GHÂNCARAN: JURNAL PENDIDIKAN BAHASA DAN SASTRA INDONESIA
http://ejournal.iainmadura.ac.id/index.php/ghancaran
E-ISSN: 2715-9132; P-ISSN: 2714-8955
DOI *10.19105/ghancaran.vi.21622*

Wakatobi Language Variations: A Dialectological Study

Maulid Taembo*
* Department of Indonesia Language and Literature Education, Universitas Trunojoyo Madura, Indonesia
Alamat surel: maulid.taembo@trunojoyo.ac.id

Kata Kunci:
Variasi;
Fonologi;
Dialektometri leksikal.

Abstrak

Variasi bahasa Wakatobi merupakan objek kajian yang sangat menarik karena memiliki variasi yang sangat beragam. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan variasi fonologi, proses fonologi, dan pengelompokan bahasa Wakatobi. Data penelitian dikumpulkan melalui wawancara dan dianalisis menggunakan teori dialektologi generatif dengan menggunakan metode padan intralingual dan dialektometri leksikal. Data penelitian bersumber dari narasumber di 25 titik pengamatan (desa) di Kabupaten Wakatobi. Berdasarkan deskripsi variasi fonologis ditemukan vokal-vokal dan konsonan-konsonan yang bervariasi secara teratur dan sporadis. Terkait dengan penelusuran bentuk turunan dari bentuk asal dalam penelitian ini dideskripsikan beberapa glos yang berbeda secara fonologis, seperti glos `jenggot`. Realisasi bentuk turunan dari bentuk asal mengalami satu atau beberapa kaidah fonologis, seperti bentuk turunan *ɖaᵑku* dan *jaᵑgu* masing-masing diturunkan oleh kaidah perubahan segmen mediopalatal hambat /j/ menjadi apikoalveolar hambat /ɖ/ dan perubahan segmen hambat takbersuara /ᵑk/ menjadi segmen hambat bersuara /ᵑg/ dari bentuk asal *jaᵑku*. Hasil penghitungan dialektometri menunjukkan bahwa bahasa Wakatobi di Kabupaten Wakatobi dapat dikelompokkan ke dalam empat kelompok besar, yang tersebar di empat pulau besar di Wakatobi. Keempat kelompok tersebut yaitu, Wangi-Wangi, Kaledupa, Tomia, dan Binongko. Adapun, di Wangi-Wangi dapat dibagi lagi menjadi tiga kelompok, yaitu Waha, Kapota, dan Mandati-Lia. Jarak dan letak geografi memengaruhi pengelompokkan bahasa Wakatobi.

Keywords:
Variations;
Phonology;
Lexical dialectometry.

Abstract

The Wakatobi language variation is a very interesting object of study because it has very diverse variations. The study aims at describing phonological variation, the process of phonology, and the grouping of Wakatobi language. The research data was collected through interviews and analyzed using generative dialectology theory, employing intralingual equivalence and lexical dialectometry methods. The data were sourced from informants at 25 observation points (villages) in Wakatobi Regency. Based on the description of phonological variations, vowels and consonants are found to vary regularly and sporadically. Related to the tracing of derived forms from the original form, in this study, several glosses are described that are phonologically different, such as the gloss `jenggot. The realization of derived forms from the original form undergoes one or several phonological rules, such as the derived forms *ɖaŋku* and *jaŋgu*, each derived by the rule of changing the mediopalatal stop segment /j/ to the apicoalveolar stop /ɖ/ and changing the voiceless

stop segment /ŋk/ to the voiced stop segment /ŋg/ from the original or underlying form *jaŋku.* The results of dialectometric calculations show that the Wakatobi language in Wakatobi Regency can be grouped into four large groups, which are spread across four large islands in Wakatobi. The four groups are Wangi-Wangi, Kaledupa, Tomia, and Binongko. Meanwhile, in Wangi-Wangi it can be divided again into three groups, namely Waha, Kapota, and Mandati-Lia. The geography distance or position affects the differences of the percentage distance relationship among subdialects.

Terkirim: 17 Agustus 2025; Revisi: 31 Agustus 2025; Diterbitkan: 18 September 2025

INTRODUCTION

The focus of this research, which is a study of Wakatobi language variations in the Southeast Sulawesi region, is based on several basic things as follows. First, research on Wakatobi language variations has not been carried out in its entirety. In fact, previous studies that touch on Wakatobi language variations are only partial, either quantitatively or qualitatively, such as phonological and lexical variations, both regular and partial/sprodis, the arrangement of original and derived forms, and the arrangement of isogloss files, both phonologically and lexically. In other words, these studies only use the results of lexicostatistical or dialectometric calculations in grouping variations in the Wakatobi language. In dialectological studies, the results of quantitative analysis are still considered inadequate without the support of qualitative analysis. Second, there are a number of differences of opinion regarding the relationship between isolects in the Wakatobi language. Burhanuddin (1979) and Lauder, Multamia, Buhu Aritonang, Wati Kurniawati (2000) stated that the Wakatobi language consists of four dialects (Wanci, Kaledupa, Tomia, and Binongko) although with slightly different names (the Wanci dialect was named the Kapota dialect by Lauder, et al.), while (SIL (2006: 70-71) explained that the Wanci and Kaledupa dialects are two dialects in the North Tukang Besi language (another name for the northern Wakatobi language) which has a very close linguistic relationship with the South Tukang Besi language (another name for the southern Wakatobi language) which consists of the Tomia and Binongko dialects.

Furthermore, Language Center (2008) considers that the differences between the four isolects (Wanci, Kaledupa, Tomia, and Binongko) are at the subdialect level. Third, the area where the Wakatobi language is used is spread across several islands separated by the sea with a fairly long distance, making research on the dialectology of the Wakatobi language more interesting and useful. In addition, there are differences in views or opinions of the community regarding several sounds in the Wakatobi language. In fact, there are some researches of Wakatobi language variations. Taembo (2023) investigated

the variations of Wakatobi language in terms of lexical aspect. Taembo, Maulid, Aron Meko Mbete, Ni Made Dhanawaty (2017) particularly discussed the sound changes of Wakatobi. Nevertheless, phonological variations and phonological process of Wakatobi was not done. Likewise, Taembo (2018) investigated a geography dialect of Wakatobi language in Southeast Sulawesi. In their study, the aspect of phonological variations and phonological process of Wakatobi were not discussed. Therefore, this present study investigates the phonological variations and phonological processes, and tracing derived forms from their original forms. It differs from the previous studies. It means that there has been no research on the Wakatobi language that explains phonological variations, phonological processes, and tracing derived forms from their original forms.

Based on the illustration above, research on Wakatobi language variations in dialectological review through both quantitative and qualitative analysis is very important and interesting to do. Therefore, the objectives of this study are to describe the phonological variations of the Wakatobi language, describe derived forms (DF) from their original or underlying forms (UF) of the Wakatobi language, and describe the grouping of lects or isolects in the Wakatobi language based on the dialectometric method, and its relationship with projections of the use and development of the Wakatobi language. The study uses generative dialectology to analyze the phonological variation of Wakatobi and the derived forms (DF) from their original or underlying forms (UF). The grouping of Waktaobi was done through lexical dialectomtery.

Basically, there have been several previous studies on dialectological variations of languages in Indonesia. Istiqamah (2017) studied the phonological variation of Indonesian in the Makassarese speaking community in Pakatto Caddi Village. Purwaningrum (2020) studied Lexical Variation in Kebumen Regency (A Dialectological Study). Damayanti (2023) studied the lexical variation of the Tegal Dialect of Javanese in Tegal Regency (a sociodialectological study). Afria et al. (2023) studied the Lexical Variation of the Kerinci Isolect of Villages in Depati Tujuh District, Kerinci Regency: A Dialectological Study. Similarly, Munfaati & Savitri (2024) discussed the lexical variation and distribution of the East Javanese Dialect in Sidoarjo Regency. However, this study is very different from previous studies, which focused on the Wakatobi language variation.

This study uses the theory of generative dialectology and the theory of traditional dialectology. The application of both theories is adjusted to the research objectives to be achieved. This theory assumes that each word has its own history. Basically, traditional dialectology is the earliest dialectology applied in studying language variations caused by geographical factors or speaker areas. This study, which uses the theory of generative

dialectology, of course leads to the theory of generative phonology, namely as a subfield of language theory known as transformational generative grammar. In other words, this generative dialectology theory applies the idea of generative linguistic theory, namely the theory of Transformational Generative Grammar (TGG). In TGG, phonological components are used to process the birth structure to produce a phonetic picture (Pastika, 1990: 9). Therefore, this theory is very useful in describing the phonological variation of the Wakatobi language.

The theory of generative dialectology, especially generative phonology, is focused on studying the phonological variation of the Wakatobi language. Based on these phonological variations, changes in derived forms from their original forms are traced by applying the principles of generative theory, namely (1) the existence of external and internal structures applied to derived form (DF) from underlying or original form (UF); (2) the smallest language sound unit is not a phoneme, but a distinguishing feature; (3) sound changes are caused not only by changes in language sounds, but by the boundaries of morphemes and words; (4) the existence of sequential rules in addition to certain phonological rules (Schane, 1973).

Theoretically, this research is useful for developing linguistic theory in Indonesia, especially in the discipline of dialectology. Practically, research can help explain the relationship between isolects and Wakatobi culture which is expected to have an impact on increasing awareness and solidarity of living together in the community.

METHOD

The research methods used include, namely (a) data provision methods and techniques and (b) data analysis methods and techniques. Data provision is carried out using the conversation method and the listening method (Sudaryanto, 1993: 131; Mahsun, 1995: 94-101). In other words, the data was collected through interviewing method in 25 villages or 25 observation point (OP). The conversation or interview method is carried out using the face-to-face conversation technique, namely visiting each research location and conducting conversations based on bait in the form of a list of questions. The listening method is carried out using the tapping technique followed by advanced techniques in the form of note-taking and recording techniques. The tapping technique means that the researcher taps the use of the informant's language. Furthermore, a note-taking technique is carried out, namely recording information about the list of questions and things related to the object being studied.

In data analysis, this study uses the distribution method and the intralingual matching method with the comparison-equating (CE) and comparison-differentiating (CD) techniques (Sudaryanto, 1993: 21-30; Mahsun, 2005: 118). This is done to answer the first, second, and third problem formulations. Description and phonological variations, phonological processes and rules, and lexical variations of the Wakatobi language are supported by the creation of isogloss files and dialectometric calculations. Based on the isogloss files and dialectometric calculations, a tree diagram of the grouping of Wakatobi language variations is then created.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study of research data based on dialectological studies begins with a description of the phonological variation of the Wakatobi language, which is continued with a search for derived forms from the original form. Furthermore, a grouping of Wakatobi language subdialects is carried out based on the dialectometric method.

Description of Wakatobi Language Phonological Variation

The discussion of Wakatobi language phonological variation begins with a study of Wakatobi language phonology. Understanding the phonological structure is very necessary to guide towards a better understanding in the description and analysis of Wakatobi language phonological variation. Based on the phonological study, it was found that the Wakatobi language has 14 vowel sounds, namely [i, i:, u, u: o, o:, ɔ, ɔ:, e, e:, ɛ, ɛ:, a, and a:]. Of the fourteen vowel sounds, five vowels have been proven to be the original segments, namely /i, u, ɛ, ɔ, a/, while [o] and [e] are allophones of the original segments /ɔ/ and /ɛ/ respectively, and the long vowel is also an allophone. Based on its distribution, the five original segments of the vowel have a complete distribution, namely they can occupy the initial, middle, and final positions.

Phonological variation in the Wakatobi language can occur regularly and irregularly. Regular variation occurs if the emergence of sound changes is required by a certain linguistic environment, while irregular variation or sporadic variation occurs if the emergence of sound changes is not required by the linguistic environment. Regular or irregular phonological variation can also be seen from its geographical aspect. Sound differences are said to be geographically regular if their distribution areas appear at the same observation point, while sound differences are said to be irregular if their distribution areas appear at different observation points.

The sounds of the Wakatobi language that vary regularly and sporadically can be divided into two, namely (a) vowels and consonants that vary regularly and (b) vowels and consonants that vary sporadically. The vowels of the Wakatobi language that are found to vary regularly in the Wakatobi language include the vowels [i, u, ɛ, e, ɔ, and a], among which is the variation of the vowel [-i]≈[-ɛ]/__#, as shown in the following table.

Nu.	Gloss	Variants [i]	Variants [ɛ]
1.	`sky`	*laŋi*: OP 8-25	*laŋɛ*: OP 1-7
2.	`ceiling`	*laŋi-laŋi*: OP 9,19,22	*laŋɛ-laŋɛ*: OP 1-5
3.	'tomato'	*tamati*: OP 8,16-23	*tamatɛ*: OP 1-7,9-15
4.	`net`	*jari*: OP 21-23	*jarɛ*: OP 8,12

Remark:

OP : Observation Point

The data above shows that the vowel [-i] in the ultima syllable position or final position after the contoid varies regularly with the vowel [-ɛ]

Contoids that vary regularly include the contoids [β, ɸ, ʋ, h, ɖ, j, ʃ, ɓ, p, ʔ, and k], among which is the variation of the contoid [-β-]≈[-ʋ-]≈[-ɸ-]/V__V#, as shown in the following table.

Nu.	Gloss	Variants [-β-]	Variants [-ʋ-]	Variants [-ɸ-]
1.	`husband's younger brother`	*ɖaβo* : OP 1-7	*ɖaʋo* : OP 8-16	*ɖaɸo* : OP 17-25
2.	`wedding event`	*te-kaβia*: OP 1-7	*te-kauia*: OP 8-16	*te-kaɸia*: OP 17-25
3.	`onion`	*baβa*: OP 1-7	*baʋa*: OP 8-16	*baɸa*: OP 17-25
4.	`a sheet`	*salaβa* :OP 1-7	*salaʋa*: OP 8-16	*salaɸa*: OP 17-25
5.	`a span`	*saɔtiβo*: OP1-7	*saɔtiʋo*: OP 8-16	*saɔtiɸo*: OP 17-25
6.	`a thousand`	*sariβu*: OP 1-7	*sariʋu*: OP 8-16	*sariɸu*: OP 23-25 *asariɸu*: OP 17-22

Remark:

OP : Observation Point

The data above shows that the contoid [-β-] in the ultima position before the vowel varies regularly with the contoid [ʋ] and [-ɸ-].

In addition to regular variations, many sporadic phonological variations are also found, including the vowel variation [-i-]~[-ɔ-] (V)K__$, as shown in the following table.

Nu.	Gloss	Variants [i]	Variants [ɔ]
1.	'koncking'	*tiki-tiki*: OP 1,3,4,9	*tɔki-tɔki*: OP 2,5-8,10-18,20-25

Remark:

OP : Observation Point

The data above shows that the vowel [-i-] in the penultimate position varies sporadically with the vowel [-o-]. Similarly, many sporadic contoid variations are found, such as the contoid variation [-ŋk-]~[-k-] / V___V. The contoid [-ŋk-] in the ultima syllable before the vowel varies sporadically with [-k-], as shown in the example below.

Nu.	Gloss	Variants [-ᵑk-]	Variants [-k-]

1.	'hair tie'	*ɓoᵑku hɔtu*: OP 1-7	*ɓokɛ hɔtu*: OP 8-25
2.	'hairpin'	*tiᵐkɔɛ*: OP 4,10-12,14-24	*ⁿtikɔɛ*: OP 25

Remark:

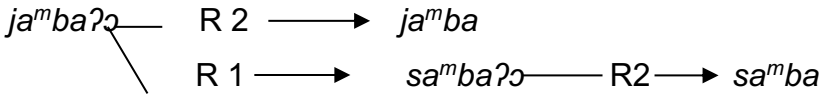
OP : Observation Point

Derived Forms (DF) and Their Underlying Forms (UF).

Based on the data found and description of phonological variations, the following are some examples of changes in derived forms (DF) from their original or underlying forms (UF).

Gloss `sideburns`

Gloss `sideburns' consists of four realizations, namely *samba* found on the islands of Wangi-Wangi, Kaledupa, Tomia, and Binongko (OP 3,5-7,9-12,14,17,18,20-25); realization of *samba*ʔɔ found on the island of South Wangi-Wangi (OP 1,2,4); realization of *jamba* found in Kasuwari (OP 16); and realization of *jamba*ʔɔ also found in Sombano and Waitii (OP 8,19). The rules (R) that can be applied from UF to produce DF are a) change of stop /j/ to fricative /s/ (R1) and syllable deletion (R2). The changes of the four berian can be described from their original forms, as follows.



Thus, the realization of DF from UF has experienced two phonological rules. From DF *jamba* derived by the syllable deletion rule (R2) from UF *jamba*ʔɔ (OP 8,19); DF *samba* derived by the syllable deletion rule (R2) from UF *samba*ʔɔ (OP 1,2,4); and DF *samba*ʔɔ experienced a phonological process of changing the stop /j/ into a fricative /s/ (R1) from UF *jambaʔɔ* (OP 8,19).

Gloss `beard`

Gloss `beard' consists of five realizations or variants, namely *ɖaŋgu* found in Wangi-Wangi Selatan (OP 4,6); variant of *ɖaŋku* found in Lia Bahari Indah (OP 7); The variant of *jaŋgu* berry is found in Matahora (OP 5), Kaledupa (OP 8-16), and Tomia (OP 18-21); the variant of *jaŋku* berry is found in Wangi-Wangi (OP 1-3), Onemay (OP 17), Rukuva (OP 22), and West Palahidu (OP 23); and *jaŋgɔ* berry is found in Palahidu (OP 24) and Popaliha (OP 25). The rules that can be applied from UF to produce DF are a) the change of the voiceless prenasal stop /ŋk/ into the voiced prenasal stop /ŋg/ (R3), b) the change of the mediopalatal stop /j/ into the apicoalveolar stop /ɖ/ (R4), and the lowering of the

vowel /u/ into /ɔ/ (K5). The changes of the five berry can be described from their original form, as follows.

jaᵑku — R4 → *ɖaᵑku* — R3 → *ɖaᵑgu*
jaᵑku — R3 → *jaᵑgu* — R5 → *jaᵑgɔ*

Thus, the realization of DF from UF undergoes one or more phonological rules. From DF *ɖaŋku* and *jaŋgu*, each are derived by the rule of changing the mediopalatal stop segment /j/ to the apicoalveolar stop /ɖ/ (R4) and changing the voiceless stop segment /ŋk/ to the voiced stop segment /ŋg/ (R3) from BA *jaŋku* (OP 1-3,17,22,23); DF *jaŋgɔ* undergoes a phonological process, namely the lowering of the vowel /u/ to /ɔ/ (R5) from UF *jaŋgu* (OP 5,8-16,18-21); and DF *ɖaŋgu* underwent a phonological process in the form of a change in the voiceless stop segment /ŋk/ into the voiced stop segment /ŋg/ (R3), in this case from the voiceless stop /k/ to the voiced /g/ of UF *ɖaŋku* (OP 7).

Gloss `molar teeth`

The gloss `molar teeth` consists of four variants, namely *kɔni paŋa* found in Tomia (OP 17-19); *kɔni paŋŋa* found in East Tomia (OP 20,21); *kɔni ɓaŋŋa* found in Kaledupa (OP 8,11, 14) and Kasuwari (OP 16); *kɔni ɓaŋa* are found in Kapota (OP 6), Burangan (OP 10), South Kaledupa (OP 12, 13), and on Binongko Island (OP 22-25). The rules that can be applied from UF to produce DF are a) changing the voiceless stop segment /p/ into the voiced stop segment /b/ (R6) and b) gemination of the nasal segment (R7). The changes in the four berries can be described from their original forms, as follows.

kɔni paŋa — R 6 → *kɔni ɓaŋa* — R7 → *kɔni ɓaŋŋa*
kɔni paŋa — R 7 → *kɔni paŋŋa*

Thus, the realization of DF from UF undergoes one or more phonological rules. From DF *kɔni ɓaŋa* and *kɔni paŋŋa* each is derived by the rule of changing the voiceless stop segment /p/ into the voiced stop segment /ɓ/ (R6) and the gemination of the nasal segment, in this case the gemination of the consonant /ŋ/ (R7) from UF *kɔni paŋa* (OP 17-19); and DF *kɔni ɓaŋŋa* undergoes a phonological process, namely the gemination of the nasal segment, in this case the gemination of the consonant /ŋ/ (R7) from UF *kɔni ɓaŋa* (OP 6,10,12,13,22-25).

Application of Dialectometry Method

In the application of lexical dialectometry, the vocabulary distance between observation points (OP) is calculated. There are 25 observation points, namely (1) Waha, (2) Maleko, (3) Wandoka, (4) Numana, (5) Matahora, (6) Kapota, and (7) Lia Bahari Indah

in Wangi-Wangi island; (8) Sombano, (9) Lauluo, (10) Buranga, (11) Lagiwai, (12) Tanjung, (13) Pajam, (14) Horuo, (15) Darawa, and (16) Kasuwari in Kaledupa island; (17) Onemay, (18) Patua, (19) Waitii, (20) Kulati, and (21) Bahari in Tomia island; (22) Rukuwa, (23) West Pahidu, (24) Taipabu, and (25) Popaliha in Binongko island.

To facilitate the application of dialectometry, the calculation is done by calculating the vocabulary distance per meaning field and continued by combining it in calculating the vocabulary distance of the entire meaning field. The calculation of the lexical dialectometry of the entire meaning field produces a vocabulary distance with a percentage as shown in the following table.

Nu. OP	%	Nu. OP	%	Nu. OP	%	Nu. OP	%
1:2	23,48	6:8	43,18	12:13	18,44	18:20	23,13
1:3	18,20	6:9	43,79	12:15	26,71	18:21	19,47
1:6	33,61	6:14	40,15	13:14	25,03	19:21	24,88
2:3	22,19	6:24	42,45	13:15	28,26	19:22	31,99
2:5	22,17	7:8	37,73	13:16	23,83	19:24	31,60
3:4	22,64	8:9	26,25	14:16	20,44	20:21	27,80
3:5	24,05	8:10	19,30	14:19	34,57	20:22	29,27
3:6	29,24	9:10	29,10	14:24	34,71	20:23	32,85
4:5	18,78	9:11	24,33	15:16	24,93	20:25	31,32
4:6	27,69	9:14	25,17	15:17	34,21	21:22	32,12
4:7	22,43	10:11	18,53	15:18	36,68	22:23	17,85
5:7	24,01	10:12	24,37	16:17	34,67	22:24	23,91
5:8	38,73	10:15	23,17	16:19	33,43	23:24	21,26
5:10	44,65	11:12	25,52	17:18	21,25	23:25	20,32
5:15	39,52	11:13	22,22	17:19	21,05	24:25	23,98
6:7	24,70	11:14	18,21	18:19	20,98		

Table: Lexical Dialectometry

The results of the lexical dialectometry collection show that the Wakatobi language in Wakatobi Regency can be grouped into four large groups, which are spread across four large islands in Wakatobi. The four groups are Wangi-Wangi, Kaledupa, Tomia, and Binongko. Meanwhile, in Wangi-Wangi it can be divided again into three groups, namely Waha, Kapota, and Mandati-Lia. The Mandati-Lia subdialect is divided into three speeches, namely the Central and Southern Wangi-Wangi speech, Maleko, and Lia Bahari Indah. The Kaledupa subdialect is divided into three speeches, namely East and South Kaledupa, Central and West Kaledupa, and North Kaledupa, the Tomia subdialect is divided into four speeches, namely Patua-Bahari, Onemay, and Waiti. The Binongko subdialect is divided into North Binongko and Togo Binongko. At the phonological level, there are several characteristics that distinguish one subdialect from another, as follows.

1) The voiceless medio palatal stop segment /c/ is generally only found on Kaledupa Island, such as gloss 15 (*camba*: OP 13), gloss 365 (*caŋkulu*: OP 8-15), and gloss 513 (*mia cumaca*: OP 13,16); while in other OPs the segment from the alveolar fricative /s/ or the voiced medio palatal stop /j/ is used.

2) The segment from the medio palatal nasal /ñ/ is only found in South Wangi-Wangi (OP 4,7), Kaledupa (OP 11,15), and Binongko (OP 22,23); while in other OPs the segment from the nasal /n/ is used.
3) The bilabial fricative origin segment [β] which is realized as [β] is more often found on Wangi-Wangi Island; while on Kaledupa Island, the voiced labiodental variation [ʋ] is used; and on Tomia and Binongko Islands, the voiceless bilabial fricative variation [ɸ] is used; and the one realized as [f] with very little data is only found on Kaledupa, Tomia, and Binongko Islands.
4) The double origin segment is more often found in the OP of Kaledupa and Tomia Islands; while on the OP of Wangi-Wangi and Binongko Islands, the double origin segment is very rarely found. This is because the Kaledupa and Tomia communities tend to pronounce consonants with a somewhat maintained tempo, resulting in certain double consonant sounds.
5) The original segment /ʃ/ is generally found in the Wandoka (OP 3), Bahari (OP 21), and Binongko Island (OP 22-25) areas, while in other areas it is realized with the original segment plosive /j/ and implosive /ɗ/.

Based on the variations and groupings of the Wakatobi language explained previously, we can illustrate several forms that are considered original or first. Furthermore, the results of the variations and groupings of the Wakatobi language also reveal the most dominant variations. This means that several variations are most widely used in the Wakatobi region. This can be utilized for the use of the Wakatobi language, particularly in education and regional language teaching. Similarly, the creation of a Wakatobi dictionary and the orthographic and morphemic writing of the Wakatobi language can take into account the diversity of the Wakatobi language. This is crucial for the use and development of the Wakatobi language in the future.

CONCLUSION

The results of the discussion outlined above can be concluded as follows. Based on the description of phonological variations, vowels and consonants were found to vary regularly and sporadically. Related to the search for derived forms from the original form, several glosses were described that differ phonologically, such as the gloss `jenggot`. In the gloss `jenggot' consists of five words. The realization of DF from UF experiences one or several phonological rules, such as the derived forms *ɖaŋku* and *jaŋgu*, each derived by the rule of changing the mediopalatal stop segment /j/ to the apicoalveolar stop /ɖ/ and changing the voiceless stop segment /ŋk/ to the voiced stop segment /ŋg/ from the original

form *jaŋku*; the derived form *jaŋgɔ* undergoes a phonological process, namely the reduction of the vowel /u/ to /ɔ/ from the original form *jaŋgu*; and the derived form *ɖaŋgu* undergoes a phonological process in the form of a change in the voiceless stop segment /ŋk/ into a voiced stop segment /ŋg/ from the original form *ɖaŋku*.

The results of dialectometric calculations show that the Wakatobi language in Wakatobi Regency can be grouped into four large groups, which are spread across four large islands in Wakatobi. The four groups are Wangi-Wangi, Kaledupa, Tomia, and Binongko. Meanwhile, in Wangi-Wangi it can be divided again into three groups, namely Waha, Kapota, and Mandati-Lia. Referring to the research results that have been explained in the previous chapters, the following describes several research findings that display dimensions of novelty. The findings of this research are examined from theoretical aspects (theoretical findings) and empirical aspects (empirical findings). The intended research findings are as follows. First, the results of this research contribute to the development of comparative historical linguistic studies to consider dialectological data so that they can represent the language being studied. Moreover, if the languages compared in comparative historical linguistics studies are known to consist of several dialects or subdialects. A language consisting of several dialects or subdialects tends to have different variations between one dialect/subdialect and another dialect/subdialect in the language. Second, the empirical findings of this study can be seen from the discovery of the grouping of the Wakatobi language into subdialects which are generally seen from the geographical location factor. The aspect of the geographical location factor is very important in the grouping of the Wakatobi language subdialects because in terms of socio-cultural aspects, livelihoods, natural conditions and the environment are not very different between islands in Wakatobi.

This research on Wakatobi language variations still requires further study, especially comparisons at the morphological, semantic, and syntactic levels. This can provide additional evidence regarding the variations of the Wakatobi language. Another thing that needs to be considered is the extralinguistic factors that influence the occurrence of language variation in Wakatobi, especially with the support of ecolinguistic theory. The use of ecolinguistic theory in this research is very relevant to the linguistic situation of Wakatobi, which has most likely been influenced as a result of rapid and significant changes in its environment, as well as quite intensive contact with other languages.

REFERENCES

Afria, R., (2023). *Kajian Linguistik dan Sastra Lexical Variations of Kerinci Isolec Villages in Depati Tujuh District, Kerinci Regency: A Dialectological Study*. *1*(3).

Language Center. (2008). *Bahasa dan Peta Bahasa di Indonesia. Dendy Sugono, Mahsun, Inyo Yos Fernandez, Kisyani Laksono, Multamia Lauder, dan Nadra (Ed)*. Pusat Bahasa. Departemen Pendidikan Nasional.

Burhanuddin. (1979). *Bahasa-Bahasa Daerah di Sulawesi Tenggara*. Laporan Penelitian. Kendari.

Damayanti, S. (2023). *Variasi Leksikal Bahasa Jawa Dialek Tegal di Kabupaten Tegal (Kajian Sosiodialektologi)*. Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatulah Jakarta.

Istiqamah, R. (2017). *Variasi Fonologi Bahasa Indonesia pada Komunitas Penutur Bahasa Makassar di Desa Pakatto Caddi*. Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar.

Lauder, Multamia, Buhu Aritonang, Wati Kurniawati, dan H. A. (2000). *Penelitian Kekerabatan dan Pemetaan Bahasa-Bahasa Daerah di Indonesia: Provinsi Sulawesi Tenggara*. Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa, Departemen Pendidikan Nasional.

Mahsun. (1995). *Dialektologi Diakronis: Sebuah Pengantar*. Gadjah Mada University Press.

Mahsun. (2005). *Metode Penelitian Bahasa: Tahapan Strategi, Metode dan Tekniknya*. Raja Grafindo Persada.

Munfaati, A., & Savitri, A. D. (2024). Variasi dan Distribusi Leksikal Dialek Jawatimuran di Kabupaten Sidoarjo. *SAPALA. 11(1).*

Pastika, I. W. (1990). *Fonologi Generatif Bahasa Bali*. Makassar: Universitas Hasanuddin.

Purwaningrum, P. W. (2020). Variasi Leksikal di Kabupaten Kebumen (Sebuah Kajian Dialektologi). *Wanastra: Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra*, *12*(2), 112–119.

Schane, S. (1973). *Generative Phonology*. Prentice Halle, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

SIL. (2006). *Bahasa-Bahasa di Indonesia*. SIL International.

Sudaryanto. (1993). *Metode dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa: Pengantar Penelitian Wahana Kebudayaan*. Duta Wacana University.

Taembo, Maulid, Aron Meko Mbete, Ni Made Dhanawaty, and A. A. P. P. (2017). The Sound Change of Wakatobi Language. *International Journal of Current Research*, *9*(12).

Taembo, M. (2018). *Dialek Geografi Bahasa Wakatobi di Lepas Pantai Sulawesi Tenggara*. Udayana University.

Taembo, M. (2023). Variasi Leksikal Bahasa Wakatobi. *Kandai*, *19*(2).