A Comparison of Goiso Oinan and Masi Dialect in Mentawai Islands

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Abstract

This This research compares the Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects, which are part of the Mentawai language in the Mentawai Islands. The research aims to analyze the linguistic similarities and differences, particularly in the aspects of phonology, morphology, and lexicon between these two dialects. A qualitative descriptive method was employed, with data collected through direct interviews with native speakers of both dialects in the Goiso Oinan area located in the Sipora Utara District and the Masi area in the Siberut Barat Daya District. The data were analyzed using systematic techniques of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The findings reveal that there are words with similar phonemic forms and meanings in both dialects. However, morphological changes also occur through the addition, deletion, and substitution of phonemes in various word positions. Furthermore, there are dialectal variations with different word forms but the same meanings, reflecting the complexity and dynamic evolution of dialects influenced by geographical, social, and economic factors. The research also found that the Goiso Oinan dialect is the dominant dialect, while the Masi dialect serves as a contributing dialect. Approximately 60 percent of the lexical items share the same forms and meanings, while 40 percent differ in form but retain the same meanings. This study makes a significant contribution to the documentation and preservation of local dialects as part of the cultural heritage of Mentawai, as well as to the development of dialectology and Austronesian linguistics.

Keywords: Language, Dialect, Phoneme, Goiso Oinan, Masi

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I INTRODUCTION

Goiso Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects are among the Mentawai Islands' significant linguistic diversity, particularly in the districts of North Sipora and Southwest Siberut. These dialects are members of the Austronesian language family and have distinct characteristics that set them apart from other Mentawai dialects. Variations in pronunciation, intonation, and vocabulary reflect the local populations' various cultural identities. These dialects, in addition to functioning as common means of communication, play an important part in the preservation of oral traditions such as folktales, traditional music, and ceremonial customs. As a result, attempts to document and preserve these dialects are critical to protecting the Mentawai people's cultural and linguistic history in the face of modernization.

The dialects in these villages are more than just linguistic variations, they represent the cultural, historical, and lifestyle distinctions of their communities. The Mentawai people uphold strong traditions and values, which are intricately expressed through their languages. Thus, a comparative research of the dialects in Goiso Oinan and Masi becomes essential to explore both their differences and commonalities, as well as to understand the role these dialects play in the everyday lives of the local population.

This research seeks to examine and analyze the linguistic similarities and differences between the dialects of Goiso Oinan and Masi. By delving into these dialectal variations, the study aims to contribute to linguistic knowledge while supporting the preservation of local languages and cultures, which are increasingly at risk due to globalization and modernization. Furthermore, this research aims to highlight the importance of safeguarding languages and dialects as essential parts of the nation's cultural heritage.

Language diversity is shaped by the various social interactions of its speakers, as humans inherently rely on connections with others. The regional languages spoken in the Mentawai villages of Goiso Oinan and Masi illustrate this phenomenon, as they have developed and thrived within Indonesia's linguistic landscape. For the people of Mentawai, particularly in these villages, Goiso Oinan and Masi serve as their primary languages, reflecting their unique cultural heritage. The residents of Goiso Oinan and Masi regularly use these dialects in daily communication and interactions, embodying the local traditions and social dynamics of their communities.

Mentawai language, especially the Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects, holds a significant role in the cultural framework of the region. These dialects serve not only as tools of communication but also as essential components in preserving and sustaining the Mentawai culture, which remains deeply rooted among the local community. The use of regional languages provides a medium for cultural development and expression.

In light of this, research into the languages of Goiso Oinan and Masi can focus on exploring the richness of their distinct dialects and identifying terms specific to each village. Such studies can contribute to a deeper understanding of the linguistic and cultural identity of the Mentawai region while emphasizing the importance of preserving these regional languages as a part of Indonesia's diverse heritage.

Language serves not only as a medium of communication but also as a reflection of the identity, culture, and worldview of its speakers. In regions characterized by geographical isolation and rich cultural diversity, such as the Mentawai Islands of Indonesia, language naturally evolves into various dialects influenced by environmental, social, and historical factors. Although dialects may belong to the same language family, their forms can differ significantly depending on the context in which they are spoken. This phenomenon is clearly illustrated by the dialects spoken in Goiso Oinan and Masi, two villages located within the Mentawai Islands.

Goiso Oinan is situated in North Sipora District on Sipora Island, while Masi lies in South West Siberut District on Siberut Island. Although these two areas are geographically close separated by only about 30 kilometers the sea that lies between them creates a natural boundary that limits continuous interaction. This separation has contributed to the development of distinct linguistic characteristics within each

community. Both villages use dialects of the Mentawai language, which belongs to the Austronesian language family, yet the differences in their speech have become noticeable over time. These variations provide a valuable opportunity to study dialectal development within a relatively small yet diverse linguistic region.

Social and economic dynamics have further shaped the linguistic landscape of the two communities. In recent decades, migration from Goiso Oinan to Masi has increased, primarily driven by economic motivations. Many people from Goiso Oinan have moved to Masi to work as laborers in coconut plantations, which are abundant in the area. This migration has led to more frequent interaction between the speakers of the two dialects. However, instead of leading to linguistic convergence, these interactions have often resulted in communication difficulties due to lexical and phonological differences.

Instances of miscommunication have been observed in daily life, especially when speakers from both communities engage in work-related tasks or social events. Even though both dialects stem from the same language, differences in vocabulary, pronunciation, and usage often hinder smooth communication. These misunderstandings are not only inconvenient but can also lead to inefficiencies in collaboration, particularly in work environments where clarity and coordination are essential. Such recurring challenges indicate the importance of documenting and analyzing the differences between these dialects to promote better mutual understanding. The exposure to external linguistic influences also plays a crucial role in shaping dialectal variation. Goiso Oinan has better access to transportation and infrastructure compared to Masi. Its relatively open access to

other regions allows more frequent visits from people outside the Mentawai Islands, including traders, government officials, tourists, and religious workers. This exposure facilitates language contact and leads to the incorporation of new linguistic elements into the local dialect. Over time, Goiso Oinan has adopted loanwords, pronunciation shifts, and other language features influenced by Indonesian or regional Malay dialects.

In contrast, Masi remains more geographically and socially isolated. Limited transportation and infrastructure have prevented frequent interaction with outsiders. This isolation has allowed the Masi dialect to preserve more traditional features of the Mentawai language. Some of these features may reflect older forms of the language that have remained intact due to the village's seclusion. As a result, while Goiso Oinan experiences linguistic innovation, Masi maintains linguistic preservation. The comparison of these two dialects offers a fascinating insight into the process of language change under the influence of mobility, contact, and isolation.

The differences in linguistic features between Goiso Oinan and Masi can also be linked to broader sociolinguistic implications. Dialect not only represents language variation but also reflects cultural identity. When dialects change due to external influences or internal innovations, the identity of the speakers may shift accordingly. This can affect how individuals and communities perceive themselves, their traditions, and their relationship with other groups. The preservation or transformation of dialects, therefore, has implications for cultural continuity and intergenerational knowledge transmission.

II RESEARCH METHODS

2.1 Method of Collecting the Data

The data collection method in this study was conducted through direct interviews with native speakers in Goiso Oinan Village and Masi Village to obtain oral data on the dialects used. According to Mack (2005), qualitative research aims to understand a problem through the perspective of the local community, making

interviews and observations essential methods to gather contextual data. The researcher used a basic word list (Swadesh list) as the main instrument to compare the vocabularies of both dialects, and also utilized written sources as secondary data to clarify the meanings of words or phrases found in the field. In line with Auerbach and Silverstein (2003), the analysis

focused on identifying significant patterns from the interview data, so this combination of methods is expected to produce an accurate and comprehensive description of the similarities and differences between the Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects.

2.2 Method of Analyzing the Data

To analyze the data in this research, a qualitative method is applied to examine the differences and similarities between the Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects in Mentawai Island. This analysis follows the model proposed by Miles and Huberman (2008), which includes three main steps: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. In the data reduction stage, the collected information is selected, simplified, and organized to focus only on the most relevant parts. This is followed by data display, where the reduced data is categorized into themes to help identify patterns and relationships between the Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects. Finally, in the conclusion drawing stage, the researcher interprets and verifies the data by comparing findings and drawing insights that are aligned with the research objectives. This method ensures a systematic and meaningful analysis of the dialectal differences and similarities.

2.3 Technique Collecting the Data

The technique used to collect data in this research involves direct observation, structured interviews, and audio recording. Oral data were obtained through face-to-face interactions with selected native speakers of the Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects, using a modified Swadesh vocabulary list to ensure consistency across responses. Informants were selected based on specific criteria such as age, place of origin, dialect fluency, physical and mental health, educational background, and cultural involvement, to ensure the authenticity and representativeness of the data. All speech data were recorded to allow for accurate transcription and detailed analysis. This combination of observation, interview, and recording was chosen to capture natural language use and preserve the distinctive linguistic features of each dialect.

2.4 Technique of Analyzing the Data

The data were analyzed using a qualitative descriptive technique. The analysis began by identifying and categorizing words that share similar forms and meanings to uncover common linguistic features. It then continued with the classification of lexical variations resulting from phonemic changes, such as insertion, omission, or alteration of syllables, in order to highlight the structural differences between the Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects. The analysis also examined words that differ in both form and meaning to explore deeper lexical divergences. These categorized findings were then used to support the research conclusions and directly address the main research questions related to dialectal similarities and differences.

III   RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the research findings and discussion. The results indicate that there are similarities, variations, changes, and distinctions between the Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects as used by the communities of Goiso Oinan and Masi. These linguistic features are observed specifically at the dialectal level. The analysis reveals how phonological and lexical differences reflect the unique evolution of each dialect. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the linguistic diversity within the Mentawai language family.

4.1 The Dialect that have similarities in form and meaning

No	Goiso Oinan	Masi	Meaning
1.1.3	*Biti*	*Biti*	*Calf*
2.3.9	*Sot*	*Sot*	*Tooth*
3.5.14	*Attinang*	*Attinang*	*Sweat*
4.7.21	*Atei*	*Atei*	*Lungs*
5.8.22	*Singongongok*	*Singongongok*	*Index finger*

From Based on the comparative data of vocabulary between the Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects, all the analyzed words such as biti (calf), sot (tooth), attinang (sweat), atei (lungs), and singongongok (index finger) show identical forms in both spelling and pronunciation. This indicates a lexical similarity of 100 percent, as there are no differences in form or meaning between the two dialects. Phonemically, the sequence of sounds in each word is also the same, as seen in the phonemes /b-i-t-i/ for biti and /s-i-ŋ-o-ŋ-o-ŋ-o-k/ for singongongok, which show no phonological changes or shifts. These lexical and phonemic similarities reflect a close linguistic relationship between the Goiso Oinan and Masi dialects and suggest that both dialects have preserved a common set of basic vocabulary without significant phonological innovation.

4.2 The Dialect that have Changed in forms

4.2.1 Addition and deletion of the phoneme

The following is the analyzed data contained in the dialect of Goiso Oinan and Masi. The data is accompanied by a addition and deletion in the phoneme of the word, which is on:

Phoneme /k-/ at initial change into /Ø-/

No	Goiso Oinan	Masi	Meaning
1.6.15	*keppa*	*eppa*	*armpit*

From the data above, it was found that there was a change in the word *eppa* in the Masi dialect, which changed with the addition of the phoneme /k-/ to become *keppa* in the Goiso Oinan dialect. This phoneme addition occurs at the initial position of the word, while the meaning remains the same, namely armpit.

Phoneme /-Ø-/ in the middle become phoneme /-s-/

No	Goiso Oinan	Masi	Meaning
2.15.31	*taiokkok*	*tasiokkok*	*Teenaged girl*

From the data above, it was found that there was a change in the word taiokkok in the Goiso Oinan dialect, which changed with the addition of the phoneme /s/ to become tasiokkok in the Masi dialect. This phoneme addition occurs in the medial position of the word, between, while the meaning remains the same, namely teenaged girl

Phoneme /-u-/ in the middle change into /-Ø-/

No	Goiso Oinan	Masi	Meaning
4.27.104	*kualik*	*Kalik*	*wok*

From the data above, it was found that there was a change in the word kualik in the Goiso Oinan dialect, which changed with the deletion of the phoneme /u/ to become kalik in the Masi dialect. This phoneme deletion occurs at the beginning of the second syllable, while the meaning remains the same, namely wok.

4.2.2 Change of the phoneme

The following is the analyzed data contained in the dialect of Goiso Oinan and Masi. The data is accompanied by a change in the phoneme of the word, which is on:

Phoneme /r-/ at the initial position changes into /d-/

No	Goiso Oinan	Masi	Meaning
1.4.7	*rurukat*	*durukat*	*Chest*

In this first data, it is found that there are phoneme change at the beginning of words in Masi In this first data, it is found that there is a

phoneme change at the beginning of the word in Masi. The word rurukat in Goiso Oinan begins with the phoneme /r-/, while in Masi it changes to durukat, which begins with the phoneme /d-/. This indicates a systematic phonological change where the phoneme /r/ in the initial position of the word in Goiso Oinan shifts to /d/ in Masi, while the meaning "chest" remains the same.

Phoneme /-m-/ in the middle changes into phoneme /-p-/

No	Goiso Oinan	Masi	Meaning
2.8.17	*ompong*	*oppong*	*tootchiess*

In this second data, it is found that there is a phoneme change in the middle of the word in Masi. The word *ompong* in Goiso Oinan contains the medial phoneme /m/, while in Masi, the word becomes *oppong*, where the /m/ changes to /p/. This shows a phonological change from nasal /m/

to plosive /p/ in the medial position, while the meaning "toothless" remains the same.

Phoneme /lu-/ at the initial position changes into phoneme /pa-/

No	Goiso Oinan	Masi	Meaning
8.24.78	*luluga*	*paluga*	*paddle*

In this data, it is found that there is a phoneme change at the initial part of the word in Masi. The word luluga in Goiso Oinan begins with the phoneme sequence /lu-/, while in Masi it becomes paluga, where this sequence is replaced by phoneme /pa-/.

This indicates a substitution of the initial phoneme cluster, where /lu/ is replaced with /pa/, possibly influenced by syllabic or dialectal simplification. Although the sound pattern shifts, the meaning "paddle" remains the same in both dialects.

IV CONCLUSIONS

Researcher found that there were two main problems in study, namely comparison differentiation between Goiso Oinan and Masi dialect in Mentawai. There are several comparisons of the differences between the Goiso Oinan and the Masi dialect, including the addition and deletion of the phoneme and phoneme changes in the words . The conclusion includes comparison differentiation between Goiso Oinan and Masi dialect in Mentawai. From the results of this research it can be concluded that.

1. The researcher found sound and phoneme changes due to phoneme addition and deletion in syllables is /k/, /s/, /pu/, /u/, /n/, /i/, /ma/, /tan/, /ka/, /ka/, /ma/, /si/, /a/, /an/, /r/, /mun/, /b/.

2. The researcher found phoneme changes in the beginning of the syllable, middle of the syllable, and end of the syllable is /r/, /d/, /m/, /p/, /t/, /n/, /l/, /ll/, /d/, /r/, /t/, /n/, /kru/, /sok/, /lu/, /pa/, /le/, /ge/, /k/, /ŋ/, /p/, /t/, /c/, /t/, /s/, /k/, /sa/, /ne/.

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