	another name of "uncle" for non noble families
4.	<i>meme</i>	another name of "auntie" for noble families
5.	<i>keberak</i>	another name of "brother"
6.	<i>ubek</i>	female prostitute
7.	<i>tolang papuq baloq</i>	ancestor's bones
8.	<i>bebinjat</i>	child of an invalid marriage

No	Taboo Words	Description
9.	<i>gedok</i>	deaf
10.	<i>denge</i>	another name of "idiot"
11.	<i>kojoh</i>	perishing or vanishing
12.	<i>batun matam</i>	your eyes ball
13.	<i>telor</i>	another name of penis
14.	<i>pepek</i>	another name of "vagina"
15.	<i>ancot</i>	having sex
16.	<i>bekarongan</i>	having sex (for animal)
17.	<i>mak tebon</i>	"chubby father"
18.	<i>nyentet</i>	"reckless woman".
19.	<i>selaq</i>	"people who pursue who have black magic"
20.	<i>pedare</i>	"deceased people"
21.	<i>kemu pade</i>	"you guys"
22.	<i>eku</i>	"me".

Based from the information that the researcher got from the interview that has been concluded, in table 2 shows that there are twenty two (22) taboo words that are related to harmony with people (Pawongan). The taboo words are; *mamiq*, *jro wayah*, *uak*, *meme*, *keberak*, *ubek*, *tolang papuq baloq*, *bebinjat*, *gedok*, *denge*, *kojoh*, *batun matam*, *telor*, *pepek*, *ancot*, *bekarongan*, *mak tebon*, *nyentet*, *selaq*, *pedar*, *e kemu pade*, and *eku*. These words are categorized as taboo because they consist very impolite words to be expressed to others, especially to people who come from noble families. For example the words *ubek* and *nyentet* considered as a taboo because categorized impolite and disrespectful to women. Example sentence: *ubek! anggagn nyentet lalok jeri dengan nine, marak dengan ndek te urus sik jro wayah*. (bitch! this woman is so reckless, like she is not cared by her family). This sentence is taboo because it impolite, degrades women and disrespect to the elderly.

### c. Taboo Words related to Palemahan (Living Harmony with Nature)

**Table 3.** Taboo words Related to Palemahan In Kopang Rembiga Village

No	Taboo words	Description
1.	<i>acong</i>	another name of dog
2.	<i>bawi</i>	another name of pig
3.	<i>godek</i>	another name of monkey
4.	<i>ujat</i>	another name of civet
5.	<i>begang</i>	another name of "rat"
6.	<i>memeok</i>	whistling in night
7.	<i>beboroq</i>	name of spirit that likes to kidnap children
8.	<i>memiuq</i>	name of spirit that like to disturb sleep

Based on table 3 shows that there are 8 taboo words in this research, they are classified into the the Living Harmony with with nature (*palemahan*). The taboo words are; *acong, bawwi, godek, ujat, begang, memeok, beboroq and memiuq*. Most of the words above refer to animals name, so it is inappropriate to be spoken especially to other people because it might be offensive. There are also spirit names which are certainly not suitable to be spoken because they can bring negative things. Example: “*acong kamu dendek sugul jam semenian laun teculik beboroq!*” (you’re a dog, don't wander around at this hour, you'll be kidnapped by beboroq!). The sentence is very inappropriate to say to other people.

## 2. Taboo Forms in Sasak language used in Kopang Rembiga Village

In this section, taboo forms in Sasak language used in Kopang Rembiga Village classified into two; namely taboo on name and words and swearing words. Moreover, it will be explained specifically as follows.

### a. Taboo on names and words according to Frazer theory

This section displays the taboo names and words in Sasak language spoken in Kopang Rembiga Village. The data are presented as follows:

**Table 4.** Taboo on names and words

No	Word List	Meaning
1.	<i>neneq kaji</i>	another name of God
2.	<i>mamiq</i>	another name of dad”
3.	<i>jro wayah</i>	another name of “elderly people” for noble families
4.	<i>uak</i>	another name of “uncle” for non noble families
5.	<i>keberak</i>	another name of “brother”
6.	<i>tolang papuq baloq</i>	ancestor's bones
7.	<i>gedok</i>	deaf
8.	<i>denge</i>	another name of “idiot”
9.	<i>telor</i>	another name of “penis”
10.	<i>pepek</i>	another name of “vagina”
11.	<i>ancot</i>	having sex
12.	<i>bekarongan</i>	having sex (for animal)
13.	<i>mak tebon</i>	chubby father
14.	<i>nyentet</i>	reckless woman
15.	<i>selaq</i>	people who pursue who have black magic
16.	<i>pedare</i>	deceased people
17.	<i>kemu pade</i>	you guys
18.	<i>eku</i>	me
19.	<i>begang</i>	rat
20.	<i>memeok</i>	Whistling in night
21.	<i>bakeq beraq</i>	name of spirit that likes disturb people

No	Word List	Meaning
22.	<i>beboroq</i>	name of spirit that like to disturb children
23.	<i>memiuq</i>	name of spirit that like to disturb sleep

According to table 4 above, there are 23 Taboo on names and words found in this research. The taboo words are; *neneq kaji*, *mamiq*, *jro wayah*, *uak*, *keberak*, *tolang*, *papuq baloq*, *gedok*, *denge*, *telor*, *pepek*, *ancot*, *bekarongan*, *mak tebon*, *nyentet*, *selaq*, *pedare*, *kemu pade*, *eku*, *begang*, *memeok*, *bakeq beraq*, *beboroq*, and *memiuq*.

### b. Swearing Words by montage

In this research, data regarding swearing words are described in table form. The data presented as follows

**Table 5.** Swearing Words used in Kopang Rembiga Village

No	Word List	Meaning
1.	<i>acong</i>	dog
1.	<i>bawi</i>	pig
2.	<i>godek</i>	monkey
3.	<i>ujat</i>	civet
4.	<i>kojoh</i>	vanishing
5.	<i>batun matam</i>	your eyes ball
6.	<i>ubek</i>	female prostitute
7.	<i>bebinjat</i>	child of an invalid marriage

According to table 5 above, there are 7 Taboo on swearing words found in this research. The taboo words are; *acong*, *bawi*, *odek*, *ujat*, *kojoh*, *batun matam*, *ubek* and *bebinjat*.

### 3. The References of Taboo Found in Sasak Language Used in Kopang Rembiga Village

No	References	Taboo Words
1	Parents Name	<i>mamiq</i>
2	Animal Name	<i>acong</i> , <i>begang</i> , <i>bawi</i> , <i>godek</i> , <i>ujat</i>
3	God's Name	<i>nenek kaji</i>
4	People Name	<i>mak tebon</i> , <i>keberak</i> , <i>kemu pade</i> , <i>jro wayah</i> , <i>uak</i> , <i>meme</i> , <i>bebinjat</i> , <i>nyentet</i>
5	People Name who Died	<i>pedare</i>
6	Name of Relatives	-
7	Mentioning Genitals	<i>telor</i> , <i>pepek</i>
8	Sexual Activity	<i>ancot</i> , <i>bekarongan</i>
9	Specific Profession	<i>selaq</i> , <i>ubek</i>
10	Bodily Function	-
11	Wisdom of Ruler	-
12	Nature	<i>sesaweq</i> , <i>memeok</i>
13	Illness	<i>gedok</i>

No	References	Taboo Words
14	Name of Spirits	beboroq, memiuq
15	Personal Pronouns	eku, kemu pade,
16	Specific Activity	selaq

## Discussion

This section presents the research discussion regarding the findings presented in the previous section. This research has succeeded in describing taboo words in Sasak Language spoken by the people in Kopang Rembiga Village. Related to the theory of sociolinguistics by Yule in Mashita (2016), sociolinguistics is a part of linguistic studies that focuses on language related to social and cultural phenomena in a society. Through this research, we can understand how taboo words can vary and acquire additional meanings in certain social and cultural contexts. This opens up a deeper understanding of the role and impact of taboo words in the society. This research provides an in-depth explanation of the impact of taboo words, both directly and indirectly, on communication and social dynamics. Thus, this study contributes to the understanding of the practical and social consequences of the use of taboo words. Although the findings in this study do not contradict to previous research, the results show some new variations of taboo words discovered by the researcher. This research further explores taboo words that have not been explored by previous researchers. The findings found are the use of words between noble and non-noble families that can be categorized as taboo words because that are considered impolite.

Based from the the theory of taboo language from Romaine (2000), taboo language as a language that contains words or phrases that are considered taboo or prohibited in a particular society or culture. Taboo language includes words or phrases that are deemed offensive, impolite, inappropriate, or considered derogatory. In analyzing the data, this current research adopted this theory. After were obtained and analyzed, it showed that several words that are deemed offensive, impolite, inappropriate, or considered derogatory.

The result of this study also connected with the theory from Fishman (2009) about language maintenance. In connecting the result of this study on language maintenance, this research refers to the efforts made to preserve and sustain a language's vitality, use, and transmission to future generations. It involves various activities aimed at ensuring the continued existence and development of a language within a community.

Taboo also has its own forms, this research adopts the theory of taboo form from Frazer (1911) and Montago (2001). The results of this research also identified several taboo words in the form of taboo names and words and also swearing words. Taboo forms of names and words were more frequently found in this research. Several taboo words found in this research show that there are still many people in *Kopang Rembiga Village* who casually mention taboo words without understanding the context of the meaning of these words. This research also revealed that several taboo words are classified as swearing words. It shows that swearing words in Sasak language especially in *Kopang Rembiga Village* are still

frequently uttered. A common reason why some people use swearing words is because they have experienced emotional problems.

Based from the previous research, this study was supported by research conducted by Anggraini (2022). This research also focused to types of taboo words like swearing often associated with animal names and taboo words with mocking meanings. Additionally, there were similarities with the studies conducted by Hakiki (2018) and Suliadi (2023) regarding the manifestation of taboo words in activities related to dirty, vulgar, and sexual content. Another similarity was found with the research conducted by Wawan in 2020, which focused on taboo words related to supernatural matters associated with specific environments or situations.

## Conclusion

Based from the objectives of this study and the findings in previous chapter, the conclusion of this study were:

- a. There are 31 the total of taboo words spoken in Kopang rembiga Village. Each word is grouped into *Tri Hita Karana* which consists of, *Parahyangan*, *Pawongan*, and *Palemahan*. There is only one taboo word that related to living harmony with God or *Parahyangan* used in Kopang Rembiga Village, that is; *nenek kaji*. There are 22 taboo words related to living harmony with people or *pawongan* used in by people in Kopang Rembiga Village, such as; *mamiq*, *jro wayah*, *uak*, *keberak*, *tolang*, *papuuq baloq*, *gedok*, *denge*, *telor*, *pepek*, *ancot*, *bekarongan*, *mak tebon*, *nyentet*, *selaq*, *pedare*, *kemu pade*, *eku*, *begang*, *memeok*, *sesaweq*, *bakeq beraq*, *beboroq*, and *memiuq*. Furthermore, there are 8 taboo words in this research, they are classified into the the living harmony with with nature or *palemahan*., that are; *acong*, *barwi*, *godek*, *ujat*, *begang*, *memeok*, *beboroq* and *memiuq*.
- b. There are 23 taboo on names and words included in the taboo on names and words used in Kopang Rembiga Village. The taboo names and words are; *neneq kaji*, *mamiq*, *jro wayah*, *uak*, *keberak*, *tolang*, *papuuq baloq*, *gedok*, *denge*, *telor*, *pepek*, *ancot*, *bekarongan*, *mak tebon*, *nyentet*, *selaq*, *pedare*, *kemu pade*, *eku*, *begang*, *memeok*, *beboroq*, and *memiuq*.
- c. There are 8 taboo on swearing words found in this research. The taboo words are; *acong*, *barwi*, *godek*, *ujat*, *kojoh*, *batun matam*, *ubek* and *bebinjat*.
- d. There is only 1 taboo word that refer to Parent's name, that is; *mamiq*. Five taboo words that refer to animal's name, such as; *acong*, *begang*, *barwi*, *godek* and *ujat*. There is only 1 taboo word that refer to God's name, that is; *nenek kaji*. Nine taboo words that refer to people name, such as; *mak tebon*, *keberak*, *kemu pade*, *jro wayah*, *uak*, *meme*, *bebinjat* and *nyentet*. Only 1 taboo word refer to people name who died, that is; *pedare*. There are 2 taboo words refer to mentioning menitals, such as; *telor* and *pepek*. Also 2 taboo words refer to sexual activity, such as; *ancot* and *bekarongan*. There are 2 taboo words refer to specific profession, such as; *selaq* and *ubek*. 2 taboo words refer to nature, such as; *sesaweq* and *memeok*. Only 1 taboo word refer to illness, that is; *gedok*. There are 2 taboo words refer to name of spirits, such as; *beboroq* and *memiuq*. There are 2 taboo words refer

to personal pronouns, such as; *eku and kemu pade*. And there is only 1 taboo word refer to specific activity, that is; *selaq*. Furthermore, the researchers did not find any taboo words referring to name of relative, bodily function and wisdom of ruler in this research.

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