IS MALIMPUNG [MLI] A DIALECT OF BUGIS [BUG]?

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ABSTRACT

Malimpung is a language spoken by 9,000 people in South Sulawesi (Ruwayari et al. 2019). It is part of a dialect chain that includes Enrekang [ptt] and Bugis (Grimes & Grimes 1987; Pelenkahu et al. 1974). We recently conducted a language survey with the Malimpung speech community in Enrekang using a 210-word list, Recorded Text Test (RTT), and a questionnaire. Analyzing the Malimpung wordlist by comparing it to eleven Bugis wordlists from different locations indicated an average lexical similarity of 68%. The results of the RTT were a little lower, averaging 62%. This was because the RTT text was a combination of highland lects of Toraja [sda] and Duri [mvp]. It is not surprising that Malimpung scored closer to Bugis because it is located in a lowland surrounded by the Bugis whereas Duri and Toraja are in the mountainous area. Our questionnaires reveal that they have a positive attitude towards being identified as Bugis. These results question the classification of Malimpung as a separate language from Bugis.
Keywords: *dialect, lexical similarity, wordlist, RTT, questionnaire*

INTRODUCTION

The survey found the Malimpung population had greatly increased since 2010, from 5,000 people (Eberhard et al. 2019) to 9,000 (Ruwayari et al. 2019). They were living in Malimpung, Sipatuo, and Padangloang hamlet of Patampanua district of Pinrang regency of South Sulawesi Province. Originally there was only one village called Malimpung which has since split into three hamlets: Sipatuo, Padangloang, and Malimpung.

We used a 210 item wordlist to collect the lexical data on Malimpung. We then compared it with eleven wordlists taken from different Bugis speaking locations. To make comparisons we used Cog, a user friendly software program that quickly helps us analyze wordlists from several language varieties. Two of Cog's features that we use to display comparisons are similarity matrix and radial tree graph (Daspit 2015). Both the similarity matrix and the radial tree graph showed Malimpung and Bugis to be two separate languages.

Recorded Text Tests (RTT) measure comprehension between language varieties (Casad 2012). We brought a recording of a neighboring language variety and tested it with three Malimpung speakers. The result indicated how well Malimpung speakers understood the neighboring variety.

Sociolinguistic questionnaires (SLQ) can be one of the easiest and most direct ways of collecting information (Decker & Grummit 2012). We used group SLQs to collect information related to language use, language attitudes, and language vitality. This information gives clues to how Malimpung will be used by its speakers in the future.

Observation helps us paint a larger picture of the sociolinguistic situation we are assessing (Decker & Grummit 2012). We did much of our observation while we were waiting for the local people to join our sociolinguistic questionnaire group. One of the questions was about identity. When speaking to outsiders, they referred to themselves as Bugis. This answer surprised us. It seemed that they had two identities, Malimpung and Bugis. Respondents said when they were outside their homeland then it was more practical to say that they were Bugis than Malimpung. They seemed to prefer the Bugis identity to the Malimpung one.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology used for this paper is both quantitative and qualitative. We compared the data of the wordlists and RTT in a quantitative way whereas the sociolinguistic data gathered through interviews and observations in a qualitative way. The eleven Bugis wordlists collected by researchers in the past were compared to the Malimpung wordlist we obtained during the survey. The respondents for our RTT and sociolinguistic questionnaire included two hamlet heads and one village head. These leaders were good representatives of the Malimpung language community.

ANALYSIS

According to Blair (1990) a Cog score of 80% and above means the languages are intelligible. A Cog score of 60 shows that the languages are not intelligible. Wordlist comparisons show that of the eleven Bugis wordlists, only two had high similarity with Malimpung. These wordlists were taken in Macorawalie (76%) and Kel (75%). The other nine locations had 60% and lower. Those locations are; Pekkae, Tenrteangkae, Balleanging, Liliriawang, Ulaweng, Cimpu, Bila, Apanang, and Tarasu. (See **Picture 1** below)

Picture 1. Cog similarity matrix

	Malimpung-SST	bug-BUGIS39-Malimpung	bug-BUGIS41-Kel.	bug-BUGIS40-Macorawalie	bug-BUGIS31-Pekkae	bug-BUGIS90-Tenrteangkae	bug-BUGIS51-Balleanging	bug-BUGIS71-Liliriawang	bug-BUGIS61-Ulaweng	bug-BUGIS11-Cimpu	bug-BUGIS21-Bila	bug-BUGIS1-Apanang	bug-BUGIS81-Tarasu	wmm-MASEN6-wmm	wmm-MASEN7-wmm	ptt-MASEN13-ptt	ptt-MASEN10-ptt	ptt-MASEN5-ptt	ptt-MASEN12-ptt	ptt-MASEN11-ptt	ptt-MASEN9-ptt	wmm-MASEN8-wmm	mvp-MASEN1-mvp	mvp-MASEN2-mvp	mvp-MASEN3-mvp	mvp-MASEN4-mvp	sda-TORAJA13-Maindo	sda-TORAJA4-Gandang	sda-TORAJA1-Tikunnamalenong	sda-TORAJA10-Basuppu	sda-TORAJA7-Bittuang	mqj-TORAJA19-Ulusalu	mqj-TORAJA16-Sepang
Malimpung-SST		80	76	76	65	63	61	64	66	70	69	65	60	67	58	58	55	49	61	53	57	58	44	44	49	48	47	44	47	46	43	46	47
bug-BUGIS39-Malimpung	80		83	83	78	73	69	68	73	73	74	70	71	70	66	66	65	57	69	60	62	61	49	47	49	49	48	46	50	50	47	48	49
bug-BUGIS41-Kel.	76	83		89	77	76	71	77	77	74	77	71	72	66	61	59	58	53	64	57	59	53	47	45	49	49	44	42	46	47	45	45	48
bug-BUGIS40-Macorawalie	76	83	89		84	80	76	77	80	80	82	77	76	63	61	61	60	53	66	59	62	55	48	46	49	47	44	44	45	48	46	45	48
bug-BUGIS31-Pekkae	65	78	77	84		88	85	85	88	88	86	86	85	58	54	56	49	44	58	50	55	48	42	39	43	44	38	37	40	43	43	41	45
bug-BUGIS90-Tenrteangkae	63	73	76	80	88		90	90	86	84	84	81	85	55	52	52	49	43	58	47	50	46	38	36	40	41	37	36	40	43	40	40	44
bug-BUGIS51-Balleanging	61	69	71	76	85	90		87	88	85	83	83	85	55	50	48	48	41	53	46	48	46	40	37	40	40	35	40	42	40	41	43	
bug-BUGIS71-Liliriawang	64	68	77	77	85	90	87		90	87	80	78	84	55	52	49	50	42	57	47	48	45	39	37	41	40	38	37	41	42	40	42	43
bug-BUGIS61-Ulaweng	66	73	77	80	88	86	88	90		90	84	88	85	55	53	51	52	45	59	47	51	48	41	38	42	42	40	37	41	44	40	43	45
bug-BUGIS11-Cimpu	70	73	74	80	88	84	85	87	90		89	88	85	58	52	49	51	42	59	46	51	48	39	38	42	41	39	37	41	44	41	43	45
bug-BUGIS21-Bila	69	74	77	82	86	84	83	80	84	89		86	84	60	52	51	51	44	56	47	52	50	43	40	43	43	37	36	40	41	37	39	41
bug-BUGIS1-Apanang	65	70	71	77	86	81	83	78	88	88	86		83	60	48	47	48	39	53	41	50	47	39	38	37	36	36	38	37	36	39	38	
bug-BUGIS81-Tarasu	60	71	72	76	85	85	85	84	85	85	84	83		53	50	49	47	39	53	47	48	44	39	35	38	37	34	35	38	39	36	37	40
wmm-MASEN6-wmm	67	70	66	63	58	55	55	55	55	58	60	60	53		80	72	68	68	70	69	68	75	57	56	57	56	56	56	53	56	54	55	56
wmm-MASEN7-wmm	58	66	61	61	54	52	50	52	53	52	52	48	50	80		78	75	77	78	73	72	78	62	60	62	62	60	62	61	58	58	58	60
ptt-MASEN13-ptt	58	66	59	61	56	52	48	49	51	49	51	47	49	72	78		85	84	81	82	81	72	69	67	64	65	60	60	61	57	54	56	55
ptt-MASEN10-ptt	55	65	58	60	49	49	48	50	52	51	51	48	47	68	75	85		78	83	79	75	72	63	65	62	63	59	60	59	59	56	59	58
ptt-MASEN5-ptt	49	57	53	53	44	43	41	42	45	42	44	39	39	68	77	84	78		72	73	69	68	67	66	64	65	57	60	58	55	49	55	54

Below is the Cog radial tree chart which shows how the Massenrempulu languages cluster. Enrekang/Maiwa, Duri, and Toraja are very different as compared to Malimpung and Bugis. But the Cog radial tree chart shows that Malimpung separates from Bugis.

Picture 2. Cog radial trees chart
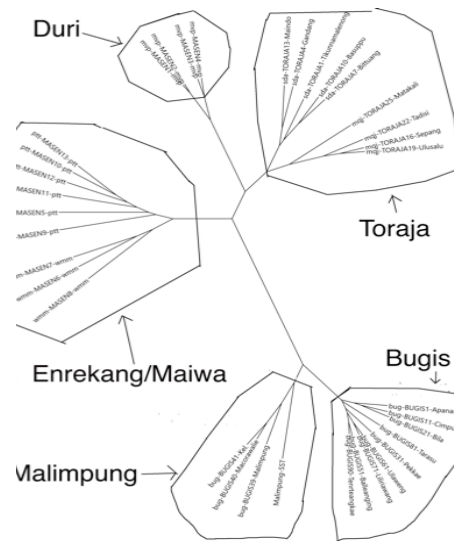
The RTT respondents were asked 17 comprehension questions about the story they heard in a neighboring language variety. Out of the 17 questions, there was one with three points and another one question with two points. The rest of the questions were worth one. The total score was twenty points. Correct answers were given a full score, wrong ones got zero, and answers that were half correct got half score. There were three respondents that took the RTT. Their scores were 53%, 60%, and 73%. Casad (1974) says RTT mean scores of around 80% or higher with accompanying low standard deviations are usually taken to indicate that representatives of the test point dialect display adequate understanding of the variety represented by the recording. Conversely, RTT mean scores below 60% are interpreted to indicate inadequate intelligibility. Although the standard deviation was high (3.5) the RTTs give us a good idea of how well the Malimpung understand other varieties in the same cluster. Thus, with that result we conclude that the three Malimpung speakers have inadequate intelligibility of the neighboring variety. Moreover, it tells us that Malimpung speakers do not have inherent intelligibility with other varieties in the same cluster. (See **Table 1** below).

Table 1

Sahril	Kepala dusun	1	1	0	1	0.5	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	10.5/20	53%
Tahiruddin	Kepala dusun	1	0	0	1	0.5	0.5	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	12/20	60%
Muhammad Nur	Kepala desa	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	2	0.5	0	1	14.5/20	73%

The sociolinguistic questionnaire (SLQ) was given orally to three Malimpung respondents who were willing to help us gather data on language use, attitude, and vitality. We asked the respondents 77 questions. However, I will only discuss five of them (see **Table 2** below). The first question is "What language do people speak at home?" The answers indicated a shift from Malimpung to our national language, Indonesian. The second and third questions were about their attitudes towards Malimpung. The responses showed that their attitude was neither positive nor negative. This is not a good sign for the future a language with less than 10,000 speakers. There should be strong motivation coming from all Malimpung speakers to keep on using it. The answers to the fourth and fifth questions show that parents

were not transmitting Malimpung to their children. Children are considered to be the key generation for the sustainability of a language. The answers to questions four and five show that those who speak the language are the parent generation or older. This indicates a worsening language vitality.

Table 2

SLQ questions	Responses
1. What language do people speak at home?	Malimpung and Indonesian
2. How do you feel when you speak the local language here? And what about those who do not use local languages here?	Nothing. No problem.
3. Have you ever felt ashamed to use the native language here?	No.
4. What language is mostly used by children when they talk to their parents? Are there other languages they speak?	Indonesian. No
5. What language do children use when they play with their friends?	Indonesian

We learned more about Malimpung people through observation. They practice exogamy and welcome outsiders to come and live among them. However, they only marry people from the same faith. Most of the outsiders who live with them are Bugis. Our team had a chance to collect a Malimpung wordlist from a young female speaker who assisted us happily. We noticed she often came up with Bugis words first, before the Malimpung words. That did not happen when we had an elderly Malimpung man as our informant. The older man had an outstanding memory of his Malimpung words. We got a strong impression that Malimpung people gain benefit of using Bugis identity when they leave their community. Bugis people are well-known for their success stories inside and outside Indonesia. There are many Bugis communities outside Indonesia. Even one of the sultans in Malaysia is from a Bugis royal family. One of the informants told us that some of his extended family members were Malaysians living in Sabah and Sarawak. He and his relatives make regular visits to Malaysia, and identify as Bugis there.

CONCLUSION

Is Malimpung a dialect of Bugis? Not linguistically. The analysis results from wordlist comparison, RTT, and SLQ show Malimpung to be a distinct language. However, if we examine them sociolinguistically, these two language varieties have much closer relationship.

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