

## Historical Relationship of Taba and Patani Languages in North Maluku

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### Abstract

North Maluku is a multilingual area with approximately thirty regional languages. However, the study of these languages still needs to be improved. Taba language and Patani language are two languages among the regional languages in North Maluku. These two languages have similarities in form and meaning both phonologically and lexically. This research using historical-comparative linguistics, aims to describe the linguistic characteristics of the Taba and Patani languages from a phonological and lexical perspective and the kinship relationship between the two languages. The research data were taken using the Blust revision of the Swadesh vocabulary list in three observation areas: the first observation area in Patani, Central Halmahera in the villages of Kipai, Wailegi, and Banemo. Then the second observation area was in East Makeang, namely Ngofagita and Ngofakiaha villages. Data was collected using the field questionnaire method with note and record techniques. Data were analyzed by applying quantitative and qualitative methods. The research results show that the two languages have similar linguistic characteristics, both from a phonological and lexical point of view. Regarding phonology, there are similarities in the characteristics, namely the number of five vowels and 18 consonants. The difference in BTb is that there are long vowels [a, o, u, e], there are diphthongs [ai, au, ou], vowel series, consonant clusters, which are geminate consonants at the beginning of words [ww, ss, dd] in BTb and [nn] in BPt, consonant series, and the same phonotactic system. Some forms correspond regularly, namely [o] ≈ [Ø] and [o] ≈ [a] on the ultima, and there are varied forms, namely [i] ~ [a] and [o] ~ [e] also on ultimate. From a lexical point of view, some words are similar in form and meaning; in the Patani language, some words experience contractions or sound fragments at the end of words/apocope and the addition of sound in the middle/epenthesis. In addition, the two languages have several vocabulary words similar to Papuan, such as the pronominal persona au, i, and am. Quantitatively using lexicostatistics techniques shows that Taba and Patani are two languages in the same language family.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

North Maluku is a province in Indonesia that has a diverse history and culture. Historically, this province was the center of a trading network for spices (cloves and nutmeg). As historical evidence, many forts left by the colonialists can be found from north Halmahera to the Sula Archipelago. In addition, the province has four sultanates consisting of many islands, namely the Sultanates of Ternate, Tidore, Jailolo, and Bacan. The province has eight regencies and two municipalities and has various ethnicities, cultures, and languages.

Regarding language diversity, there are approximately thirty regional languages in this region, as stated by Grimes (in Gufran, 2007). In that number, the languages in North Maluku are grouped into two major groups, namely the languages found in the northern part of Halmahera, namely Ternate, Tidore, West Makeang, Tobelo, Galela, Kao, Sahu, Tobaru, Waiyoli, Gamkonora, Ibu, Pagu, Modole, and Togutil which belong to the non-Austronesian family group and languages found in the southern part of Halmahera, namely East Makeang, Patani, Sawai, Maba, Buli, Weda, Gane, Kayoa, Sanana, Mangole, Taliabu. , Mange, and Kadai, which belong to the Austronesian family.

The diversity of languages spread throughout the North Maluku region makes this place a rich object of language study. Many linguistic studies have been carried out. Even so, the number is insignificant when compared to the many languages that exist because many languages still must be studied, especially languages belonging to the non-Austronesian family.

Taba language, East Makeang language, and Patani language belong to the Austronesian family and are still actively used by the speaking community. The Taba people speak the Taba language in eastern Makeang Island. In addition to the area of use, this language has language pockets, such as in Malifut District, North Halmahera Regency, on Kayoa Island, South Halmahera Regency, and Moti Island, as a sub-district in Ternate City. Meanwhile, the Patani language is spoken in the Patani District, Central Halmahera. Burhanudin et al. included these two languages in the South Halmahera languages group (2017).

According to speakers of Taba and Patani, the two languages are similar regarding phonology, grammar, and lexicon. Related to this study, lexical similarities can be seen in the examples in the following table.

No	Bahasa Indonesia	Bahasa Taba	Bahasa Patani
1	kamu	au	au
2	kami	am	am
3	dia	i	i
4	bunuh	pun	pun
5	bakar	song	song
6	mata	mto	mto
7	laki-laki	mon	mon

The similarities between the Taba and Patani languages can also be seen in the field of phonology, as in words in the following table.

No	Bahasa Indonesia	Bahasa Taba	Bahasa Patani
1	tangan	komo	kom
2	mulut	sumo	sum
3	perempuan	mapin	mpin
4	api	lutan	lutun
5	satu	pso	piso
6	dua	plu	pilo

With this similarity, research on kinship relations needs to be carried out to get an overview of the historical relationship in the development of the two languages, whether the two languages have a close kinship relationship as a language or as two different languages. The problem can be formulated from the background Description: What is the historical relation of the kinship of Taba and Patani languages using comparative historical linguistic studies?.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

So far, research on languages in North Maluku Province has been carried out separately with different approaches. The Center for Research and Development of Maluku, Patimura University and SIL (1996) in their book Atlas of the Languages of the Land of Maluku and SIL (2005) with their book entitled Languages in Indonesia, for example, group languages in Maluku with a synchronous approach. The results of his study state that the Taba language and Patani language belong to the Austronesian family. However, the relationship between the two languages needs to be discussed in detail. Much research has been done on Taba and Patani languages, but the studies are separate and are more directed to research on language structure and sociolinguistic studies.

Research on Taba and Patani languages is a study of two languages considering that the two isolects are said to be two languages by speakers of each language and according to previous researchers as described above. Although they are different, the two languages show similarities in form and meaning. With this similarity, the Patani and Taba languages have a close kinship relationship. As stated by Keraf (1996) that a language is considered related if there is a large number of vocabularies from a particular language group that relatively shows significant similarities when compared to other groups; phonetic changes in the history of a particular language also show a recurring character; the more deeply the related languages are searched, the more similarities there are between the points of the languages being compared. Because this research studies two languages, it involves a comparative analysis to see the similarities between the languages being compared. If the level of similarity is above 81%, the two languages are the same.

However, if the percentage is below that number, it can be said that the two languages are different (Keraf, 1996).

Comparative historical linguistics is a branch of linguistics that questions language in the field of time and changes in language elements that occur in that field of time. Comparative historical linguistics studies data from one or more languages and compares them to obtain rules for changes that occur in these languages, which show their kinship. The word pairs being compared are declared as related words if the word pairs are identical, the word pairs are one phoneme different, the word pairs are phonetically similar, and the word pairs are in phonemic correspondence either regularly or irregularly or varied (Keraf in Fitrah and Rengki Afria: 2017).

Bawden (in Tamburaka, 2013: 15) argues that digital literacy is the ability to relate to hypertextual information in computer-aided sequential reading. In general, digital literacy shows the skills related to hypertextual information in the sense of non-sequential or non-computer-aided reading. In digital literacy, also known as media literacy, a person must continuously develop his intellectual abilities in understanding distinctive media messages, namely media literacy education. Develop emotional abilities, and feel what you and others feel from a message. Develop moral maturity about the consequences of morality for everyone. Media literacy moves to see the harmful effects that media messages can have and learn to anticipate them (Tamburaka, 2013).

### 3. RESULT

#### 3.1 Comparison of Linguistic Characteristics of the Taba Language and Patani Language

The linguistic description of Taba and Patani languages includes phonological and lexical aspects.

##### a. Phonology

The phonological system of Taba (from now on abbreviated as BTb) and Patani (from now on abbreviated as BPt) can be described in terms of vowels, diphthongs, consonants, vowel series, consonant series, and the phonotactic system. From the results of the comparison, the number of vowels in BTb and BPt is the same, which consists of five vowels: [a, e, i, o, u] whose distribution is in the initial, middle, and final word positions as shown in the following example:

	Begining	Middle	End
BTb : 'bapak'	[a] ai 'kayu'	gak 'garuk'	baba
measure 'baik'	[e] -	let 'cacing'	
'tulang'	[i] iyok 'tangis'	kiu 'takut'	bebi
	[o] oru 'perut'	lolan 'jalan'	galo 'usus'

		[u]	unak 'tahu'	hungo 'hidung'	sumo	
'mulut'						
	BPt	:	[a]	aya 'saya'	myas 'asap'	
	kanna					
			[e]	-	gyew 'kaki'	
	fyele					
			[i]	iso 'satu'	mpin 'perempuan'	mtili 'tidur'
			[o]	opo 'terbang'	kot 'potong'	foko
'pegang'						
			[u]	utu 'rambut'	sum 'mulut'	siyau
'perut'						

Except that the vowel sound [e] is not found in the initial position of the word in both BTb and BPt. In contrast to the Patani language, in BTb, there are long vowels in the last syllable (ultima), such as:

	BTb
[a:]	lalla:i 'malam'
[o:]	bato:l 'bintang'
[u:]	kabu:s 'basah'
[e:]	ine: 'ini'

The long vowels in the ultima syllable are only vowels [a:, o:, u:, and e:].

Both BTb and BPt have diphthongs, namely diphthongs [au, ai, ou,] as in the following example:

	BTb	BPt
[au]	au 'kamu'	au 'kamu'
[ai]	haiko 'bahu'	balai 'gali'
[ou]	nou 'napas'	lou 'jauh'

Besides diphthongs, there are vowel series such as:

	BTb	BPt
[ua}	tua 'beli'	[oa] fatao 'bagaimana'

[oa] mloas 'panjang'

There are 18 BTb consonant sounds: [b, c, d, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, ŋ, ɲ, p, r, s, t, w, and y]. There are also 18 BPt consonant sounds, namely: [b, c, d, f, g, j, k, l, m, n, ŋ, ɲ, p, r, s, t, w, and y]. Both languages have the same number of consonants, but BTb has no [f] sound. While in BPt, there is no sound [h]. The distribution of consonant sounds for both oral and nasal sounds above is found in all positions, namely initial, middle, and final positions, as shown in the following example:

	Beginning	Middle	End
BTb: [b]	bor 'gigit'	bebi 'tulang'	ntub 'tumbuh'
[d]	ddawa 'rumput'	sodas 'isap'	-
[p]	pait 'bulan'	sapo 'buah'	yapyap 'debu'
[k]	kakle 'rambut'	pakat 'belah'	iyok 'tangis'
[t]	tatal 'potong'	mto 'mata'	balit 'kiri'
[s]	sumo 'mulut'	yasin 'garam'	gatas 'kotor'
[ŋ]	ŋgah 'curi'	maloŋo 'dengar'	midinŋ 'dingin'
BPt: [b]	baltu 'kanan'	sebe 'jatuh'	tub 'hidup'
[d]	dyakal 'besar'	-	balad 'kiri'
[p]	pisposo 'debu'	yepes 'ludah'	-
[k]	kanna 'kulit'	tukul 'tua'	bok 'kepala'
[t]	tangas 'tangi'	mtili 'tidur'	mtat 'takut'
[s]	siyau 'perut'	pisi 'sakit'	myos 'asap'
[ŋ]	ŋaŋ 'gigi'	taŋas 'telinga'	ŋoŋ 'kunyah'

In BTb and BPt both have consonant clusters and consonant series. The consonant cluster always occurs at the beginning of a word with both syllables and two syllables in both languages. The consonant clusters in BTb and BPt can be two different consonants or geminates. Here are examples of words in both languages that contain consonant clusters.

BTT	BTD
[ww] wwe 'kaki'	[fy] fyele 'hidung'
[mw] mwa 'muntah'	[pl] pleu 'lidah'
[mt] mto 'mata'	[mt] mto 'mata'
[mb] mbet 'pukul'	[mn] mnom 'makan'

[nt]	ntat 'jatuh'	[mp]	mpin 'perempuan'
[dd]	ddawa 'rumput'	[py]	pyono 'buah'
[sso]	sso 'nama'	[pl]	plu 'bulu'

The geminate consonants in the two languages being compared are [dd] in words ddawa 'grass' and daddoba 'soil,' [ww] in the word wwe 'leg,' [ss] in the word sso 'name,' [tt] in the word tattapin 'gray,' and [mm] in the word 'narrow' brain in BTb. Meanwhile, in BPt, the geminate sound [nn] is found in kanna 'skin' and nne 'rot' words. Btb and BPt also have consonant series like the following example.

BTT		BTb	
[ml]	amliah 'tertawa'	[ml]	limlem 'kilat'
[kt]	lekto 'busuk'	[pc]	kipcit 'tebal'
[kl]	kakle 'rambut'	[ŋt]	wonŋto 'daging'
[lh]	lalho 'gigit'	[fŋ]	mafŋel 'mimpi'
[md]	damdih 'guntur'	[nf]	fanfon 'memanah'

The BTb and BPt phonotactic systems are the same, namely: KV, V, VK, KKV, KKVK, and KKVK, as in the following word list:

	BTb	BPt
KV :	komo 'tangan'	lovo 'datang'
V :	unak 'tahu'	ibes 'bengkak'
VK :	am 'kami'	um 'rumah'
KKV :	wwe 'kaki'	mta 'mata'
KVK :	hotan 'cium'	mom 'tulang'
KKVK :	mbet 'pukul'	mtat 'takut'

The syllables in these two languages are primarily in the forms CV, CVC, KKV, and KKVK. The number of words containing VK and V is limited in both BTb and BTd. Like the example above, the VK and V elements are usually found at the beginning of a word.

Comparison between BTb and BPt to find related forms can also be seen by the presence of similar forms, correspondence forms, and phonetically similar forms, and having one different phoneme.

a. Similar shapes can be seen in the following examples.

BTb	BPt	
mto	mto	'mata'
um	um	'rumah'
mon	mon	'laki-laki'
mama	mama	'mama'
um	um	'rumah'
pun	pun	'bunuh'
mot	mot	'mati'
soŋ	soŋ	'bakar'
au	au	'kamu'
i	i	'dia'
am	am	'kami'
gaji	gaji	'lemak'

b. Forms that have one distinct phoneme:

BTb	BPt	
komo	kom	'tangan'
sumo	sum	'mulut'
tonam	tanam	'tanam'
top	tok	'tumbuk'
tolo	tol	'telur'
ilu	ulu	'daun'
si	sli	'mereka'
pso	piso	'dua'
yoco	ɲoco	'hati'
ntub	tub	'tumbuh'
mloŋo	loŋo	'dengar'
lutan	lutun	'api'
miyas	myas	'asap'
moi	moy	'malu'

Forms with one different phoneme can be apocope, sound changes at the beginning, middle, and end of a word, and epenthesis.

c. Phonetically similar forms:

BTb	BPt	
balit	balad	'kiri'
tuli	mtili	'tidur'
mapin	mpin	'perempuan'
baba	papa	'bapak'
gak	gag	'garuk'
ai	yay	'kayu'
wokno	wonjo	'daging'

Sounds [t] and [d], [b] and [p], [k] and [g] are sounds that are in the same area of articulation and are phonetically similar. However, these two sounds differ in the position of the vocal cords, which produce voiced and voiceless sounds.

d. Phonemic correspondence form

[o] ≈ [∅]

[o] ≈ [a]

In addition to the correspondence form, there are also variations, namely:

[i] ~ [a] and

[o] ~ [e].

Corresponding sounds, such as the sound [o] in BTb, corresponds to the vacancy [∅] in BPt in the last (ultima) syllable; the sound change rule can be formulated as (BTb:[o]-(K)V#≈BPt:[ ∅ ]). Vowel correspondence [o] and [∅] as in the following example:

	BTb	BPt	
Vowel [o] ≈ [∅]	komo	kom	'tangan.'
	gowo	wow	'leher'
	sumo	sum	'mulut'
	tolo	tol	'telur'

The correspondence between the vowels [o] and [∅] is imperfect because, in other forms, the sound [o] still appears in the same position,

as in the BTb words *yoco* 'hati' and *ꞑoco* in BPt. In addition to the correspondence [o] ≈ [Ø], there is also a correspondence [a] ≈ [o] that occurs in the ultima position with the rule (BTb:[a]-(K)V#~BPt:[o]), as in the example following:

	BTb	BPt
Vowel [a] ≈ [o]	wola	wolo 'tali'
	tonam	tanam 'tanam'
	(m)opa	opo 'terbang'
	woya	woyo 'air'
	wolat	wolot 'laut'
	moda	moro 'angin'
	hotan	foton 'cium'
	yotas	yotof 'atap'

The sound [a] change in BTb, corresponding to [o] in BPt above, occurs ideally. Sound variations also occur between these two languages at the ultima position, namely sounds [i] ~ [a] with the rule (BTb:[i]-(K)V(K)#~BPt:[a]) as in the following example.

	BTb	BPt
Vowel [i] ~ [a]	balit	balad 'kiri'
	lanjit	lanjat 'langit'

Another sound variation, namely the variation between the sound [o] and [e] in the ultima position with the sound change rule (BTb:[o]-(K)V(K)#~BPt:[e]) as in the example below.

	BTb	BPt
Vowel [o] ~ [e]	tono	tem 'lihat'
	nbos	ibes 'bengkak'

Correspondence sounds and sound variations between the two languages being compared are always in the form of vowels. Generally, the forms of words in both Btb and BPt consist of one and two syllables. As for the two hundred basic vocabularies, words with more than two syllables are less than ten words.

## b. Lexical

Comparison from a lexical point of view shows that words in BPt experience contraction, namely the shortening of words with the loss of vowels at the end of words. For example, the word komo for 'hand' in BTb would be in com in BPt. The word sumo 'mouth' in BTb will take the form sum in BPt, and the word tolo 'eggs' will take the form toll in BPt. In terms of loan words, both BTb and BPT have words borrowed from the Papuan language, as shown in the following example.

	BTb	BPt
saya	yak	aya
kamu	au	au
dia	i	i

### 3.2 Kinship relationship between Taba language and Patani language

The quantitative comparative method with the lexicostatistics technique determines the kinship relationship between Taba and Patani languages. Based on the data obtained from the 200 basic vocabularies of the Taba and Patani languages, 16 glosses are not considered because they need to be realized in both languages. Words like turn, milk, think, blunt, bird, green, and year have no equivalent in Taba. Meanwhile, the words intestine, narrow, yawn, and blow have no equivalent in the Patani language. Thus, the total vocabulary count is 184 words. Of these, 12 words had the same form and meaning, seven were phonetically similar words, 14 words differed in just one sound, and 16 corresponded. The following is the calculation of the percentage of kinship between the two languages.

Cognate word: 64  
 Not Cognate: 120  
 Empty Gloss: 16

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Percentage} & : C = \frac{K}{G} \\ & = \frac{64}{184} \times 100 \% \\ & = 35 \% \end{aligned}$$

The number of words related to Taba and Patani is 64 or 35%. A total percentage of 35% indicates that the kinship relationship between Taba and Patani languages is a relationship within the same language family.

## 4. DISCUSSION

This chapter will compare Taba and Patani from the phonological and lexical perspectives and the kinship between the two languages. However, this chapter also discusses the relationship between the two languages in the context of mythology and history between the Taba and Patani languages. In the oral tradition of the gam range (three countries), namely Maba, Patani, and Weda, it is stated that these three

areas are related to the East Makeang people who use the Taba language. The Maba, Patani, and Weda people believe that the Makeang people are their sisters who went to "Iron" island (another name for Makeang island) to settle the island. Even the designation "Taba" to denote Makeang island appears in the mythology of the gam range group.

The similarity of language in the gam range group also strengthens the description of the oral tradition above. Several historical facts show that the migration of the Gita, Weda, Patani, and Gane people has also been going on for a long time, either to Makeang Island or vice versa. This traditional migration was carried out for a long time to avoid the threat of volcanoes and threats from the sultanates of Ternate and Tidore (I Ahmad, 2014).

Moving the island resulted from a volcanic eruption in 1646 (Lucardie, G. R. E, 1980). The intensity of island migration by the Makeang population increased between 1840 and 1860. Makeang people have migrated largely to Halmahera and other adjacent islands since ancient times. The areas moved to these islands, for example, the islands of Moti, Kayoa (De Clercq, F. S. A, 1890), Siko, Moari, Lelei, Gane, Gita, Patani, Weda, and the farthest points around Labuha/Bacan (Baretta, JM, 2017)

Apart from the expansion of the two kingdoms and the threat of volcanoes, from the XIII to the XV centuries, Makeang Island was one of the best clove-producing islands in North Maluku. It is what makes various ethnic groups often come to the island to conduct clove transactions. Several European sources state that long before the island of Makeang fell under the rule of Ternate and Tidore, the Makeang people who carried out spice trading activities used the Malay language to communicate with merchants from Halmahera Island and foreign nations (Chinese, Arabs, and Europeans). People who want to do business must know to use Malay as the language of instruction if they want to achieve good results in buying and selling activities (I Ahmad, 2014).

Based on oral traditions and population migration described above, Taba and Patani languages may have similarities in form and meaning, indicating that the two languages are related. In order to obtain an overview of the affinity showing that Taba and Patani are two related languages, the two languages can be analyzed from the similarities in form and meaning, in this case, in terms of phonological and lexical similarities.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The results of a comparison between Taba and Patani show that the two languages have similarities in phonology and lexical. Regarding phonology, there are similarities in the characteristics, namely the number of five vowels and 18 consonants. The difference in BTb is that there are long vowels [a, o:, u:, e:], there are diphthongs [ai, au, ou], vowel series, consonant clusters which are geminate consonants at the beginning of words [ww, ss, dd] in BTb and [nn] in BPt, consonant series, and the same phonotactic system. Some forms correspond regularly, namely [o] ≈ [Ø] and [o] ≈ [a] on the ultima, and there are varied forms, namely [i] ~ [a] and [o] ~ [e] also on ultimate.

From a lexical point of view, some words are similar in form and meaning; in the Patani language, some words experience contractions or sound fragments at the end of words/apocope and the addition of sound in the middle/epenthesis. In addition, the two languages have several vocabulary words similar to Papuan, such as the

pronominal persona *au*, *i*, and *am*. Quantitatively using lexicostatistics techniques shows that Taba and Patani are two languages in the same language family.

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