

The Lexical Interference of Batakese Language into Japanese Language amongst Students in Universitas Sumatera Utara

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Abstract

Every language has phonology, morphology and syntactical system where the sentence can be spoken, written and used by anyone due to the universality nature of language. Even so, due to the uniqueness of every language, the grammatical system is different and this situation will not hinder people to contact with other languages occurred in the most possible way or situation such as immigrants need to learn local language or students learn foreign language. This eventually leads them to begin the contact with other languages. Due to the different structure of the languages, language deviance is relatively affirmative. This language deviance phenomenon is known as language distortion or language interference. This research discusses about lexical interference of Batakese language into Japanese language occurred among Japanese literature students of Universitas Sumatera Utara. There are 40 respondents come from freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students. This research utilized qualitative methodology where the technique of collecting data were sorting or segregating and jotting down while the theory mainly used was Weinrich. The result of this research discovered that there are 72% of noun interference, 10% verb interference, 10% adjective interference and 8% adverbial interference. The most dominant interference is noun interference. This explains that there is a very obvious language interference of Batakese language into Japanese language.

Keywords: language contact, interference, bilingualism, lexical, Japanese language, Batakese language

Introduction

Indonesia is one of Asia's nation that ethnically and linguistically diverse. This diversity virtually shares similarity as well. Some tribal languages in Indonesia share the same features in grammatical system and vocabularies such as batak toba language and simalungun language. Batak toba and simalungun people inhabit most area in lake toba peninsula and some parts of Indonesia. They play very important role in the composition of Indonesian society where they work as civil servants, lawyers, doctors or study in the reputable universities in Indonesia. One of the universities favoured by these tribes is Universitas Sumatera Utara which is located in Medan. Medan is the fourth biggest metropolis in Indonesia.

Some of these students learn Japanese language in Universitas Sumatera Utara. This somehow creates distortion among these students whose mother tongue is not Japanese, not even bahasa Indonesia but Batakese language or simalungun language. The distortion could be in the form of lexical, grammatical and sound system. According to Weinrich (1979 in Pujiono,2016:2), language distortion in English is called interference. This is the deviance in the form of language use triggered by the language contact with other language. This language distortion occurs in bilingual society that can be defined as the use of two languages respectively by a speaker in his contact with other people. (Mackey,1975:155). Moreover, in language contact between the first language and second language, the common thing occurs is the absorption or borrowing the language either in lexical level or structural combination (Mc.Mohan,1994:89).

Language contact occurs in Japanese language learning as well. The university students who speak batak toba language and simalungun language as their mother tongue will experience language contact with other students who speak Japanese. This situation will eventually create a problem for those who frequently speak their mother tongue other than Japanese.

The problem can be seen in their writing essay written by freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students at Japanese Literature program, Universitas Sumatera Utara. Therefore, this phenomenon is highly interesting to be analyzed and discussed.

1. Methodology and Theory

Methodology used is descriptive qualitative. This methodology describes the situation or the object of the research which is conducted based on the empirical facts and is comprehended to solve the problems by populating the data, organizing and classifying the data and presenting the result of data analysis (Brooke, 2010:115). The method of data analysis calculation used a method suggested by Halliday dan Hasan (2008:212) is the total of interferences form divided into the total of all interferences and multiplied by one hundred percent. The technique of collecting the data used in this research are jot down and sorting techniques (Sudaryanto, 1993:135). These two techniques used to jot down and sort the form of lexical interferences of *batak toba* language and *simalungun* language into Japanese language. Data analysis technique has been conducted into three stages: data reduction, data presentation and verification (Miles, Huberman dan Saldana, 1992:14). The theory used in this research is Weinrich's Interference theory (1979). According to Weinrich (in Pujiono, 2016:36-37) there are three types of lexical interferences, namely: 1) the borrowing word move directly to the borrowing language without any change in sound system, 2) the vocabulary of the borrowing language experiences expansion use affected by the foreign words which becomes its model, 3) the words taken experiences the change of sound according to the sound system of the language that receives it without any changes in meaning.

Besides that, there are some concepts used to support the theory, namely: bilingual and bilingualism. According to Mackey (1975:155) the definition of bilingualism is the use of 2 different languages respectively. The level of bilingualism can be viewed from the mastery of grammatical, lexical, semantic and style which mirror in the language skills namely: listening, speaking, reading and writing. According to Bloomfield (1989:56), a speaker is bilingual when that speaker is fluent in speaking foreign language as he/she speaks in his/her mother tongue. In the context of language as the second language, the common thing occurs is absorption and borrow of language, either in lexical level or grammatical and combination. A speaker will use first language lexical if he/she couldn't find the concept that she/he is talking about in the second language or vice verse.

The next concept is *Bataknese* language as the third concept. *Batak* ethnic consist of sub-ethnics and each of them has their own ethnic language. According to Marice (2011:47), *bataknsese* ethnic is divided into five sub-ethnic, namely 1) *batak toba* language, 2) *batak karo* language, 3) *batak simalungun* ethnic, 4) *batak pak pak dairi* language and 5) *batak angkola- mandailing* language. The last concept is Japanese lexical. Etymologically, lexical refers to the meaning of vocabulary. Vocabulary in Japanese language is called 語彙 'goi'. *Goi* is group of words used in certain environment (Kindaichi, 1997:444). *Goi* can be classified by the characteristic of the grammatical (Sudjianto and Dahidi, 2004). Based on the grammatical characteristics *goi* consists of verb (*doushi*), adjective-I (*keiyoushi*), adjective-na (*keiyoudushi*), noun (*meishi*), adjective pronoun (*rentaishi*), adverb (*fukushi*), interjection (*kandoushi*), conjunction (*setsudzukushi*), helping verb (*jodoushi*) and particle (*joshi*).

Dooshi is one of part of speeches in Japanese language, just like adjective-I and adjective-na this part of speech belongs to one type of *yoogen*. This part of speech are being used to express or describe activities, existence or the situation of something (Sudjianto & Dahidi, 2007: 149). According to Shimizu (in Sudjianto and Dahidi 2007: 150), types of *dooshi* are classified into 3 types, namely *Jidooshi*, which is group of *dooshi* (verb) which meaning doesn't influence others, next is *tadooshi*, which is group of *dooshi* where meaning influences and *Shodooshi* which is also belongs to group of *dooshi* which involves the consideration of the speakers which can't changed into the passive or causative form and also doesn't possess the command form. In Japanese language, the verb also changes. This grammatical change is called *katsuyookei* (conjunction form). According to Masao (in Sudjianto and Dahidi 2007:152), *katsuyookei* is divided into 6 types, namely 1) 未然形 'Mizenkei', which describes an activity has not conducted yet up until the present time. This form is followed by *u*, *yoo*, *nai*, *seru*, *saseru*, *reru*, or *rareru*. 2) 連用形 'Ren'yookei', the conjugation which expresses the advancement or continuity of an activity. This form is followed by *masu*, *ta*, *da*, *tai*, *te*, or *nagara*. 3) 終止形 'Shuushikei', the base form of verb used at the end of an utterance. This form is followed by *ka* or *kara*. 4) 連体形 'Rentaikei', is the verb form followed by *taigen* such as *toki*, *koto*, *hito*, *mono*, and etc. this can also be followed by *~yooda*, *~souda*, *~bakari*, *~kurai*, *~gurai*, *~no*, and etc. 5) 假定形 'Kateikei,' expresses conditional meaning.

This form is followed by *ba*. 6) 命令形 ‘*Mereikei*,’ expresses the meaning of command and is a verb form in the time of ending an utterance which tone is a command or imperative. For example the verb *iku* changes to *ike!* Which means ‘Go!’ Adjective-I (*keiyoushi*) is an adjective which ends with the suffix of *-I*, it could be a predicate and adverb which describes other word in a sentence. *Keiyoushi* (形容詞) also has some changes in form. For example the word *atsui* (hot), and *chiisai* (small).

Adjective *-na* (*keiyoudoushi*), is an independent adjective and belongs to the second class, this has its own transformation which is different with another adjective like *keiyoushi* (形容詞). Some of examples of *keiyoudoshi* (形容動詞) are *jyouzu* (clever), *kirei* (beautiful).

Noun (*meishi*), is part of speech assigns to show the name of a place, thing, people, event and situation. *Meishi* (名詞) is independent and can be a subject. *Meishi* (名詞) also doesn’t change in form. Some examples of *meishi* (名詞) are (*tas*), *Kyouto* (city of kyoto), *hikari* (light).

Adjective pronoun (*rentaishi*), is part of speech belongs to the group of *jiritsugo* which doesn’t recognize conjugation used to explain noun. *Rentaishi* (連体詞) can’t be a subject or predicate and doesn’t change in form. The examples are *sono* (that), *kono* (this).

Adverb (*fukushi*), is part of speech which describes the verb, adjective and other adverb. It can’t change its form and functions to express the situation or the degree or level of an activity, situation or the feeling of the speaker. The examples of *fukushi* (副詞) are *totemo* (very), *amari* (rather).

Interjection (*kandoushi*), is an independent part of speech and generally describes the expression, feeling, the way of summoning, the way of answering and etc.,. *Kandoushi* (感動詞) can’t be the subject and doesn’t change in form. Some examples are *aa*, *ara*, *are*.

Conjunction (*setsudzukushi*), can stand alone and it functions to express the relationship between sentences and phrases. *Setsuzokushi* (接続詞) can’t be the subject, object or predicate or describes other words and doesn’t change in form. Some examples of *setsuzokushi* (接続詞) are *dakara* (hence), *soshite* (then), *tatoeba* (for example).

Helping verb (*jodoushi*) is part of speech that can’t stand alone and change its form. This word attaches to *doushi* (動詞), *keiyoushi* (形容詞), and *jodoushi* (助動詞). Some examples are *~rareru* (passive form), *~nai* (negative form).

Particle (*joshi*), is part of speech that can’t stand alone and can’t change its form. If this word is separated from others, this word has no meaning. *Joshi* (助詞) only functions to connect the words of *jiritsugo* in constructing a sentence in Japanese and decide its meaning. Some examples of *Joshi* (助詞) are *ga*, *wa*, *o*, *e*, *ni*, *no*.

2. Result and Discussion

The result of this discussion is the lexical interference of *batak toba* language and *simalungun* in the form of writing essay written by freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students of Japanese literature department in Universitas Sumatera Utara. The most dominant interference discovered in this research is noun lexical interference.

Table1. Result of the interference calculation in *batak toba* language

No	Lexical Interference	Total
1	Noun Lexical Interference	72 %
2	Verb Lexical Interference	10.00 %
3	Adjective Lexical Interference	10.00 %
4	Adverb Lexical Interference	8.00 %
Total		100 %

Furthermore, the analysis of interference was being conducted to find out the most dominant lexical interference occurred amongst the freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students of Japanese literature department in Universitas Sumatera Utara.

Lexical Interference in Noun

Here are some excerpts of noun lexical interference found in the essay of the students.

① 私はプレゼントをいとにあげます。

Watashi wa purezento wo ito ni agemasu

I gave a present to my brother

② その問題ははばで答えました

Sono mondai wo haba de kotaemashita.

Answering the question correctly

③ いまは私のかばんです。

Ima wa watashi no kaban desu

That's my bag

In the sentence ① the noun *ito* in Japanese language means 'fabric.' But the word *ito* used in this sentence means 'older brother' in batak language. The correct use of the Japanese word is *ani*. In sentence ① the word *ito* replaces the word *ani*. This is well proven by Weinrich theory saying that the noun *ito* which directly borrowed, put in the Japanese sentence, so that batak language interference into Japanese language occurred in sentence ①. The same thing also occurred in sentences ② and ③. The use of words *haba* and *Ima* in Japanese language means 'wide and now' used in the sentence because these words in batak language mean 'correct and that.' The correct use of 'correct and that' in Japanese language is *tadashii* and *sore*. In sentences ② and ③ the words *haba* dan *ima* replace the words *tadashi* and *sore*. This shows that the noun *haba* and *ima* borrowed directly, has put in Japanese sentence so that the batak language interference into Japanese language has occurred in the sentences ② and ③.

From the result of data analysis it has found that all the noun interference amongst student universities are in the form of complete words and sound based on the system of batak language without any changes in form. This is in line with Weinreich (1979 in Pujiono, 2016) saying that one of the forms of interference occurred is direct borrowed words which put into the borrowing language without any change in sound. In sentences ①, ② and ③ the words *ito*, *haba*, dan *ima* have directly placed in the borrowing language without any change in sound. This shows that the freshmen students of Japanese literature department in Universitas Sumatera Utara have experienced difficulties in using those words into Japanese language, so that those students directly used batak language nouns in Japanese language sentences. This also remarks that the influence of batak language as their mother tongue is very dominant and appears in the use of the vocabularies.

The occurrence of lexical interference amongst freshmen in their writing essay is mainly caused by the lack of vocabularies of Japanese language. Another factor is caused by the social issue. Those freshmen students mostly interact with their own kind so that their language which is batak has been very dominant due to the frequent use of the language amongst them.

Lexical Interference in Verb

Here are some excerpts of verb lexical interference found in the essay of the students.

① 私のさいふが孫になります。

Watashi no saifu ga mago ni narimasu

My wallet is lost

② 木を学ばない。

Sono ki wo manabanai.

Don't cut the tree

Sentence ① and ② are the example of verb lexical interference of batak language into Japanese language. In the sentence ① the verb *mago* means 'grandchild' in Japanese language while in batak language it means 'lost.' The correct word for 'lost' in Japanese language is *nakusu/nakushimasu*. In the sentence ① the word *mago* replaces the word *nakusu*. this is in line with Weinrich theory saying that the noun *mago* which directly borrowed, put in the Japanese sentence, so that batak language interference into Japanese language occurred in sentence ①. This is also occurred in sentence ②. The word *manaba* means 'study' in Japanese but it means 'cut' in batak language. The correct word of cut in Japanese is *kiru*. In the sentence ② the word *manaba* replaces the word *kiru* in the form of *mizenkei* which states that the activity hasn't been done yet or up to the present by adding the suffix of *~nai*. So that the word *kiranai* becomes *manabanai*.

This shows that the verb *manaba* borrowed directly has been put into Japanese language in sentence ② and the lexical interference of *batak* language has occurred in Japanese language. From the analysis of sentence ② it shows the verb interference in the word of *manaba* has experienced the expansion of meaning, because the *manaba* in Japanese language is also one the change verb of *mizenkei*. This is in accordance with Weinreich's theory (1979 dalam Pujiono, 2016) says that one of the interferences occurred is the borrowing vocabularies experiences the expansion of use due to the influence of foreign word that becomes its model. Just like noun interference, verb interference also occurred amongst the freshmen and sophomore. In the sophomore, the interference occurred in the state of meaning expansion. This is due to the fact that sophomore students have begun to learn more about the sentence pattern and the change of verb in Japanese, so that the interference occurred is the expansion with the adjustment of the verb meaning.

Lexical interference in Adjective

Here are some excerpts of adjective lexical interference found in the essay of the students.

① のにのずぼんを使います。

Noni no zubon o tsukaimasu

Using a trouser

② 私のお兄さんわごごです。

Watashi no oniisan wa totemo gogo desu.

My sister is strong

Sentence ① and ② are the examples of adjective interference of *batak* language in Japanese language. In sentence ① the word *noni* means 'though' in Japanese language but it means 'long' in *batak* language. The correct word of 'long' in Japanese language is *nagai*. In the sentence ① the word *noni* replaces the word *nagai*. This is in line with Weinrich theory saying that the noun *noni* which directly borrowed, put in the Japanese sentence, so that *batak* language interference into Japanese language occurred in sentence ① This also occurred in sentence ②. *gogo* means 'afternoon' in Japanese language but in *batak* language it means 'strong.' The correct word of 'strong' in Japanese is *tsuyoi*. In sentence ② the interference of *batak* language into Japanese language has occurred.

From the result of analysis in sentence ② it also shows that the interference in adjective is in line with Weinreich's theory (1979 in Pujiono, 2016) saying that one of the interferences occurred is in the form of direct word borrowing and puts it in the borrowing language without any change in sound.

Lexical Interference in Adverb

Here are some excerpts of adverb lexical interference found in the essay of the students.

① その問題はむらにやります。

Sono mondai wa murani narimasu

That question is answered easily.

Sentence ① is one of the examples of adverb interference of *batak* language into Japanese language. Adverb *mura* in Japanese language means 'village.' But in *batak* language this word means 'easily'. The correct word of 'easily' in Japanese language is *yasuku* or in *mizenkei* form the word adding of *yasui* at the end of the verb, for example *tabeyasui* which means 'easily consumed.' In sentence ① the word *mura* replaces the word *yasuku/~yasui*. This is in line with Weinrich's theory saying that the adverb of *mura* which directly borrowed has been put in Japanese sentence so that in sentence ① the interference of *batak* language into Japanese language has occurred. Just like adjective interference, adverb interference also occurred amongst the freshmen and sophomore. In the sophomore, the interference occurred in the state of meaning expansion. This is due to the fact that sophomore students have begun to learn more about the sentence pattern and the change of verb in Japanese, so that the interference occurred is the expansion with the adjustment of the verb meaning.

3. Conclusion

The result of this discussion is the lexical interference of *batak toba* language and *simalungun* in the form of writing essay written by freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students of Japanese literature department in Universitas Sumatera Utara.

The most dominant interference discovered in this research is noun lexical interference. There are 72% of noun interference, 10% verb interference, 10% adjective interference and 8% adverbial interference. The lexical interference of Bataknese language mostly occurred amongst freshmen students. This is due to the fact that their Japanese vocabularies is lacking. The lexical interference in noun, verb, adjective and adverb also occurred amongst the sophomore, junior and senior students. For junior and sophomore students, their interferences have undergone the expansion of meaning due to the fact that they have begun to learn the pattern of the sentence and the transformation of verb in Japanese language.

About the Author

Muhammad Pujiono, Ph.D. attained his master degree in linguistic from Universitas Sumatera Utara where sociolinguistic is his area. He achieved his doctoral degree in School of Humanities Universiti Sains Malaysia with the same focus of sociolinguistic. Currently he teaches Japanese sociolinguistic, Japanese syntax, Japanese semantic and Japanese grammar in Japanese Literature Department, Universitas Sumatera Utara. He also teaches at Mandarin department and Graduate School of Universitas Sumatera Utara.

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Attachment

Table of noun interference of Bataknese language into Japanese language

Noun	sentence	The meaning in Japanese language	The meaning in Bataknese language
Ari	<i>Kyou wa atsui ari desu</i>	ant	day
Roha	<i>Watashi no roha wa kanashii desu.</i>	bonfire	Feeling
Haba	<i>Sono mondai wo haba de kotaemashita</i>	wide	correct
Ea	<i>Wakarimasuka. Ea to iimasu</i>	air	Yes
Ai	<i>Kyou wa daigaku he ikimasen, ai byouki desu</i>	love	Because
Mochi	<i>Daidokoro ni chiisai Mochi ga imasu</i>	cake	mouse
Hata	<i>Sono hata wa dame</i>	flag	word
Ito	<i>Watashi wa purezento wo ito ni agemasu</i>	fabric	brother
Boshi	<i>Sono boshi wa katai desu</i>	hat	steel
Rakka	<i>Rakka na kaban ga arimasu</i>	fall	step
Hira	<i>Tomodachi no otousan wa hira no hito desu</i>	steep	rich
Asa	<i>Benkyou dekimasu asa, toshokan e ikimasu</i>	morning	In order to
Ro	<i>Ima haha wa ro shimashita</i>	donkey	come
Ama	<i>Watashi no ama wa byouki desu</i>	sky	father
Ima	- <i>Ima wa watashi no kaban desu</i> - <i>Enpitsu wa ima desu.</i>	now	that
Sore	<i>Mainichi sore ni kouen e ikimasu</i>	that	afternoon
Sae	<i>Maiasa gohan o tabetae, supootsu o shimasu.</i>	Even though	finish
Gabei	<i>Sore kara, gabei desu</i>	failure	To become/make
Bohi	<i>Kodomo no bohi wa waratteimasu</i>	tomb	face
Asa	<i>Sore ga wakaruasa desu</i>	morning	In order to
Hou	<i>Hou wa wakarimasenka</i>	rule	you
Baba	<i>Baba wo akete kudasai</i>	grandmother	mouth
Oto	<i>Sono ko wa oto desune</i>	voice	stupid
Boro	<i>Boro wo mitara, zokuzoku shimasu</i>	Something torn	worm
Ase	<i>Sono mondai o wakaruase desu</i>	Sweat	So that
buta	<i>Sono hito wa buta na hito desu</i>	pig	blind
Eda	<i>Watashi no eda wa kyoushi desu</i>	tree	sister
ita	<i>Ita no kurasu wa kirei desu</i>	wooden	we
Souan	<i>Okane o morau tokini, souan desu</i>	calamity	happy
uma	<i>Watashi no uma wa sinsetsu desu</i>	horse	mother

Table of verb interference of Bataknese language into Japanese language

Verb	Sentence	The meaning in Japanese language	The meaning in Bataknese language
bunka	<i>Watashi wa hon o bunka shimasu</i>	culture	To open
Mago	<i>Watashi no saifu ga mago ni narimasu.</i>	grandchild	To disappear
manaba	<i>Sono ki wo manabanai.</i>	study	To cut
Mate	<i>Chichi wa mou mate shimashita.</i>	wait	Die
Moru	<i>Mainichi no okane o moru shimasu.</i>	prepare	decrease
Tori	<i>Ane ni tori shimasu</i>	Bird	say

Table of adjective interference of Bataknese language into Japanese language

Adjective	sentence	The meaning in Japanese language	The meaning in Bataknese language
noni	<i>Noni no zubon o tsukaimasu</i>	Even though	long
bari	<i>Sono okashi wa bari no okashi desu.</i>	Urine	Stale
gogo	<i>Watashi no oniisan wa totemo gogo desu.</i>	afternoon	strong

Table of adverb interference of Bataknese language into Japanese language

Adverb	sentence	The meaning in Japanese language	The meaning in Bataknese language
Mura	<i>Sono mondai wa mura ni yarimasu.</i>	village	Easy to get/do