A Comparative Study Between Terengganu   and Kedah Dialect in Malaysia at The Semantic Level

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Abstract:

This study aims to investigate an analysis for a comparative study between Terengganu and Kedah dialect at the semantic level. This study aims to present the nature of the dialect in Malaysia, Terengganu dialect and Kedah dialect with the theory of contrastive analysis, a comparison between two dialects at the semantic level, and to reveal the similarities and differences between the two dialects. The data was collected by using of primary references from books and secondary references from research and articles published in the peer-reviewed journal. Data and information were then analysed using the contrastive analysis method to discover the similarities and differences of Terengganu and Kedah dialect. The study relies on the contrastive analysis method in preparing this research with the help of primary references from books and secondary references from research and articles published in the peer-reviewed journal. The results shows that there are similarities and differences between the two dialects. In conclusion, the study presented relevant recommendations and suggestions.

Keywords: Terengganu, Kedah, Semantic level.

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1.   Introduction

Kedah and Terengganu are two states located on the eastern coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Terengganu and Kedah dialects are part of the Malay dialects found in Malaysia. It is characterized by its specificity and uniqueness in pronunciation, vocabulary, and expressions. Experimenting with dialects has been going on for a long time, with local dialects and foreign accents. While external studies such as Mahsoun, (2014) described dialectology as a linguistic branch that studies the boundaries of dialects and languages in a specific region.

The Malay dialects of the peninsula are divided into seven major groups. Firstly, the northern dialect of Kedah dialect in the northwest, which covers the areas of Perlis, Kedah, Langkawi, Penang, and northern Perak up to Taiping. The two dialects of Perak covering the central Perak region. (Hj. Omar, 1985)

The three southern dialects covering southern Perak, Selangor, Malacca, and Johor. The four Kelantan dialects in the northeastern part of the peninsula include Kelantan, Pahang, and Terengganu regions. While Terengganu dialect was in the eastern part of the peninsula. Pahang dialect which is only found in Pahang. The latter is a

dialect found in Negeri Sembilan. Among these seven groups of dialects, the study choses the Kedah and Terengganu dialect. So, this study aims to compare Kedah and Terengganu dialect at the semantic level and conducts the similarities and differences between the two dialects. (Hj Omar, 2008)

Traditional Arabic linguistic studies were concerned with the internal comparison between Arabic dialects and explaining the differences and similarities between them. People with these languages encounter difficulties in learning the Malay language, which falls within the contrastive analysis approach. And I found a dire need.

This research aims to recognize what Terengganu dialect and the Kedah dialect are, to compare between the Kedah and Terengganu dialect at the semantic level, and to reveal the similarities and differences between Kedah and Terengganu dialect.

The study relied on the descriptive contrastive analysis approach, which has four steps; Linguistic description in the two dialects, a comparison between the Kedah dialect and Terengganu dialect at the semantic level, explaining the similarities and differences between two dialects and exposing the difficulties faced by Arabs or learners of the Malay language.

Definition of Dialect

A dialect is a variety of the English language associated with a particular region and/or social class. To state the obvious, speakers from different geographical regions speak English differently: hence we refer to 'Geordie' (Newcastle English), 'New York English' or 'Cornish English'.

In addition to geographical diversity, the social background of the speaker will also affect the variety of English spoken by that person: two children may grow up in the same Yorkshire village, but if one was born into a wealthy family and attended an expensive private school, even if the other was born into a less wealthy family He attended a local public school, and they both likely spoke a variety of English. It is this combination of regional and social differences that I refer to collectively as "dialect". (Hudson, 1996).

Distinctions Between Language and Dialect

"The very fact that 'language' and 'dialect' persist as separate concepts implies that linguists can make tidy distinctions for speech varieties worldwide. But in fact, there is no objective difference between the two: Any attempt you make to impose that kind of order on reality falls apart in the face of real evidence...English tempts one with a tidy dialect-language distinction based on 'intelligibility': If you can understand it without training, it's a dialect of your own language; if you can't, it's a different language". (Hudson, 1990: 116) But because of [the] quirks of its history, English happens to lack close relatives, and the intelligibility standard does not apply consistently beyond it...In popular usage, a language is written in addition to being spoken, while a dialect is just spoken. But in the scientific sense, the world is buzzing with a cacophony of qualitatively equal 'dialects,' often shading into one another like colours (and often mixing, too), all demonstrating how magnificently complicated human speech can be. If either [of] the terms 'language' or 'dialect' [has] any objective use, the best anyone can do is to say that there is no such thing as a 'language': Dialects are all there is," (McWhorter, 2016).

Distinctions Between Dialect and Accent

An accent is differed from dialects. An accent is a person's distinctive pronunciation. A dialect is a much broader notion: it refers to the distinctive vocabulary and grammar of someone's use of language. If you say *eether* and I say *iyther*, that's accent. We use the same word but pronounce it differently. But if you say *I've got a new dustbin* and I say *I've gotten a new garbage can*, that's dialect. We are using different word and sentence patterns to talk about the same thing," (Crystal and Crystal, 2014).

Prominence of Dialects

"It is sometimes thought that only a few people speak regional dialects. Many restrict the term to rural forms of speech—as when they say that 'dialects are dying out these days.' But dialects are not dying out. Country dialects are not as widespread as they once were, indeed, but urban dialects are now on the increase, as cities grow and large numbers of immigrants take up residence...Some people think of dialects as sub-standard varieties of a

language, spoken only by low-status groups—illustrated by such comments as 'He speaks correct English, without a trace of dialect.'

Comments of this kind fail to recognize that standard English is as much a dialect as any other variety—though a dialect of a rather special kind because it is one to which society has given extra prestige. Everyone speaks a dialect—whether urban or rural, standard or non-standard, upper class or lower class," (Crystal, 2006).

Regional and Social Dialects

The classic example of a dialect is the *regional* dialect: the distinct form of a language spoken in a certain geographical area. For example, we might speak of Ozark dialects or Appalachian dialects, on the grounds that inhabitants of these regions have certain distinct linguistic features that differentiate them from speakers of other forms of English. We can also speak of a social dialect: the distinct form of a language spoken by members of a specific socioeconomic class, such as the working-class dialects in England. (Akmajian, 2001)

Prestige Dialects

In the earlier history of New York City, New England influence and New England immigration preceded the influx of Europeans. The prestige dialect which is reflected in the speech of cultivated Atlas informants shows heavy borrowings from eastern New England. There has been a long-standing tendency for New Yorkers to borrow prestige dialects from other regions, rather than develop a prestige dialect of their own. In the current situation, we see that the New England influence has retreated, and in its place, a new prestige dialect has been borrowed from northern and midwestern speech patterns. We have seen that for most of our informants, the effort to escape identification as a New Yorker by one's own speech provides a motivating force for phonological shifts and changes,. (Labov, 2006)

Dialect in Writing

Do not attempt to use dialect [when writing] unless you are a devoted student of the tongue you hope to reproduce. If you use dialect, be consistent...The best dialect writers, by and large, are economical [with] their talents, they use the minimum, not the maximum, of deviation from the norm, thus sparing the reader as well as convincing him. (Strunk, Jr. and White, 1979).

Dialect concept in Arabic Language

Arab scholars did not use the word لهجة "Lahjah" (dialect) and its derivatives as frequently in their writings as they used the word لغة "Lughah" language. Advanced linguists used to express what we now call (dialect) with the word (language) sometimes, لحن (Linguistic error/) sometimes, and (tongue) sometimes.

The word dialect comes from the Ancient Greek dialektos "discourse, language, dialect," which is derived from dialogistic "to discourse, talk." A dialect is chiefly distinguished from other dialects of the same language by features of linguistic structure—i.e., grammar (specifically morphology and syntax) and vocabulary. While in Greece there are slight differences in the language used by its residents, but to an extent that does not make them feel like they have a different language. (Yqout, Mamoud, 1993)

Baharom (2010: 348) defines a dialect as a form of language used in a region or by a social class that differs from the standard language, dialect, country name, etc.

Nik Safiya Karim defines dialect as a difference in a language that is differentiated according to its users. Each dialect has its own characteristics that distinguish it from other dialects.

While J.K. It believes that a dialect is an inferior form of language, low-status and rural in nature, and on average associated with the agricultural community, the working class, or other low-status groups. He also linked dialects to forms of language spoken by people who do not have a written form. (Karim, Nik Safiah, 1985)

Terengganu dialect

Terengganu State is a state generally inhabited by speakers of the Malay dialect. The state of Terengganu is one of the states located on the eastern coast of the Malaysian Terengganu Peninsula and is bordered by the state

of Kelantan to the north and the state of Pahang to the west, and the South China Sea to the north. The area of Terengganu is about 1,295,638.3 hectares. Before 1947, there are Kuala Terengganu, Kemamen, Dogon, Marang, Hulu Terengganu, Besut and Setiu. In 1985, a new seven-state Steu region was formed in Terengganu. Then in September 2014, a new district, Kuala Nerus, was formed and made it the eighth district in Terengganu State. The capital of the state of Terengganu is the city of Kuala Terengganu, famous for its architecture, tradition, exciting adventures, and delicious food.

Terengganu is famous for its rich local food, which is different from Malaysian food in other states. A well-known and nutritious food in Terengganu is kerepok lekor. "Nasi Dagang" is a kind of popular food.

Terengganu Malay (ccakak Tranung or base Tranung; Jawi writing: بهاس ملايو ترڠݢانو) is the local spoken language of Malay used in the state of Terengganu, Malaysia except in Perhentian Island, Besut district and the northern part of Setiu district in northern Terengganu because most of the people there using Kelantan Malay. This language is also spoken outside the state of Terengganu such as on the east coast of Pahang (Kuantan, Pekan, Rompin), Johor (Mersing, Tanjung Sedili) and up to the Anambas Islands unreliable source?] This language is not easy to understand by speakers of other Malay/Malay variants. Although it shares many similarities with Kelantan-Patani and Pahang, there are significant differences in terms of phonology, conversational style and vocabulary used in everyday conversation, causing not all Terengganu words to be understood by Kelantan-Patani and Pahang speakers. (Jiang, 2023)

Kedah Dialect

Kedah State is in the far northwest and is bordered by Perlis State to the north and Bayrak and Bing State to the west. The area of a mug is about. Kedah consists of 12 districts: Langkawi, Kubang Paso, Badang Terap, Alor Setar, Pokok, Sinai, Pendang, Yan, Kuala Muda, Sik, Bandar Baharu, Kulim, and Baling. These regions are divided into three main regions, which are the northern region (Langkawi, Kubang Paso, Padang Terap), the central region (Alor Setar, Pokok) and the southern region (Kuala Muda, Yalig, Sik). The Kedah dialect partly shares or has common features with Standard Malay and some of them are found to be different from each other. According to Asmah Haji Omar (2008) members, linguists argue that the similarity of vocabulary between dialects is at least 85 percent.

The Malay language of Kedah or Pelat Utagha [1] is an Austronesian language and one of the Variants of the Malay language spoken by the Malaysian community in the states of Kedah, Penang, northern Perak, and Perlis. Kedah Malay is also spoken in the Southern Province of Thailand which is Satun.

A young man is speaking in Kedah dialect Residents in Trang, Thailand also speak Kedah Malay with Thai influence. Speakers of this Malay dialect is estimated to be over 4 million in total (around 3.1 million native speakers and the rest used as a second language). In addition to those countries, this language is also spoken in the south of Myanmar and a place in the north of Sumatra. The local community refers to Kedah Malay as the northern accent (Northern dialect - by Malaysia) and the Kedah plate (Kedah dialect in the State of Kedah). (Hj. Omar, 2017)

The Malay dialect of Kedah can also be divided into several sub-dialects consisting of Coastal Kedah (standard), Kedah Pattani or Hulu Kedah which is in Baling, North Kedah, Perlis-Langkawi, Penang, and others (Outside Malaysia). (Shahidi, 2019)

Contrastive analysis theory

Contrastive analysis is a linguistic study between two languages and includes phonological, morphological, grammatical, and semantic aspects. Robert Ladoux defined contrastive linguistics or contrastive analysis as "the newest branch of linguistics, and the subject of research is the comparison between two or more ethnic languages, two dialects, or a language and a dialect, that is, between two contemporary linguistic levels, with the aim of proving the differences between the two levels. Therefore, it relies mainly on the descriptive approach." Or descriptive linguistics. Yaqut (1993) defined that contrastive analysis is a scientific study based on "a comparison between two languages or dialects that are not of the same lineage or origin, such as the contrast,

for example, between Arabic and English or between French and Hebrew. This contrast has a desired goal, which is education." He defined it as analysis. Contrasting is a branch of applied language and dialect.

Contrastive linguistics (contrastive analysis) is the interview between two or more different languages, or between two dialects, or between a dialect and a dialect, with the aim of identifying points of convergence and points of contrast between them, such as comparing the Arabic language and the English language. The interview takes place on four levels: the phonetic level, the morphological level, and the The grammatical and semantic level, as contrastive analysis aims to predict the difficulties facing learners and try to find solutions and explanations for these difficulties and problems and overcome obstacles by developing methods and means to facilitate the learning process and support the efforts of teachers. The latter, in turn, helps in several matters, including contributing to the preparation and development of study materials, etc. Of the fields.

Jassim (2001) said, what is meant by contrastive linguistics or contrastive analysis is comparing the linguistic system between two different languages, for example the phonetic system or the grammatical system in the Arabic language and the Malay language. Therefore, contrastive analysis does not compare language with language, but rather compares level with level, system with system, or species with species. Everything mentioned above is being contrasted. Phonological correspondence is very important in language teaching, as well as morphological, grammatical, and lexical correspondence.

We conclude from the above that the difference between comparative linguistics and contrastive linguistics can be that the first is concerned with comparing two or more languages from one linguistic family to reach the common characteristics between them, such as comparing Arabic and Ethiopian, while the second is concerned with comparing two or more languages that are not from the same language. One, with the aim of reaching similarities and differences, such as comparing Arabic and English or Arabic and French

Levels of contrastive analysis

Contrastive analysis of linguistic levels has four types:

a. Sound level: It is based on phonetic analysis in two languages, the learner's first language and the second language he is learning. Contrastive phonetic analysis highlights the theoretical phonemes, phonetic characteristics, and difficulties learners face in learning a second language. (Shehu, 2006)

This type of contrastive analysis requires the following:

Does the learner's mother tongue have phonemes from the second language?

If there is a phoneme, do the phoneme variants agree in both languages?

b. Exchange level: Morphological analysis is based on the analysis of morphemes in two languages. This type of contrastive analysis requires the following:

-Do the morphemes in the two languages agree or differ?

-Do the meanings of the morphemes agree or differ?

c. Grammar level: Morphological analysis is based on grammatical analysis in two languages. This type of contrastive analysis requires the following:

-How does the word order differ in both languages?

-The meanings learned from the organizations of different word orders.

d. Semantic level: Semantic contrastive analysis determines at a certain stage the learning of used vocabulary and the limits of its meanings. Differing meanings of vocabulary are a natural characteristic of all languages. Many language problems in vocabulary result from translation, which may give the illusion that a particular language word conforms to the boundaries of its meanings. (James, 1980; Hadid, 1997)

Contrastive analysis procedures

The steps that should be followed when making a grammatical comparison between the two languages: The first, obtaining the best structural description of the two languages concerned, while unifying the method of description. Scientists do not see any need to specify a specific method for comparing buildings, as any method that seeks regularity can suffice. The second A summary of the characteristics of each structure separately the

third Actual comparison of structural patterns in the two languages in terms of phrasal means, structural meanings, and distribution.

The Fourth collecting patterns of individual problems, the fifth classification of problems in terms of performance and recognition. and the final proposing solutions to overcome the difficulties that are predicted. (Fisiak, Jack, 1981)

Research results.

It can be in the form of paragraphs, the first paragraph is devoted to the style of Terengganu dialect, the second is to describe the Kedah dialect, and the third is devoted to the analysis on the comparison between Terengganu dialect and the Kedah dialect at the semantic level:

1) Terengganu dialect

First example:

1. Ambe

The word "ambe" in Terengganu dialect is intended to express, for example, the 1st person pronoun I, for example by saying:

 I can't do it.

(Ate)

This sentence means that when the people of Terengganu want to talk to someone, the expression "I" is used by this word.

2. Kite nok gi kije.

(Saya nak pergi kerja.)

The word "kita" in t Terengganu dialect is intended to express, for example, the 1st person pronoun "I". This sentence means that when the people of Terengganu want to express "I", they use this word.

3. Saye baru mari, mari dari Kapung Padang Kmuting. Kedai spupu nni.

 (Saya baru datang. Datang dari Kampung Padang Kemunting. Ini kedai sepupu saya)

"I just came, come from Kapung Padang Kmuting. This is my cousin's shop".

The word "saya" in Terengganu dialect is intended to express, for example, the 1st person pronoun "I". This sentence means that when the people of Terengganu want to talk to another person, they use this word.

In standard Malay pronunciation, 1st personal pronoun is such as aku, saya, kita. However, speakers of this dialect use 1st person pronouns such as aku, ambe, kite and saye. For example, the sentence below uses the 1st person pronoun.

Second example:

1. How much do you want?

(Awak hendak ke mana?)

The word "mung" in Terengganu dialect is intended to express, for example, the second-person pronoun you/you/you/you/you. This sentence means that when the people of Terengganu want to talk to another person, they use this word.

2. Awok jangang maroh.

(Awak jangan marah.)

The word "awok" in Terengganu dialect is intended to express, for example, the third person pronoun you/you/you/you/you. This sentence means that when the people of Terengganu want to talk to another person, they use this word.

The second personal pronoun, in standard Malay pronunciation, is awak, kau and kamu. In the Kuala Terengganu dialect, the use of second person pronouns has nothing in common with standard Malay. For example, the sentence below uses the first- person pronoun.

Third example:

Sekye nok gi mana?

(Mereka itu nak pergi mana?)

Deme tu mandi sunga bukang saye.

(Mereka itu yang mandi di sungai dan bukannya saya)

  "deme "and "sekye"

Terengganu Dialect	Malay Standard Language	Pronouns
aku/ kite/ ambe/ kaming	aku/ saya	I, 1st Person
mung/ awok	kamu/ awak	Sing. and Plur. You, 2nd person
diye/ deme	dia/mereka	Masculine. Sing. And Feminine. Sing. She/He, 3rd person

Third example:

Why don't you tell me?

(Do you think it's true?)

Deme tu mandi sunga bukang saye.

(It's the same thing as sungai and other words.)

The words "deme" and "sekye" in Terengganu dialect are intended to express, for example, the second person pronoun he/she/they. This sentence means that when the people of Terengganu want to talk to another person, they use this word.

Terengganu dialect Standard Malay pronouns

aku/ kite/ ambe/ kaming

aku/ sayaI am the speaker.

mung/ awok

kamu/ awak You are the one being addressed.

diye/deme

dia/mereka is the absent she

The use of personal pronouns in Terengganu dialect also differs from the personal pronouns used in Standard Malay. Although there are some similarities between the Kuala Terengganu dialect and the standard Malay dialect, there are still differences.

Examples of standard words for emphasis in Terengganu dialect:

1. Hitang beletung- terlalu hitam

Black/always/intense/black

What is meant by the color black in Terengganu dialect is to express, for example, black smoke by saying:

"Hitam beletung nya asap ni"

This sentence means that when the people of Terengganu see the Black Khan, they express it in this way.

2. Manih letting-sangat manis.

The meaning of sweetness in Terengganu dialect is intended to express, for example, the sweetness of water by saying:

"Manih letting air teh ni."

This sentence means that when the people of Terengganu drink tea or sweets, they express it with this structure.

3. Beso dok oh-sangat besar

What is meant by large size in Terengganu dialect is to express, for example, large size of clothes by saying:

"Beso dooh baju ni"

This sentence means that when the people of Terengganu express something of a large size, it will be used in this structure.

b) **Kedah dialect**

1-1 First person pronouns

1. Sepa / kami / saya

The word "sepa" in the Kedah dialect is intended to express, for example, the first person pronoun I/we, for example by saying

There is no need to jump into the camp.

Saya tak mau buat dah.

This sentence means that when the people of Kedah want to express everyone, they use this word. "Kami" can be used to express I and we, while "saya" can be used to express I.

In the Malay system, the 1st person pronouns are saya, kami, beta, but Kedah speakers use second person pronouns saya, kami, and sepa at the same level in number, unlike in the Standard Malay system.

2-1 The second person pronoun

(1). Hang

The word "hang" in Kedah dialect is intended to express, for example, 2nd person pronoun you, for example by saying "they".

What's wrong with me?

Why does this happen?

This sentence means that when the people of Kedah want to talk to another person, they use this word.

(2). Hangpa

The word "hangpa" in the Kedah dialect is intended to express, for example, the second person pronoun you/you, for example by saying:

I don't know what to do.

This sentence means that when the people of Kedah want to talk to another person, they use this word.

(3). Hampa

The word "hampa" in the Kedah dialect is intended to express, for example, the 3rd person pronoun you/you, for example by saying.

What's wrong with me?

This sentence means that when the people of Kedah want to talk to another person, they use this word.

In the Malay language system, 1st person pronoun is like kamu, awak but Kedah speakers use the second person pronouns like hang, hampa and hangpa. For example, the sentence below uses the second person pronoun.

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3rd person pronoun

1. depa

The word "depa" in the Kedah dialect is intended to express, for example, the third person pronoun they/they, for example by saying:

What's the matter here?

This sentence means that the people of Kedah use this word to express the pronoun they.

In the Malay language system, 1st person pronoun is like mereka but Kedah speakers use the second person pronouns like depa For example the sentence below uses the second person pronoun.

Similarities and differences between Kedah dialect and Terengganu dialect

Similarities:

a. In the Kedah dialect and Terengganu dialect, the idea of pronouns exists in three divisions.

b. They are both from the same family that uses the Malay language.

Differences:

- To indicate 1st person pronoun, the word kita saya ambe is used, but in the Kedah dialect the word kami saya sepa is used.

- Indicating the second person pronoun in the Kedah dialect, three words hang hangpa hampa are used in different forms but indicate one meaning. Terengganu dialect only uses two words, mung and awak.

- The stressor places a standard word at the end of the word in Terengganu dialect, and there is no special standard word in the Kedah dialect.

The debate

After the study conducted research, the study was able to conclude from this research that comparative studies are based on a comparison between two languages that belong to one linguistic family. For example, the Arabic language and the Hebrew language and comparing them, or comparing two dialects, for example in Malaysia, Terengganu dialect and the Kedah dialect and comparing them. The research results show us that after we compare the Terengganu dialect and the Kedah dialect at the semantic level, we find similarities and differences between the two dialects. In the research, she indicated that pronouns in the Kedah dialect have three divisions because they originate from one language, which is the Malay language. The system differs in expression and the use of pronouns in different forms. It was found that there is a method of use of expression that differs from Terengganu dialect. For example, a word denoting the plural is used to express I. Therefore, this research is useful for second language and Arab readers and learners to differentiate between the formal language and the dialect language.

Suggestions and recommendations

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