

Idiom dalam bahasa Minangkabau: telaah terhadap bentuk drap maknanya

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Abstrak

Idiomaticity has so far been identified mainly with noncompositionality. According to Nunberg et al (1994), the work that has inspired me in undertaking this study, an definition of idioms which relies solely on uncompositionality criterion will fail to recognize some important dimensions of idiomaticity, including, among other, conventionality and figuration.

The semantic characteristics of idioms introduced by Nunberg et al. are conventionality, which has something to do with transparency or opacity, and compositionality.

Nurnberg et al. divide idioms into two groups: phrasal idioms and idiomatic combination (or idiomatic expressions). This study, however, shows that idioms in Minangkabau need to be divided into three groups: complex-word idioms (following Moeliono, 1980), phrasal idioms and idiomatic combination.

Complex-word idioms in Minangkabau are formed either by means of affixation or by means of reduplication. Affixes used for this purposes are (1) prefixes ba-, ma-, and to-, (2) combining form Rasa-, and (3) contixes pa-...-an and ka-...-an. Reduplication of bases can be (1) complete and (2) partial.

Phrasal idioms, the meanings of which are indicated by the whole phrase rather than distributed to their respective constituents, consist of verbal idioms and nominal idioms. On the basis of the data analysed in this study, verbal idioms in Minangkabau belong to verbs of state. Verbal idioms may occur in (1) the construction VERB + NOUN as exemplified by malapeh as (free + air) 'to obtain no benefit', barxinyak aia (have oil + water) 'to make ends meet' etc. and (2) the construction ADVERB + VERB as exemplified by alah Hang (already + lost) 'to die', sedang sarek (being + full) 'pregnant' etc. On the basis of their constructions, nominal idioms in Minangkabau are of two types: (1) NOUN + NOUN as exemplified by kacang iuiang (nut + plant hair) 'fink', induak bareh (mother + rice) 'wife' etc. and (2) NOUN + NOUN as exemplified by kudo itarn (horse + black) 'unexpected winner', aia gadang (water + big) 'flood'.

Idiomatic combinations refer to idioms whose constituents contain elements with identifiable idiomatic meanings. On the basis of their contents, idiomatic combinations in Minangkabau can be grouped into proverbs, aphorisms, maxims, slogans, similes, and satires.

Idioms in Minangkabau are usually used to refine expressions, to sharpen intentions, to ridicule, to advise, to slander, to praise and to express feelings such as happiness, disappointment, impatience, reluctance, anger, etc.