

## The Role of Intergenerational Communication in Local Language Preservation in Sidorejo Hamlet, Limau Village, Sembawa District, Banyuasin Regency

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**Abstract:** The decline in the use of Javanese language among the younger generation in Sidorejo Hamlet, Limau Village, due to the influence of the environment and modern technology, which threatens the preservation of local languages and the cultural values contained in them. This research explores the role of intergenerational communication in preserving the local language in Sidorejo Hamlet. The purpose of this activity is to preserve the Javanese language through an interactive and fun approach involving children and teenagers. The method used is a descriptive qualitative approach with interviews and observations. This research was conducted in Sidorejo Hamlet, Limau Village, Sembawa District, Banyuasin Regency. The informants in this study were children and adolescents in Sidorejo hamlet. The results show that a fun and interactive approach can increase children's interest in using Javanese. The conclusion of this study is the importance of the role of families, educational institutions, and the government in preserving local languages amid the challenges of globalization. This research contributes to identifying factors that influence the preservation of Javanese language in Sidorejo Hamlet and offers practical strategies to overcome them. The implications include the importance of a comprehensive approach involving families, educational institutions, and the government as the three main pillars in local language preservation.

**Keywords:** Language Preservation, Intergenerational Communication, Javanese Language.

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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has a variety of regional language cultures not only using Indonesian, but also in each region must have a regional language or mother tongue that is specifically used in communication, in order to achieve communication goals (Leong, 2014). Language is one of the cultural heritages that has an important role in the identity of a community. The definition of language according to the term is a communication tool in the form of a symbol system produced by the human speech apparatus (Suleman & Islamiyah, 2018). In the current era of globalization, the sustainability of local languages faces great challenges, especially with the increasing dominance of global languages. As is known that in Limau village there are 3 hamlets, namely Limau Hamlet, Sidorejo Hamlet, and Senala Hamlet. These three hamlets have their own local languages. Sidorejo Hamlet, Limau Village, Sembawa District, Banyuasin Regency, is one example where local languages need to be preserved through communication between generations.

Intergenerational communication plays a vital role in local language preservation (Ali, 2021). Ethnic languages play an important role in maintaining community integrity and strengthening cultural identity (De Gani & Sembiring, 2023; Harefa & Harefa, 2024; Nurhayati et al., 2024; Putri et al., 2024). This process involves an interaction between the older generation who possess local language knowledge and skills and the younger generation who are often more exposed to the influence of foreign languages and modern technology (Pratama, 2024). In Sidorejo hamlet, Limau village, the majority of the people speak Javanese. However, the influence of the environment and modern technology has resulted in a decline in the use of Javanese among the younger generation in Sidorejo hamlet. In addition, mixed marriages and strong intercultural exchanges have contributed to the dominance of the language in this hamlet as well.

As a communication tool, language plays an important role in uniting people with their culture. Thus, language becomes a means that allows social interaction between individuals or groups, and serves as a link in social life (Munadifa & Ansori, 2024; Samad & Asri, 2024; Wardani & Subhan, 2024; Putri et al., 2024). So if there is a decline in the preservation of the local language itself, it does not only have an impact on language skills. But it also reduces the understanding and attachment of the younger generation to the cultural values contained in the language. As a result, there is a concern that local traditions and wisdom passed down from generation to generation will be further eroded.

This research presents a novelty in the field of regional language preservation through a multidimensional approach to intergenerational communication in the specific context of Javanese language preservation in the transmigrant community of Sidorejo Hamlet, Banyuasin, South Sumatra. In contrast to the research of Badjo et al., (2015) which focuses on Tobelo language in North Halmahera, Leong, (2014) on Tonsawang language in Minahasa, and Pandaleke et al., (2020) on Pasan language in Ratahan, this research analyzes the unique phenomenon of how Javanese as a migrant language is able to survive amid the dominance of Malay-Palembang language.

The novelty of the research lies in the identification of the phenomenon of "passive understanding" in the younger generation who understand but are unable to use Javanese

actively, in-depth analysis of the influence of globalization, modern technology, and mixed marriages on language transmission, as well as the development of educational intervention strategies through learning posts as an adaptive language preservation method. This research integrates the three pillars of local language preservation-family, educational institutions, and government-in an integrated model that has never been proposed in previous research.

This study aims to explore and analyze the role of intergenerational communication in preserving the local language in Sidorejo Hamlet. By understanding the dynamics and challenges faced in the communication process, it is hoped that an effective strategy can be found to strengthen the role of local languages in the daily lives of local communities. Through this approach, it is expected that the local language will not only survive, but also develop along with the changing times.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research method used in this study is a descriptive qualitative approach. The main purpose of descriptive qualitative research is to obtain information about ongoing conditions. Researchers chose this approach because it aims to describe and describe a situation or object based on existing data and facts, which are then arranged, explained, and analyzed. This method presents directly the nature of the relationship between researchers and respondents (Kusumastuti & Khoiron, 2019; Astrid et al., 2024).

This research was conducted in Sidorejo Hamlet, Limau Village, Sembawa District, Banyuasin Regency. The informants in this study were children and adolescents in Sidorejo hamlet. The data analysis technique in this research involves a series of systematic processes to process non-numerical data into meaningful findings. This process begins with data reduction, which is summarizing and selecting important data according to the research focus, followed by data presentation in the form of narratives, tables, charts, or relationships between categories to facilitate understanding of patterns and relationships. The next stage is conclusion drawing and verification through triangulation (using various sources, methods, or theories) to ensure the credibility of the findings (Sirozi, et al., 2023).

This research was conducted with the aim of preserving the local language in Sidorejo Hamlet through intergenerational communication. This research involved children and teenagers in Sidorejo Hamlet. In this program, researchers tried to teach and invite these children to try to communicate using the local language in Sidorejo Hamlet. Organizing training on local languages and learning is done in a fun atmosphere with various play activities to maintain children's interest. In addition, the researcher also conducted interviews with the parents involved. It is hoped that with this article this valuable cultural heritage can be maintained and continue to live in the community.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The preservation of local languages in Sidorejo Hamlet relies heavily on communication between generations. In community life, social communication has the function of providing information and guidance (Pandaleke et al., 2020). The older generation plays a key role in teaching and introducing local languages to the younger

generation. However, challenges remain due to the influence of technology and social changes that cause the younger generation to tend to adopt more globally dominant languages.

In addition, parents also revealed that environmental influences were also a factor in the decline in the use of the local language, Javanese. Some are caused by the reduction in the number of speakers because the original speakers are only a few people, but there are also languages that are pushed out by the influence of other regional languages that are more dominant (Tondo, 2009). From the results of interviews and observations that researchers conducted that most of the younger generation or teenagers understand Javanese, but cannot use it directly. In contrast to children who are still in elementary school they really don't understand the local language. This happens because they are not used to using it. The influence of the environment around them, such as the use of Indonesian or Malay-Palembang language, causes the younger generation to use the local language less often. Interaction with a more dominant environment makes them tend to adopt a more commonly used language.

Globalization has become one of the most dominant phenomena in the contemporary era, bringing wide and complex impacts in various fields of human life. One of the most prominent aspects of globalization is its influence on local cultural identity (Arisandi, 2024; Swastiwi, 2024; Hasan et al., 2024). The influence of technological development and rapid social change encourages the younger generation to prefer to use the more dominant language directly. As a result, local languages are increasingly rarely used in daily communication. This condition raises concerns about the loss of cultural values contained in the local language. Overcoming this challenge requires an inclusive and adaptive approach. Programs that involve the whole community, from families to educational institutions and the government, are crucial to preserving local languages.

In this program, researchers try to communicate using Javanese, with the hope that children will hear more often and can practice it directly. This activity was carried out when they visited the post and studied together. In this way, researchers interact directly with the children and provide training on the Javanese language itself. In addition, researchers also use various fun learning methods, such as language games and interactive activities, to maintain the children's interest. Hopefully, through this approach, the children will be more interested and motivated to preserve the Javanese language in their daily lives, so that this cultural heritage can continue to live and thrive in the community.

Another factor is that they no longer understand the local language because it is rarely, if ever, used in various non-formal or daily activities at home or in the area concerned (Firmansyah, et al., 2025). The role of the family is very important in preserving local languages. Parents and other family members serve as the main role models for children in their daily language use. They can start by using the local language in daily communication at home, so that children get used to hearing and speaking the language from an early age. In addition, families can introduce the culture and traditions associated with the local language through stories, songs, traditional games and other family activities.

Involving older generations, such as grandparents, is also an effective way to

strengthen the use of local languages. They have in-depth knowledge of language and culture that they can share with the younger generation. These potentials are very important to be explored and developed in the process of community social interaction, so that effective communication occurs and even the local language will not just disappear but continue to be developed in a community (Badjo et al., 2015; Firmansyah, et al., 2025). However, from the interviews that the researchers conducted, although parents often communicate using the local language, their children often still reply in Malay-Palembang or Indonesian. This suggests that despite efforts to preserve local languages, challenges remain in terms of adoption by the younger generation.

In the educational context, educational institutions can play an important role in preserving local languages through curricula and extracurricular programs that support the use of local languages. Schools can hold regular local language classes and integrate them into daily activities, such as in history and culture lessons (Firmansyah, 2021). In addition, teachers and lecturers who are competent in local languages need to be involved to provide examples of good and correct language use. Thus, students will be more accustomed and motivated to use local languages in everyday life.

The government, on the other hand, has a strategic role in supporting local language preservation programs through adequate policies and funding. The government can develop policies that require the use of local languages in various aspects of community life, such as in official events, local media, and road signs. With the support of the government, local language preservation programs will have a strong foundation and can run sustainably. By combining the active roles of families, educational institutions, and the government, it is hoped that local languages can remain alive and thrive amid rapid social and technological changes.



**Figure 1. Children doing Homework Together**



**Figure 2. Discussion with one of the Residents of Sidorejo Hamlet**

Based on the results of the study, the implication or contribution of this research lies in the identification of factors that influence the preservation of Javanese language in Sidorejo Hamlet and the implementation of practical strategies to overcome these challenges. This research reveals that local language preservation requires a comprehensive approach involving three main pillars: the family as the environment of daily language use, educational institutions through the development of a supportive curriculum, and the government through adequate policies. Another important contribution is the researcher's implementation of an interactive learning method for children at the learning post, which shows that a fun and inclusive approach can increase the younger generation's interest in the local language amidst the challenges of globalization, technology and social change that cause the younger generation to tend to adopt more globally dominant languages, thus providing a practical model that can be adapted by other communities facing similar issues in the preservation of their language heritage.

## **CONCLUSION**

Local language preservation in Sidorejo Hamlet plays an important role in maintaining cultural identity and community integrity. Through intergenerational communication, the cultural values contained in the local language can continue to be passed on to the younger generation. Although the challenges from technology and globalization are getting bigger, inclusive and adaptive programs that involve the active role of families, educational institutions, and the government are needed to preserve this language. From this study, it was found that the younger generation in Sidorejo Hamlet still has an understanding of the Javanese language, but its use in everyday life is declining. Therefore, a fun and interactive approach in teaching Javanese, such as through games and joint activities, is the key to attracting children's interest in preserving the language. It is hoped that with the joint efforts of various parties, local languages can continue to live and develop in the midst of changing times, so that this valuable cultural heritage is maintained in the community.

Recommendations from the results of this study are the implementation of an

integrated strategy in the preservation of Javanese language in Sidorejo Hamlet through a three-pillar approach involving: (1) strengthening intergenerational communication in the family by encouraging the use of Javanese in daily conversations and involving grandparents as a source of authentic language knowledge; (2) developing creative and inclusive education programs in schools through Javanese local content curriculum and Javanese culture-based extracurricular activities that are attractive to the younger generation; and (3) local government policy support that encourages the use of Javanese in formal events and public spaces, including providing funds for language preservation programs and teacher training. It is also recommended to expand the interactive learning post model that has been proven effective in increasing children's interest in Javanese through fun learning methods, with the development of Javanese digital content tailored to the needs of the younger generation to bridge the gap between passive understanding and the ability to use the language actively.

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